

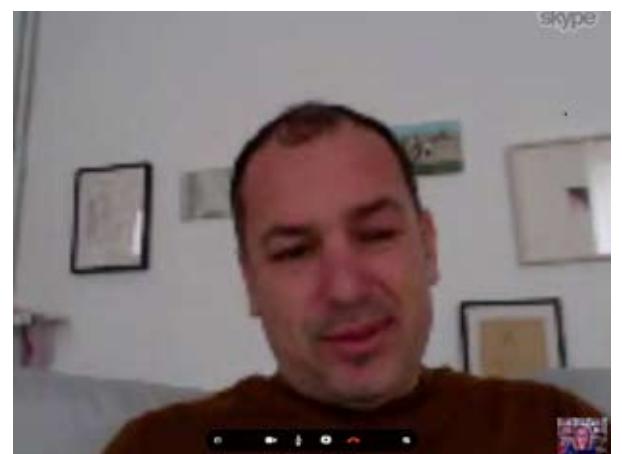
**“Mēs nevaram iztēloties pasauli,  
kurā kapitāls ceļo pilnīgi brīvi,  
bet personām ir jāstāv pie ratiem”**

Saruna ar Adrianu Pāci

**“We cannot imagine a world, in which capital moves completely freely, but people have to remain next to their carts”**

An interview with Adrian Paci

Barbara Feslere / Barbara Fässler  
Māksliniece / Artist



Adrians Pāci / Adrian Paci  
2013

Stopkads no Skype intervijas /  
Still from the Skype interview

In this discussion about the *Lives in Transit* travelling exhibition, Albanian artist Adrian Paci will answer questions about his practice and works, and share his reflections on various periods in his life and creative work. The exhibition has been shown at the *Jeu de Paume* in Paris, is currently on display at Milan's Padiglione d'Arte Contemporanea (PAC) and in 2014 will be exhibited in Montreal, Gothenburg and Norway. In our conversation on Skype, we attempted to formulate and understand how images and complex situations are formally transformed and what sort of changes they undergo. The central theme of the interview, and in Paci's creative work as well, is the phenomenon of migration, the tragedies of which are sadly continuing to occupy the front pages of newspapers. Paci talks of the crossroads in his life and art, and reveals his methods as well as his attitude to the potential of seemingly random stories which he is able to capture and illuminate from every angle.

**Barbara Fässler:** Watching the development of your creative work, one notices the crystallization of a tendency emerging from autobiographical elements that, with the assistance of powerful metaphors, leads us from the theme of migration to a more universal principle. This tendency appears at formal level too – the images become more polished, clearer, more decisive, and the technical quality of the videos is constantly improving. How do you see the development of your creative work?

**Adrians Paci:** Viewed in this way, it could seem that there has been a transition from vagueness to a more clear-cut situation. But I myself have a different vision of it. Obviously there are works in which there's a differing degree of intimacy, and from a technical point of view, they are simpler than the more recent works. However, I wouldn't like to say that the transition is only from purely autobiographical material to something more universal, or towards a better formal construction. If we take the first works, seen on the monitors at the entrance, none of the three videos – *A Real Game*, *Piktori*, or *Believe Me I Am an Artist* – derive from autobiographical intentions,



Adrians Pāci. Fasāde. Koks, kieģelis, cements, gipsis tempera /  
Adrian Paci. Facade. Tempera on plaster, cement, brick, wood  
250x300x250 cm. 2007

Foto no publicitātes materiāliem / Publicity photo  
Pateiciba māksliniekam un kaufmann repetto, Milāna / Courtesy of the artist and kaufmann repetto, Milano



Adrians Pāci. Pagaidu uzturēšanās centrs /  
Adrian Paci. Temporary Holding Centre  
Video. 5'30''. 2007

Foto no publicitāties materiāliem / Publicity photo  
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**Adrians Pāci. Britma /  
Adrian Paci. Britma  
Video. 5'18". 2009**

