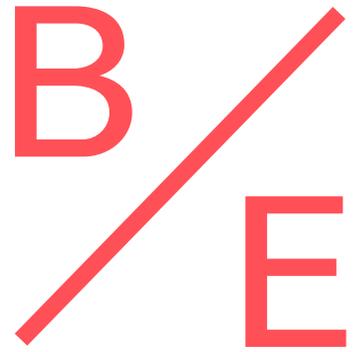


PRESS RELEASE

Ilha de São Jorge
Beyond Entropy Africa



Ilha de São Jorge

6 June – 6 July 2014

Island of San Giorgio Maggiore, Venice
Piccolo Teatro Hall, Fondazione Giorgio Cini
Press Preview:

Thursday, 5 June 2014 10 am - 12 pm

Opening: Thursday 5 June 2014 12 pm - 7 pm

An exhibition curated by Beyond Entropy Africa

Thursday 5th of June 2014, Beyond Entropy presents the exhibition “Ilha de São Jorge” - open to the public from the 6th of June to the 6th of July - when the Island of San Giorgio Maggiore, Venice, will virtually be transformed into an extra-territorial island featuring videos by Suleimane Biai+Filipa César, Filipe Branquinho+Tiago Correia-Paulo+Rui Terreiro, Monica de Miranda, Irineu Destourelles, Kiluanji Kia Henda, and Kwame Sousa+René Tavares. A series of short films will document how modernity has been absorbed in the five Portuguese speaking African republics: Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and São Tomé and Príncipe.

The project includes the publication “Ilha de São Jorge”, edited by Paula Nascimento, Stefano Serventi and Ana Vaz Milheiro, a collection of texts that extends the research started with “Beyond Entropy Angola” (2012) and “Luanda, Encyclopedic City” (2013) while enriching the specific theme of the 2014 Architecture Biennale: “Absorbing Modernity: 1914-2014.”

Beyond Entropy proposes a reflection on the way modernity was conceived, developed, built, dwelled, absorbed and sometimes rejected in these countries and produces a model of urban conditions that may set new perspectives on urban development and architectural discourse in these regions.

With the video “Uma Cabana”, Suleimane Biai and Filipa César imagine the construction of a building as an experience and ritual for the articulation of memory and its inscription in the present social and political context of Guinea-Bissau. The film “Concrete Affection” by Kiluanji Kia Henda is inspired by the book by Polish writer Ryszard Kapuściński “Another Day of Life”, 1975. Kia Henda investigates the emptiness of the city after the departure of the Portuguese, bringing into limelight the unique architecture of Luanda. The video by Monica de Miranda entitled “Hotel Globo” tells the story of the Angolan diaspora while focusing on a Modernist hotel in the centre of Luanda. With “Mionga House”, artists Kwame Sousa and René Tavares explore the characteristics of the community of the southern island of São Tomé. Irineu Destourelles’s project seeks to develop the relationship between the constantly evolving socio-cultural matrix, the built heritage and organization of the contemporary urban fabric in the city of Mindelo, Cape Verde. The films composing “Journey to The Centre of Capricorn” by Filipe Branquinho, Tiago Correia-Paulo and Rui Tenreiro propose a poetic and surreal reading of colonial and contemporary architecture in the city of Maputo, Mozambique.

The legacy of Portuguese empire building pervades the Postcolonial discourse that attempts to explain the development of the modern nation state in Portuguese speaking Africa. It is with this historical and linguistic connection in mind that “Ilha de São Jorge” is thematically and structurally created. Although geographically distant, these countries share a heritage with each other and with Portugal. The cities and urban forms are a result of methods, techniques and procedures that can be linked with a common historical past tied to a Portuguese matrix yet deeply related to specifics of geography, culture and traditions. This shared Postcolonial heritage

makes it relevant to develop a coherent discourse on the similar ways these countries have declined or absorbed modernist architecture. Placing the architectural discourse together for the first time, not only highlights their connections with Portugal, but more importantly, it highlights the internal connections, often neglected, that contributed to the development of a modernist discourse.

The publication, edited by Paula Nascimento, Stefano Serventi and Ana Vaz Milheiro follows the same thematic thread of the exhibition. Divided in five sections: Objects, Buildings, Cities, Landscape and Visions, it includes creative texts, images and academic studies by architects, researchers and artists that accompany the exhibition and enrich its curatorial mission.

Beyond Entropy is a research based studio practising architecture, urbanism and cultural analysis. Beyond Entropy uses the concept of Energy as a tool to conceive new forms of architecture beyond the rhetoric of sustainability and operates on a global level in three territories: Africa, Europe and the Mediterranean.

Ilha de São Jorge would not have been possible without the Silver Sponsorship of:
Banco Privado Atlantico



and without the sponsorship of:
Barakà
Goethe-Institut Angola



Ilha de São Jorge would not have been possible without the generous donation of:
Filipa César
Cristina Guerra Contemporary Art

CristinaGuerra
Contemporary Art

Ilha de São Jorge was realized thanks to the generous support of:
Edoardo Angelico
Carlo Capra
Maurizio Capra
GALA SAP Consulting at state of the Art
nctm e l'arte

A special thanks also to:
Fondazione Angola Onlus
Emanuela Capra
Fondazione Giorgio Cini
Gabi Scardi
Target Due

Ilha de São Jorge

Artists:

Suleimane Biai+Filipa César, Filipe Branquinho +Tiago Correia-Paulo+Rui Terneiro, Monica de Miranda, Irineu Destourelles, Kiluanji Kia Henda, Kwame Sousa+René Tavares

Curators: Beyond Entropy Africa

Paula Nascimento, Stefano Rabolli Pansera

Assistant Curator:

Doyeon Cho, Marina La Verghetta

Publication Editors: Paula Nascimento, Stefano Serventi, Ana Vaz Milheiro

Graphic Designers: Tankboys

PR & Communications: Giovanna Tissi

Venue:

Piccolo Teatro Hall, Fondazione Giorgio Cini
Island of San Giorgio Maggiore, Venice

Press Preview:

Thursday, 5 June 2014 10 am - 12 pm

Opening: Thursday 5 June 2014 12 pm - 7 pm

Opening Times: 6 June - 6 July 2014

Monday – Sunday, 2 pm - 7 pm, free admission.

Transport:

Vaporetto ACTV line 2, Stop San Giorgio

Press Office

Giovanna Tissi & Valeria Frisolone
giovannatissi@beyondentropy.com
Tel + 39 347 7971873
v.frisolone@beyondentropy.com
Tel + 39 334 3523916