

**Rhôd 2013**

**Rebecca Ballestra:**

Future Nature Culture/Natur Dyfodol Diwylliant

**Goat Major Projects**

**Cardiff**

3 – 24 November/Tachwedd 2013

**Opening/Agoriad: 3 November/Tachwedd 2013 - 2pm**



**an exhibition of works by Rhôd 2013  
artist-in-residence/arddangosfa o waith  
artist preswyl Rhôd 2013**

## **Rebecca Ballestra**

### **Open/Ar Agor**

Sat & Sun/Sad a Sul 10.00 - 16.00

Thurs & Fri evenings/nos iau a gwener 18.00 - 20.30

other times by appointment/trwy apwyntiad fel arall

### **Preview/Agoriad**

artist in conversation

/sgwrs gyda'r artist

Sun/Sul 3 November/Tachwedd

14:00 - 16:00

### **Curator/Curadur**

Sara Rees

### **Goat Major Projects**

70a Llandaf Rd

Canton

CF11 9NL

### **Rhôd Symposium/Symposiwm Rhôd**

Sun/Sul 17 November/Tachwedd

14:00 - 16:00

Chapter Art Centre, Cardiff, CF5 1QE

**therhod.wordpress.com**

**@Rhodexhibition**

**goatmajorprojects.com**



This exhibition presents new works by Italian artist **Rebecca Ballestra**, created during her residency at **Rhôd** earlier this year.

**Rhôd** is an annual exhibition of site-specific contemporary art and performance, at an old mill in rural West Wales. Its fifth exhibition, curated by Cardiff based artist, **Sara Rees**, invited artists to creatively respond to the phrase *Future Nature Culture*; to consider both the local and the wider global context of our relationship to nature now and into the future.

**Rebecca Ballestra** further explores these themes in her exhibition at **Goat Major Projects** in Cardiff. Such issues are of major ongoing concern to the artist's practice.

For the past two years Ballestra has been working on *Journey into Fragility*, an art project inspired by the *The Arenzano Manifesto for Earth and Human Beings*, written by **Massimo Morasso** in 2001.

Morasso's Manifesto, consisting of twelve statements, attempts to constructively reframe various issues arising from the global environmental crisis, and has been subscribed to by world famous poets, including Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winners.

In *Journey into Fragility*, Ballestra takes each of the 12 statements for the manifesto and creates projects and artworks in response to them.

Each 'step' of the journey has taken the artist to a different part of the world, with the aim of creating an open, inclusive and constructive dialogue about the environment and the value of life on Earth.

Her residency in Wales comprises Step 8 and corresponds to the eighth statement of the Manifesto for the Earth and the Human Being: *Preserving everyone's defining features, if to respect differences and promote dialogue leads to an effective pluralism, much more than the universalistic utopia and the rough generalization on which modernity had its foundations set.*

## MARIA REBECCA BALLESTRA

The work of Maria Rebecca Ballestra is based on the reprocessing and reinterpretation of social, political and environmental themes and on a synthesis of ethno-cultural codes, learned during several artist residencies program all around the world.

The journey is the main source of inspiration for the artist: a meditation on history, traditions and ancient customs of different countries is an instrument to escape the Eurocentric perspective and to offer to the public a new points of active observation and criticism. Through a simple language Rebecca Ballestra alternates digital photography, light-boxes, video and multimedia installations.

The works of Maria Rebecca Ballestra often arise as a project site and context specific, using the space that welcomes them to enhance their communicative and emotional aspects.

Her works are inspired by strong, complex and contemporary subjects: the denunciation of preventive detention (Prisoner, made to Agora, Bordighera, 2005), the illegal trafficking of children and organs (Cannibalism, Castello Sforzesco, Milan 2005 ), the commerce of the body (Post Mortem Human Resources, Taiwan 2005), the consumption of natural resources and the Earth Overshoot Day (The Weight of the Human Being, Loggia dei Mercanti, Genoa 2007), etc.