Foto no publicitātes materiāliem / Publicity photo  
Pateicība māksliniekam un kaufmann repetto, Milāna / Courtesy of the artist and kaufmann repetto, Milano

**Barbara Feslere: Skatoties uz tavas dailrades attīstību, var ievērot tādas tendences izkristalizēšanos, kas izaug no autobiogrāfiskiem elementiem, ar spēcīgu metaforu palidzību aizvedot mūs no migrācijas tēmas pie universālāka principa. Šī tendence atklājas arī formālā limenī – attēli kļūst gludāki, skaidrāki, drošāki, un video tehniskā kvalitāte nemītīgi uzlabojas. Kā tu pats raugies uz savas dailrades attīstību?**

**Adrians Pāci:** Šādi raugoties, liekas, ka ir notikusi pāreja no aptuvenības uz precīzāku situāciju. Bet man pašam ir cits skatījums. Acīmredzami skaidrs, ka ir darbi, kuros ir atšķirīga tuvības pakāpe, un arī no tehniskā viedokļa tie ir vienkāršāki nekā nesenākie darbi. Tomēr es negribētu teikt, ka pāreja ir tikai no tīri autobiogrāfiska materiāla uz kaut ko universālāku vai uz labāku formālu konstrukciju. Ja ļemam par piemēru pirmos darbus, kas pie ieejas aplūkojamī monitoros, neviens no trim video – ne "Īsta spēle" un *Piktori*, ne arī "Tici man, es esmu mākslinieks" – nerodas no autobiogrāfiskas ieceres, pat ja visi tajos saskata manu personu. Darba "Īsta spēle" tematika atsedz spēles un fikcijas mijiedarbi pieredzes izstātīšanā. *Piktori* apcer mākslas valodas pārkodēšanu un interpretācijas iespējas dažādos kontekstos. "Tici man, es esmu mākslinieks" ne-pierastā kontekstā tiek uzdoti jautājumi "kas ir māksla?" un "kas ir mākslinieks?". Formālā aspektā šie darbi nebūtu varējuši būt citādi. Piemēram, "Albānu stāstu" vai "Īstas spēles" gadījumā, ja es būtu atradies studijā ar RedCam, kur mana meita sēdētu starmešu gaismā, man neizdotos radīt šo tuvības atmosfēru, bez kuras neiztikt.

**B.F.: Pirmajos darbos izpaužas spēcīgas jūtas un juteklis-kums, bet arī tiem tuvu stāv ļoti nabadzīgās albānu realitātes estētika, un varbūt ir tikai likumsakarīgi, ka no tās uzvēdī ārkārtīgi spēcīga melanolīja, ko nes attēli ar atgādinājumiem par citām vietām citos laikos. Šis bēdīgums ir īpaši labi sajūtams izstādē Milānas PAC, piemēram, video sekvencēs *Vajtoica*, kur aizplūvurojusies kundze skandē sirdi plosošas vaimanas par tavu fiktīvo nāvi, bet videoinstalācijā "Pēdējie glāsti" glāstu žes-ti palēninājuma dēļ iegūst metafizisku smagumu. Toties video-darbs "Nejauša sastapšanās" balstās uz emocionāli distancētāku empātisko principu – video ir uzņemts ļoti rūpīgi sagatavotā**



**Adrians Pāci. Skats no izstādes "Dzīves tranzītā" /  
Adrian Paci. View from the exhibition *Lives in Transit*  
2013**

Foto no publicitātes materiāliem / Publicity photo  
Pateicība māksliniekam un kaufmann repetto, Milāna / Courtesy of the artist and kaufmann repetto, Milano

notwithstanding that everybody sees me in them. The theme behind *A Real Game* reveals the interaction between games and fiction in the recounting of experiences. *Piktori* highlights the problem of how the language of art is recoded and reinterpreted in varying contexts. In *Believe Me I Am an Artist*, questions about "What is art?" and "What is an artist?" are posed in an unusual context. From the aspect of form, these works couldn't have been any different. For example, in *Albanian Stories* or *A Real Game*, if I'd found myself in a studio with a RedCam, in front of my daughter sitting under the spotlights, I wouldn't have been able to create this atmosphere of intimacy that is so indispensable.

