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LUNGOMARE >Galerie ██████████

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Bolzano, 27.08.2007

Press release: Exhibition: „Storie di cose“ (Story of things)
19.10. – 30.11.2007 – Lungomare Gallery

with:

Anteeksi – Aamu Song, Helsinki FI / Åbåke London UK / Azzimonti-Pigem Milano, Barcelona IT, ES / Martin Azúa, Barcelona ES / Manuel Bandeira, Salvador BR / Fernando Brizio, Lisboa POR / Culdesac, Valencia ES / Luis Eslava, Valencia ES / Lorenzo Damiani, Milano IT / electricwig, Manchester UK / Patrick Frey, Hannover DE / Front, Stockholm SE / Alexis Georgacopoulos, Lausanne CH / Tal Gur, Kibbutz Gilgal IL / Ditte Hammerstrøm, København DK / Sophie Krier, Rotterdam NL / Meriç Kara, Istanbul TR / Kyouei Design, Shizuoka JP / Nicolas Le Moigne, Lausanne CH / Cecilie Manz, København DK / Peter Marigold, London UK / Jason Miller, New York USA / Nodesign, São Paulo BR / Polka, Wien AT / Adrien Rovero, Renens CH / Wieki Somers, Rotterdam NL / Sylvain Willenz, Brussels BE / Tesolin e Estadiou, Helsinki FI

a project by Lungomare Gallery

curators: Angelika Burtscher und Daniele Lupo

in collaboration with: Faculty of Design and Art of the Free University Bolzano

guest for the opening: Harvey Molotch (sociologist, New York), Wieke Somers (designer, Rotterdam)

Lungomare is an art gallery that promotes the „culture of the project“ by bringing together creative interdisciplinary processes that are inspired by everyday occurrences and stimulated by social and cultural developments. The "Storie di cose" project is related to the Gallery's research activities that explore the topics of everyday occurrences and seek to examine the outcomes that this relationship will generate. (www.lungomare.org).

From 18th October to 30th November 2007, Lungomare presents the exhibition „Storie di cose“ in conjunction with a conference on the „Biography of the Objects“, organized by the Faculty of Design and Art of the Free University of Bolzano. The colloquium's aim is to reflect upon the evocative and suggestive concept of “biography of objects”. Proposed around twenty years ago by the anthropologist Igor Kopytoff, this concept has rarely undergone systematic scrutiny or research. Thus, the colloquium intend to investigate what can be the contribution, for design as well as for more methodological and theoretical researches, of such a concept in order to develop a reflection about everyday objects.

Speakers: Thierry Bonnot (ethnologist, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris), Maurizio Ferraris (philosopher, Università di Torino), Giovanni Gasparini (sociologist, Università Cattolica di Milano), Hans Hoeger (design theorist, Libera Università di Bolzano), Harvey Molotch (sociologist, New York University), Michela Nacci (historian and technologist, Università de L'Aquila), Francesca Rigotti (philosopher, Università di Lugano), an invitation by Lungomare: Wieki Somers (designer, Rotterdam), Paolo Volonté (sociologist, Libera Università di Bolzano)

The project

The „Storie di cose“ project takes place on two levels: a scientific level that will be accomplished in the conference „Biography of the Objects“, and an applied project-related level that will take the form of an exhibition at the Lungomare Gallery. For the exhibition the Lungomare Gallery invites designers of different ages, places of origin and cultural affiliation who deal with the production and creation of objects, and asks them to submit an object of their choice, together with a biography of the object itself.

The biography of objects

Our lives are full of objects, and through many of these objects – who's recurrence and familiarity causes us to take them for granted – we describe our everyday reality. They bring with themselves a new dimension and clarity to our lives. It is not by accident that we tend to call them “everyday objects”. They define and constitute a great part of our lives, and sometimes they contribute to our transformation – without us even noticing. At the same time they change themselves: they wear out, become old and break. They also relocate and renew themselves along with other objects or activities that were not previously present. Sometimes they may even radically change their basic function. The history and transformation of these objects is not limited to what occurs to them after they entered our lives. Their history, the biography of every single object begins long before, at the moment when a given object is created in a factory, a workshop or a laboratory and is marked by the process of generation that preceded its coming into being. It proceeds through the channels of distribution – be it acquired, donated, stolen or loaned – it begins to contribute to the construction and meaning of our everyday occurrences, in part owing to the vicissitudes that such an object will experience. Sooner or later nearly all of these objects leave their everyday use behind themselves. That doesn't mean they cease to exist, at least not immediately: they can undergo a rather long agony that leads them to their end, but it may also lead them into a second life – being improved, recycled, reutilised, and sometimes consecrated in Museums or in the family livingroom glass case.

Most everyday objects are taken for granted and we don't even consider that they have their own biography. They're there until they break, wear out or get old; and quickly they are gotten rid of without regret or nostalgia. Yet certain objects assume an important place in our lives by connecting with our own biographies, so that we develop a greater interest in them, and become more aware of their transformations, of their future and past. In these cases we often say that we know their stories, yet it rarely happens that we report them, or share them with others.

Concept: Angelika Burtscher (Designer), Roberto Gigliotti (Architect), Daniele Lupo (Designer), Alvise Mattozzi (Semanticist),

The Corporate Identity Image of the show is an illustration made by Ika Künzel. Please contact us for further material, on request we can send you after the 19th of October additional images of the show.

download illustration: <http://www.lupoburtscher.it/public/storiedicose.tif>

download images of the objects: <http://www.lupoburtscher.it/public/photos-14-10.zip>

Kind regards,
Angelika Burtscher for Lungomare Gallery