Her last production, is oriented toward the perception of the future in relation to climate change and multiple human interventions in the natural environment and sense of insecurity and anxiety that characterizes this new millennium.

Alessandra Piatti

*Future Nature Culture* Project by Maria Rebecca Ballestra



PRESERVING EVERYONE'S DEFINING FEATURES IF TO RESPECT DIFFERENCE

AND PROMOTE DIALOGUE LEADS TO AN EFFECTIVE PLURALISM,

MUCH MORE THAN THE UNIVERSALISTIC UTOPIA AND ROUGH GENERALIZATION ON

WHICH MODERNITY HAD ITS FOUNDATIONS SET.





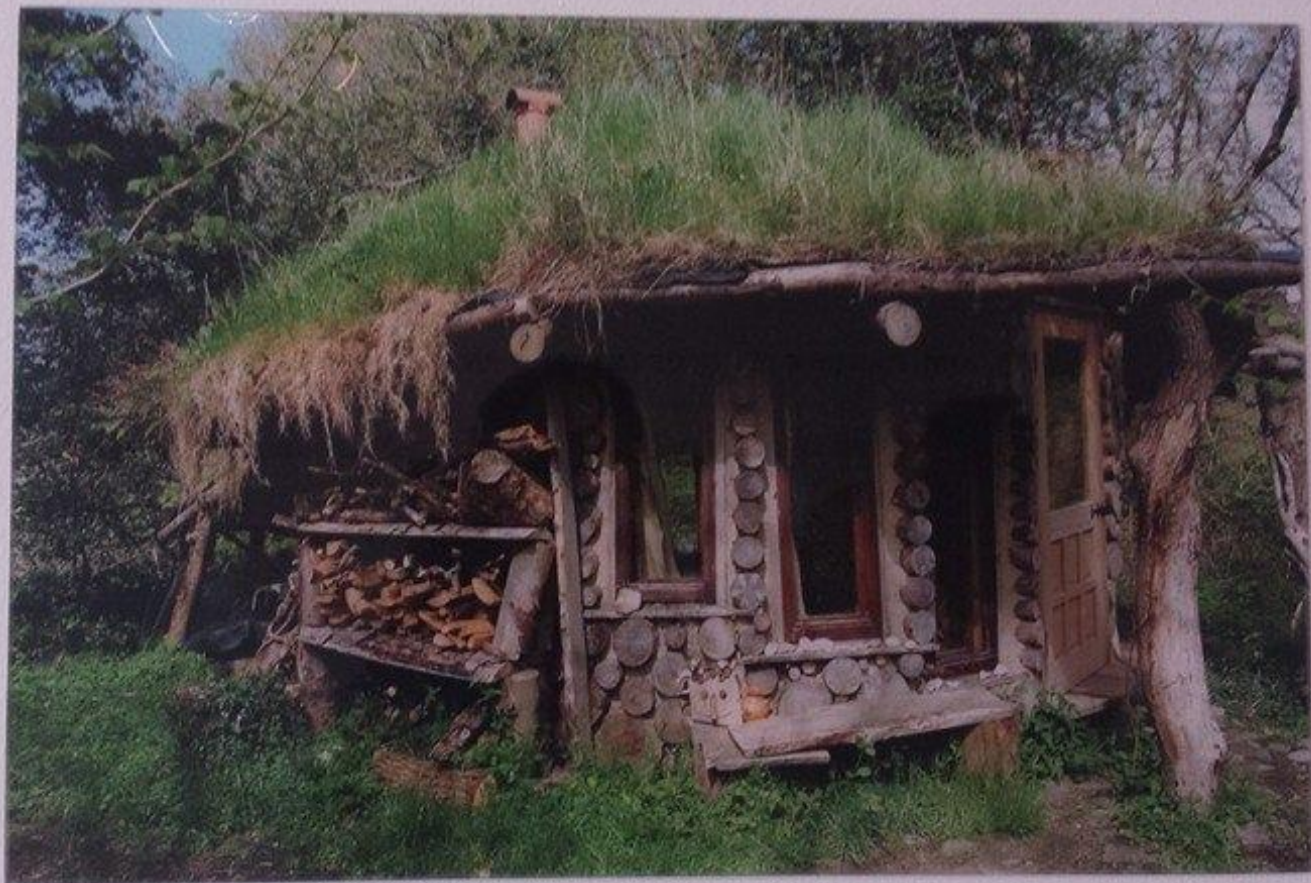
UTOPIA AND ROUGH

GEN

UTOPIA







One of the works included in the exhibition is realized in collaboration with Microcollection ([www.microcollection.it](http://www.microcollection.it)) which is a part of *The Journey into Fragility* project: the *Cabinet the regard: Journey into Fragility, 2013*

Microcollection *Cabinets de Regard* are simple, portable, compact “observation chambers”, fitted with a microscope so viewers can appreciate the fine details of the fragments on display.