**B.F.: In the first works one senses powerful feelings and sensuality, but equally a closeness to an aesthetic saturated with the reality of poverty-ridden Albania, and maybe it's only natural that they emanate an extremely powerful melancholy conveyed by the images reminiscent of other places at other times. This sadness is particularly discernible in the exhibition at Milan's PAC, in the *Vajtoica* video sequences where a veiled Signora is declaiming heart-wrenching laments about your fictitious death, and in *The Last Gestures* video installation, where the movements of stroking are slowed down and acquire a metaphysical heaviness. Meanwhile, in *The Encounter* video the empathetic principle is more emotionally distanced: the video has been filmed in a carefully prepared setting, and the performance has been staged according to a perfectly geometrical plan. The 700 people who have arrived to shake hands with you in the square in front of the Scicli Basilica in Sicily move forward in an almost perfect semi-circle, connecting the right and left corners of the image. In a flow of continuous movement they move to the centre of the square and turn around there, signifying your presence, shaking hands one after the other. What role is played in your art by emotions and passions? Have they been given other expressive possibilities in your newest, most recent works? Are there alternative ways of managing this in your most recent works?**

**A.P.: The aspects of distance, and emotions and passions, are always present in my works. Even though this woman in the *Vajtoica***



**Adrians Pāci. Pasāžas. Koks, akrils /  
Adrian Paci. Passages. Acrylic on wood  
22,5x30 cm. 2010**

Foto no publicitātes materiāliem / Publicity photo  
Pateicība māksliniekam un kaufmann repetto, Milāna / Courtesy of the artist and kaufmann repetto, Milano



**Adrians Pāci. Pasāžas. Terakota, ģipsis, akrils, akvarelis /  
Adrian Paci. Passages. Acrylic and watercolor on plaster and terracotta  
30x20x20 cm. 2009**

Foto no publicitātes materiāliem / Publicity photo  
Pateicība māksliniekam un kaufmann repetto, Milāna / Courtesy of the artist and kaufmann repetto, Milano

uzstādījumā, uzvedums veidots pēc perfekti ģeometriskā plāna. Sicilijā, laukumā Ščikli bazilikas priekšā 700 cilvēku ir atnākuši paspiest tev roku – viņi virzās uz priekšu nevainojamā pusaplī, kas savieno attēla labo un kreiso pusī, viņi nepārtrauktī iet uz priekšu, virzoties uz laukuma vidu un pagriežoties tur, un tas viss apliecinā arī tavu klātbūtni – šīs cita aiz citas paspiestās rokas. Kādu lomu tavā mākslā spēlē emocijas, afekti, vai tiem ierādītas citas izpausmes iespējas tavos jaunākajos, nesenākajos darbos?

A.P.: Jūtu vai afektu un distances aspekts vienmēr ir manos darbos klātesošs. Video sekvencēs *Vajtoica* ir šī sieviete, kas ļoti dobjā balsī vaimanā par manu nāvi, tomēr ir skaidrs, ka šeit ir runa par fikciju, par konstrukciju. Fiktīvums atvieglo visu šo svaru un smagumu, un beigās nāk priecīga mūzika, kas ir kā *happy end* atrisinājums. Arī "Pēdējie glāsti" ir jūtām piesātināts darbs, taču patiesībā mēs atrodamies rituālā, bet katrā rituālā ir kaut kas teatrāls. Šajā darbā uzņemtie cilvēki pozē videokameras priekšā. Lai arī šeit ir spēcīgs emocionāls lādiņš, tomēr vienlaikus te ir arī savveida atsvešinātība, kas izriet no rituāla fiktīvā rakstura.

B.F.: Vienmēr ir arī metarefleksija par pašu vēstījumu, par fiktīvo, par to, kā mēs redzam realitāti un stāstām par to.

A.P.: Tieši tā, kā darbā "Nejauša sastapšanās" es gribēju kadrējumu no augšas, es gribēju to ieeju, to izēju, to pusaplī, šo siciliešu *palazzo* – lepno namu – scenogrāfiju.

B.F.: Jā, tā ir ļoti skaista...

A.P.: Neraugoties uz inscenējumu, es patiesām paspiedu roku 700 cilvēkiem. Tādējādi – pat ja video pasniedz to visu distancētāk, šajā darbā tomēr ir reāls pārdzīvojums, nenoliedzama emocionāla klātbūtne. Es visādā ziņā esmu vienīsprātis ar Delēzu, kas apgalvo, ka mākslas darbs ir jūtams caur emocijām, nevis ar jēdziena, koncepta starpniecību. Cenšos savā darbā iesaistīt afektīvo pusī, tomēr piesargos iekrist sentimentalitātē.

B.F.: Tu esi nācis no Albānijas, kas ir viena no Eiropas nabadzīgākajām zemēm, un pēc padomju sistēmas sabrukuma nonācis Itālijā, pateicoties katoļu baznīcas stipendijai, jo piederi pie katoļu mazākuma, un tu sāki savu ceļu patiešām no paša "zemākā" pakāpiena, kāds vien ir – stāšanās imigrantus pazemojošā rindā pēc uzturēšanās atļaujas. Pēc pirmajiem soliem eksperimentālajos centros, piemēram, *Isola Art Center*, tu šodien esi atzīts mākslinieks un izstādies nozīmīgās un ietekmīgās galerijās. Jau tikai estētiskā līmenī šīs divas pasaules ir tādā pretstatā, par ko lielāks nav iedomājams: starp aplupušām sienām un nodriskātām drēbēm (video) un baltām sienām un apmeklētāju elegantajām drānām (izstāžu zālē). Kā šī situācija uz tevi iedarbojas? Vai tu personīgi saskati tajā dialektiku vai pretrunas? Attīstību vai lietu dabisko gaitu? Vai pragmatiski kā nepieciešamu priekšnoteikumu, lai varētu saglabāt iespēju turpināt strādāt?

A.P.: Šeit vajadzētu šo to precizēt. Esmu ielāgojis, ka visi jautājumi ir vērsti uz to, lai parādītu manu dailīradi kā pāreju no vienas situācijas uz citu, bet man pašam šķiet, ka viss ir sarežģītāk. Jāteic, ka ir kāda lieta, kas saistīta ar izstādes "Dzīves tranzītā" tēmu, – mani galu galā šai tranzītā interesē paliekošais, nevis pārmaiņas kā tādas. Pārmaiņas ir esības priekšnoteikums. Un mani īpaši interesē – kas paliek par spīti pārmaiņām? Atgriežoties pie tava jautājuma, jāteic – ir tiesa, ka Albānija ir viena no trūcīgākajām Eiropas valstīm, bet mana situācija nebija tik bezcerīga, es biju



Adrians Pāci. Albānu stāsti. Video /  
Adrian Paci. Albanian stories. Video

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video sequences is lamenting my death in a very deep voice, it is still obvious that it's all pretence, a construction. So all of the weight and the heaviness is lightened up by its fictiveness, and resolved with happy music playing at the end like a *Happy Ending*. *The Last Gestures* too, is a work charged with feeling, in fact we are indeed in a ritual, and in every ritual there is something of the theatrical. The people filmed in this work pose before the video camera. Even though there is a powerful emotional charge here, there is at the same time also a kind of estrangement which derives from the fictive character of the ritual.

B.F.: There's always also a meta-reflection about the narrative itself, about appearances, about how we see reality and how we talk about it.

A.P.: Exactly, as in the work called *The Encounter*, where I wanted the framing to be from high up above. I wanted that entrance, this exit, that semi-circle, this scenography with these Sicilian palazzos – the stately buildings.