Microcollection: *Cabinet de regard: Journey into Fragility*, 2013



On this occasion the artist Maria Rebecca Ballestra made the artwork

**DIALOGUE FOR PRESERVATION, 2012** (video, 14.38 min)

in collaboration with the video-artist Luca Coclite, Ballestra made the video of the interviews to artists and politicians made in Bern. The video deals with the possibility of imagining a global political organisation capable of taking care of the environment destiny and of planning a long term policy on a global scale with the aim of safeguarding the planet and its resources for mankind.





## **The first 8 stages of the project Journey into Fragility by Maria Rebecca Ballestra**

**GHANA** from 9 to 24 February 2012

**SWITZERLAND** from 18 to 27 March 2012

**MADAGASCAR** from 20 to 30 April 2012

**ABU DHABI** from 10 to 17 June 2012


**CHINA** from 5 to 25 August 2012

**SINGAPORE** from 27 October to 1 November 2012

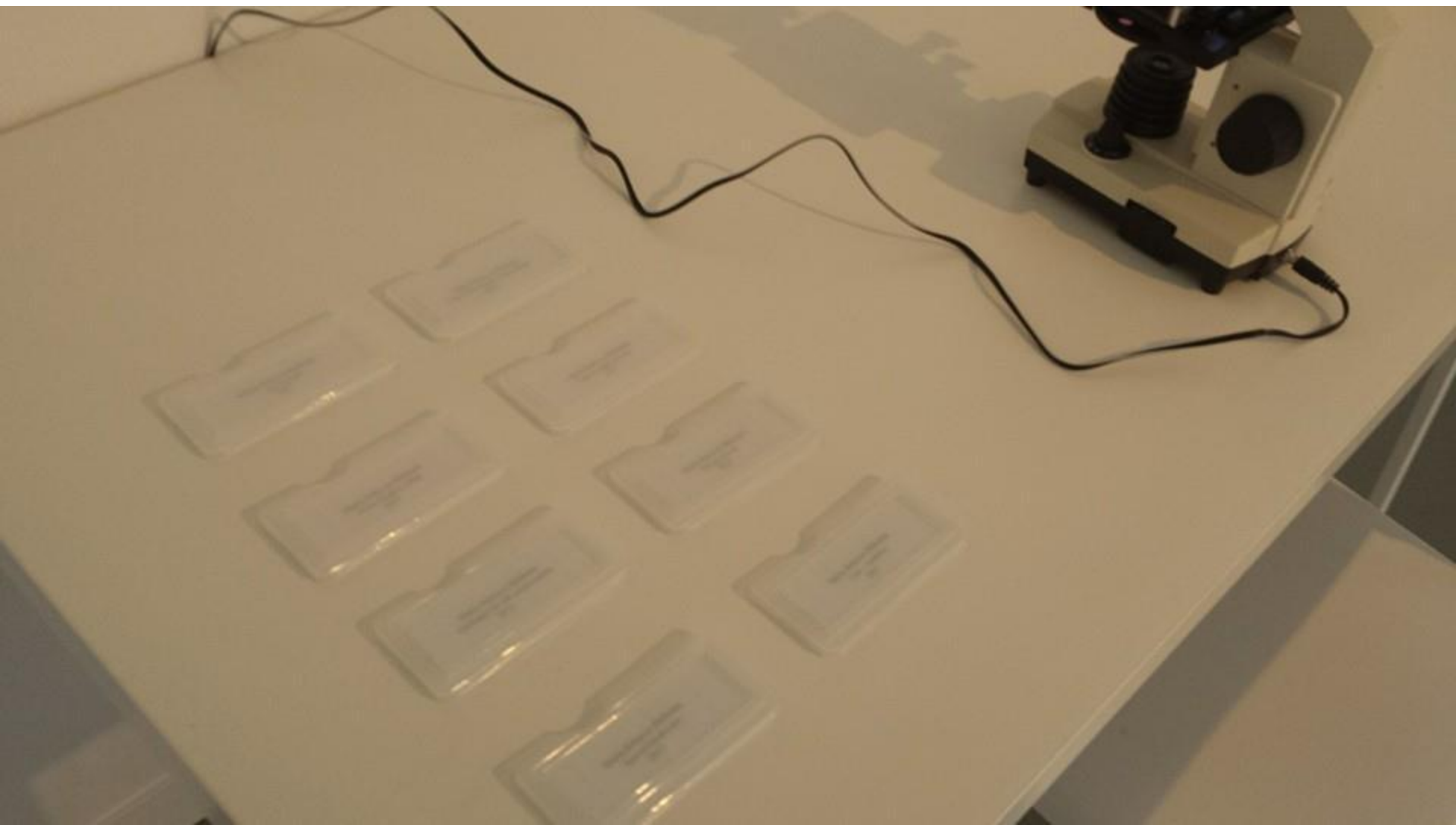
**COSTA RICA** from 23 February to 3 March 2013