B: Yes, it's very beautiful...

A.P.: Despite the fact that it was staged, I really did shake hands



Adrians Pāci. Nejauša sastapšanās /  
Adrian Paci. The Encounter

Video. 22'. 2011  
Foto no publicitātes materiāliem / Publicity photo  
Pateicība māksliniekam un kaufmann repetto, Milāna / Courtesy of the artist and kaufmann repetto, Milano

beidzis mākslas liceju, studējis klasisko un renesances laikmeta mākslu, un tas tiek uzskatīts par greznību. Jau no bērna kājas kopēju Leonardo da Vinči un skatījos grāmatas ar Ticiāna reprodukcijām, mācījosis svešvalodas – kad ierodas Itālijā, es jau runāju itāliski un angļiski. Respektīvi, nevar teikt, ka es būtu pamējis galīgu bēdu leju un ieradies gozēties veiksmes spozmē. Kad dzīvoju Albānijā, man visapkārt bija māksla, un es gribēju turpināt savu gājumu, turpināt mākslinieciskos meklējumus. Lūk, tā manā dzīvē pienāca brīdis, kad ierodas Itālijā kā imigrants. Bet varbūt tā ir pazemīga, ne pazemjoša situācija. Imigranti ir kāds, kurš pārceļo no vienas zemes uz citu, un viņš var būt izmisis, bet tikpat labi arī ne. Man vienmēr ir bijis jumts vīrs galvas, darbs. Nekad neesmu bijis pazemots imigrants, pat ja ir nācies stāvēt rindā pēc uzturēšanās atļaujas...

B.F.: Arī es esmu izstāvējusi šo rindu...

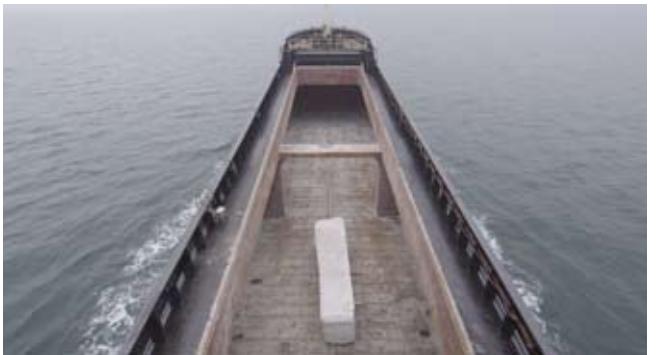
A.P.: Skaidrs, ka tas ir nepatīkami. Es negribu te "būdīt" kaut kādu albānu veiksmes stāstu, kurš ierodas Apsolītajā zemē...

B.F.: Jā, šāda shēma ož pēc Holivudas.

A.P.: Arī par maniem pirmajiem soliem mākslā, sākot ar *Isola Art Center*, var teikt, ka viss kļūst aizvien sarežģītāks: kad Milānā

with 700 people. For this reason, even if the video presents it all in a more distanced way, there is a real experience in this work, an undeniable emotional presence. In all respects I am in agreement with Deleuze, who says that a work of art operates through emotions and perception, and not through the intermediary of the idea, a philosophical concept. I try to involve the affective side in my work without, however, sinking into sentimentality.

B.F.: You've come from one of Europe's poorest countries, Albania, and arrived in Italy after the collapse of the Soviet system, with a scholarship from the Catholic Church because you belong to a Catholic minority, and you really began your journey from the very "lowest" point that there is: the humiliation as an immigrant of standing in line for a residential permit. After your first steps at experimental centres, such as the *Isola Art Center*, for example, today you are a recognized artist, exhibiting at the most significant and influential galleries. Even at just the aesthetic level, these two worlds couldn't be more contrasting: between the scratched walls and frayed clothes (in the video) and the white walls and elegant clothes of the viewers (in the



Adrians Pāci. Kolonna /  
Adrian Paci. The Column  
Video. 25'40''. 2013  
Foto no publicitātes materiāliem / Publicity photos  
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piedalījos *Isola* kustībā, man jau bija aiz muguras personālizstāde lielā Zviedrijas muzejā, jau biju piedalījies Venēcijas biennālē un *Manifesta*. Protī, es jau biju sācis izstādīties, bet par spīti tam ļoti labprāt piedalījos *Isola Art Center*, tāpat kā tagad pēc izstādes *PAC* es varu piedalīties studentu izstādē kādā pavism ne cilā vietā, jo tas man liekas interesanti. Nebūt nav tā, ka es rautin rautos pēc panākumiem, man nav vajadzības pasniegt savu *status quo* kā pretrunu – re, kur mākslinieks nabādzīš no Albānijas, sācis ar darbību eksperimentālos centros, lai pēc tam nonāktu lielajās institūcijās. Mana pieredze nav pretruna, bet attīstība, virzība. Mani neinteresēja nedz palikt marginālā īstenībā, nedz arī par varas makti lauzties iekšā mākslas pasaule. Man ir svarīgi kaut ko darīt un parādīt savu darbu, jo tā es varu to nedaudz patestēt, vai ne?

B.F.: Katrā ziņā.

A.P.: Un tagad izstādi *PAC* apskatīs desmiti tūkstoši skaītāju, tā ne tikai sastapsies ar veiksmi, bet tai būs darišana arī ar kritiku un pārdomām. Par to man ir dzīva interese. Skaidrs, ka es neesmu cilvēks, kas dzīvē meklē lielas grūtības, nē, es meklēju ērtu dzīvi. Kad ievācu ražu – arī finansiālā aspektā –, tad nevar teikt, ka tas man nepatiku. Pretrunas rastos, ja es būtu noliedzis kaut ko no savas pagātnes. Kad runājam par Albāniju kā trūcīgu zemi, tad mēs domājam tautsaimniecības kategorijās, tomēr aizmirstam, ka iespējama arī pieredes bagātība, vai ne?

B.F.: Protams, un to var sajust tavos darbos.

A.P.: Es gribu tikt pie šīs bagātnas. Tāpat kā Albānijā es ieguvu kultūras bagāžu – tautas kultūru, bet arī klasisko, arī valodas, ko iemācījos, mākslinieki, kurus iepazinu. Tas viss ir manas pagā-

exhibition space). How do you personally experience this situation? Do you see a dialectic or contradiction there? A development as the natural progression of things? Or pragmatically, as a necessary precondition, so that you can maintain the opportunity to continue working?

A.P.: We need to clear up a few things here. I've noticed that in all the questions there is a wish to see my creative work as a transition from one situation to another, but I myself see it all as being more complex. One thing I must say about the idea which is connected with the theme of *Lives in Transit* is that, ultimately, in this transition, what interests me is what remains, and not the transformation as such. Changes are a condition of existence. And what interests me particularly is – what remains despite the changes? Returning to your question: it's true that Albania is one of the poorest European countries, but my situation wasn't so desperate. I'd graduated from the art lyceum, I had studied the art of the Classical and Renaissance periods, and this was considered a luxury. From my early childhood, I copied Leonardo da Vinci and looked at books of Titian's works; I learnt foreign languages – when I came to Italy, I already spoke Italian and English. That is, you couldn't say that I'd forsaken the valley of misery and arrived here to bask in the glow of success. When I lived in Albania, I was surrounded by art, and I wanted to continue on my path, to continue my artistic exploration. You see, that's how this moment came in my life when I was in Italy as an immigrant. But even that is perhaps a humble rather than a humiliating situation. An immigrant is someone who moves from one country to another, and could be desperate, but just as well may not be. I've always had a home, and work. I have never been a humiliated immigrant, even if I have had to stand in line for a residential permit...

B.F.: I've stood in this line, too...

A.P.: Clearly, it's unpleasant. I don't want to "push" here some sort of story of the Albanian who has arrived in the Promised Land...