**WALES** from 6 to 26 May 2013

Next Stages: Island on melting of the glaciers, Italy, France, Principality of Monaco,  
New York and Australia.



Maria Rebecca Ballestra  
*Sacred landscape*  
2012



## MICROCOLLECTION MUSEUM

The idea for the *Microcollection Museum* came to Elisa Bollazzi, now its Director, on 24 May 1990 when she was visiting the British Pavilion at the Venice Biennale and – almost by chance – picked up a few fragments that had accidentally fallen onto the floor from a fantastic work by Anish Kapoor. These “microparticles”, overlooked by everyone else, opened up a whole new world - an illumination! They triggered a completely fresh approach to meandering from gallery to gallery, from one museum to another, around the art circuit in Italy and elsewhere in the world. From now on the search was for new “micro-acquisitions” that would otherwise be trodden underfoot and chucked out with the rubbish!

*Microcollection* now boasts hundreds of fragments of works of contemporary art, that Elisa Bollazzi and her accomplices have saved from oblivion. The fragments are mounted on ordinary laboratory slides, and can be viewed under a microscope. The collection constitutes a patrimony of considerable artistic and cultural worth, and the public seems to be showing increasing curiosity and appreciation of this new artistic experience.



## COLLECTION

*Microcollection* owns an important collection of contemporary art. In addition to a number of prominent movements such as Fluxus, Pop Art, Minimal Art, Conceptual Art and Arte Povera, many renowned international artists are represented in the collection. Important works by artists like Joseph Beuys, Daniel Buren, Tony Cragg or Richard Long and major Italian artists like Alberto Burri, Piero Gilardi, Aldo Mondino, Giuseppe Penone, Giulio Paolini – and many others - are also present in the collection.

The museum's guidelines for acquisitions are completely innovative. They range from contacts with little-known young artists to the most famous names in today's art scene. Research focuses primarily on fragments, on dissemination and invisibility.

## ART SOWINGS

In 2008 Elisa Bollazzi built up an idea that sedimented for years on the real essence of art , thus promoting a new public art project : the creation of land planted and cultivated with art, with valuable microparticles of artworks whose titles clearly show the selection criteria adopted: *The 3-metre tree* by Giuseppe Penone, *Watermelons* by Piero Gilardi, *Garden* by Paul McCarthy, *Phosphorescent Yellow Roses* by Jeanne Silverthorne, and so on.