B.F.: Yes, that sort of thing has something of Hollywood about it.

A.P.: Even as regards my first steps in art, starting with the Isola Art Center, things became more complicated: when I participated in the Isola Movement in Milan, I already had behind me a solo exhibition at a large Swedish museum, I'd taken part in the Venice Biennale and *Manifesta*. That is to say I'd already begun to exhibit, but notwithstanding, I very willingly participated in the Isola Art Center, just like now even after the *PAC* exhibition I can take part in a student exhibition at some little-known venue, because it seems interesting to me. It's not as if I am desperately seeking success. I have no need to present my *status quo* as a contradiction – see, there's a poor artist from Albania, who began working at experimental centres so that he could later get into the large institutions. My experience is not a contradiction, but development, progress. I wasn't interested in remaining in marginal reality or, equally, breaking into the art world by any means. I'm interested in doing something and showing my work, because that's how I can put it to the test, no?

B.F.: Certainly.

A.P.: And now, the *PAC* exhibition will be seen by tens of thousands of viewers. It will not only encounter success, but it will also be exposed to critique and reflections. That's what really interests me. Obviously I am not a person who seeks a difficult life, no, I am searching for a comfortable life. That's why when I bring in the



Adrians Pāci. Skati no izstādes "Dzīves tranzītā" /  
Adrian Paci. Views from the exhibition *Lives in Transit*  
2013  
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Pateiciba māksliniekam un kaufmann repetto, Milāna / Courtesy of the artist and kaufmann repetto, Milano

harvest – in a financial sense, as well – then I can't say that I don't like it. There'd be a contradiction if I'd denied something of my past. When we speak of Albania as a poor country, we think in economic categories, but forget that it could be rich in experience, no?

B.F.: Of course, and this can be sensed in your works.

A.P.: I claim a right to this richness. Like the cultural baggage I gained in Albania – folk culture, but also the classical, and languages which I learnt, and artists who I got to know. This is all part of my past, even if now I live a different reality. I don't see it as a contradiction, but as a passage, a transition.

B.F.: The theme of migration weaves through your work like a red thread. In the *Albanian Stories* video, it's your three-year-old daughter who tells stories which have been mixed up with memories about wars in Albania, and then the traumas which were created by forced relocation are worked through in another video – *Temporary Holding Centre* where the principle of migration becomes more abstract, almost becoming a caricature. The people with a previous history of migration, or the *MmMs1* as they are called in Germany, are climbing up some steps on the tarmac of the airport. It's only when they all have climbed onto the metal structure that the television cameras turn away and we see that the plane to which we'd imagined these metal stairs going up isn't there. In its place there is nothing, an abyss. This video is like a painful reminder about two very serious catastrophes involving inflatable rafts that happened very recently near Lampedusa, it reminds us that migration is often connected with enormous risks, victims and losses, and that those who have launched on this path simply don't have any other alternative. One can only hope that these tragedies will change something and may give the conscience of Italy a shake, as well as Europe.

The European Parliament is finally discussing practical support for these immigrants and the relevant countries, and the Senate in Rome is debating the Bossi-Fini Law<sup>2</sup> and whether to abolish the crime of "being in hidden immigration". In your recent video works the theme of migration has taken on more aesthetic, one could say – symbolic, outlines. How do you view the reality of migration now? In respect to a world in which cities are becoming more and more culturally diverse, where their inhabitants speak in many languages, and have lived in diverse cultures? What are your thoughts and your position on migration?

A.P.: Immigration is not only the theme of my work, it reflects my experience as well. It was the situation in which I found myself. As an artist I had to decide whether to include it in my creative work or to leave it out. I decided to include the theme, making use of its potential. I didn't examine the problems of the theme as a scientist, but from the viewpoint of an artist trying to come to terms with his own experience, and also the experience of those people around him, at the same time attempting to talk about this in all of its complexity. An experience is never unambiguous, it is always tangled, intricate. That's why I've tried to make it into a departure point for my reflections, for my work. In the *Temporary Holding Centre* video they talk about being in transit, in a kind of threshold zone. It's a transit zone which paradoxically becomes a place where to stay.