Areas planted with art fragments near benches or seats on which the public sits and waits for an utopic art-garden to grow: a thought-provoking space, a meeting point where the work of art starts a process that stimulates creativity and changes the way we look at the “art system”.

In 2011, the so-called project *Art sowings on demand*, based on collaboration and faith., helps accelerate the dynamics of returning the art-fragments to the world and create a cultural-artistic humus in parks and gardens in Italy and abroad.





ANGURLE  
1984  
PIERO GIULI



**The *CABINETS DE REGARD*** describe the various main tendencies in the history of contemporary art.  
Here some examples:

## **SOLO SHOWS**

Anish Kapoor, 24 May 1990  
Giulio Paolini, La casa di Lucrezio 1981-84  
Kristina Braein, The problem of functionality 2008  
Tino Sehgal, Fondazione Trussardi, 2008  
Kristina Braein, The problem of functionality, 2004 - 08

## **CONCEPTUAL EXPERIENCES**

### **The forerunners**

DUCHAMP, Marcel

RAY, Man

BEUYS, Joseph

### **Conceptual research**

PAOLINI, Giulio

KOSUTH, Joseph

GONZALES-TORRES, Felix

### **The body**

ACCONCI, Vito

NAUMAN, Bruce

BARNEY, Matthew

### **The words**

ARIAS-MISSON, Alain

ART&LANGUAGE

VAUTIER, Ben

CHIARI, Giuseppe

ONO, Yoko

## **MICROITALICS**

ALVIANI, Getulio - L'interrelazione cromo speculare - 1969

ASSAEL, Micol – Elektron - 2007

CATTANEO, Alice – Untitled - 2007

CEROLI, Mario – Le bandiere di tutto il mondo - 1968

COLOMBO, Gianni – Spazio elastico – 1967-68

DADAMAINO – L'inconscio razionale – 1976 - 77

FAVELLI, Flavio –Palco Buffet- 2007

FONTANA, Lucio – Ambiente spaziale, 1968

MAROTTA, Gino – Albero del paradiso - 1972

MUNARI, Bruno – Filopeso - 1981

PASCALI, Pino - La vedova blu - 1968

PERRONE, Diego – La fusione della campana - 2008

PISTOLETTO, Michelangelo - The Cubic Meter of Infinity in a mirroring Cube – 1966-2007

RAMA, Carol – Presagi di Birnam - 1970

TUTTOFUOCO, Patrick – Walkaround - 2002

## **THE ITALIAN ART OF THE SECOND HALF OF THE 20th CENTURY**

### **The Great Masters**

BURRI, Alberto

FONTANA, Lucio

### **Arte Povera**

BOETTI, Alighiero

GILARDI, Piero

KOUNELLIS, Jannis

MERZ, Mario

PASCALI, Pino

PENONE, Giuseppe

ZORIO, Gilberto

### **From Nouveau Réalisme to Transavanguardie**

ARIENTI, Stefano

CHIARI, Giuseppe

CUCCHI, Enzo – POMODORO, Arnaldo

ROTELLA, Mimmo

SCHIFANO, Mario

### **The new generations**

BIANCO-VALENTE

BORGHI, Enrica

CATTANEO, Alice

CECCHINI, Loris

FANTIN, Emilio

MORO, Liliana – RUEDIGER, Bernhard

PICCO, Gabriele



**Rebecca Ballestra:** [www.rebeccaballestra.com](http://www.rebeccaballestra.com)  
**Goat Major Projects:** [www.goatmajorprojects.com](http://www.goatmajorprojects.com)  
**Journey into Fragility:** [www.journeyintofragility.com](http://www.journeyintofragility.com)  
**Microcollection:** [www.microcollection.it](http://www.microcollection.it)  
**Rhôn:** <http://therhod.wordpress.com>