B.F.: Exactly.

A.P.: Clearly, when looking at it from the viewpoint of the images, this work is very powerful, because it still retains within it the memories of the vessels overloaded with people, and it is a reality

**migrācijas parādību? Vai to var salīdzināt ar pasauli, kurā pilētas kļūst aizvien kulturāli daudzveidīgākas un to iemītnieki paši runā pulka valodu, jo viņi ir dzīvojuši dažnedažādās kultūrās? Kādas ir tavas domas un attieksme pret migrāciju?**

**A.P.:** Ieceļošana ir ne tikai manu darbu tēma, bet atspoguļo arī manu pieredzi. Tas ir stāvoklis, kurā es atrados. Bet kā mākslinieks es nolemju, vai to ielikt savā dāīradē vai atstāt ārpus tās. Izšķirošas tēmas iekļaušanu, izmantojot tās potenciālu. Es neaplūkoju tēmas problēmas no pētnieciskā viedokļa, bet piegāju tai kā mākslinieks, kurš mēģina apsmadzeņot paša piedzīvoto un arī to lauž pieredzi, kas atrodas ap mani, vienlaikus cēnšoties runāt par to visā šīs parādības sarežģītībā. Pieredze, pārdzīvojums nekad nav viennozīmīgs, tajā ir piņķerīgums, sarežģītība. Tāpēc es mēģināju to pataisīt par izejas punktu savai refleksijai, savam darbam. Video "Pagaīdu uzturēšanās centrs" tiek runāts par atrašanos tranzītā, tādā kā sliekšņa zonā. Tā ir tranzīta zona, kas paradoksālā kārtā kļūst par vietu, kur var palikt.

**B.F. Tieši tā.**

**A.P.:** Ir skaidrs, ka, raugoties no attēlu viedokļa, šis darbs ir varen spēcīgs, jo tas tomēr glabā sevī atmiņas par visiem šiem cilvēkiem pārbāztajiem kuģiem, un tā ir realitāte, kas man pieder. Imigrācija mūsu laikā ir ļoti spēcīga tēma. Mēs nevaram iztēloties pasauli, kurā kapitāls ceļo pilnīgi brīvi, bet personām ir jāstāv pie ratiem. Tāpat mēs nevaram iedomāties pasauli, kur tikai varenie var brīvi celot turp, kuru vēlas, bet nabagie ir spiesti palikt iespundēti. Ar imigrāciju nav iespējams tikt galā mierīgā ceļā, pilnīgā harmonijā, kur visi ir pādeuši un priečīgi. Imigrācija dzimst no pretrunām un dzemdīna jaunas pretrunas. Politikai ja īrīsina šīs pretrunas, tā nevar izsvītrot, ignorēt tās. Un kultūrai arī ir sava artava doda, tai jāpaplašina redzeslauks, jāpālīdz ļaudīm atvērt acis un kļūt zinošākiem, bet tā nevar šo likstu novērst. Kad atgadās tādas tragēdijas, kādas mūs piemeklēja pavismesen, tad zem to nastas mēs varam tikai noliekt galvu un paklusēt...

**B.F. Patiesi.**

**A.P.:** Tik spēcīgs notikums – ko tas galu galā nozīmē?... Ar mūsdieniāli un sakaru iespējām nav iespējams liegt ļaudīm fiziski ceļot. Tomēr pārvietošanās telpā noved pretrunās, ko gaiši politiķi prāti var noturēt kaut kādos rāmjos, taču nevar novērst pavism. Multikulturalitāte savā ziņā ir tās sekas. Pasaulē, kur jau dis pārvietojas, viņi nes sev līdzi kultūru, valodu, dzīvesveidu. Ne piekrītu domai, ka tas viiss mūs bagātīna un – punkts. Mēs nevaram šo parādību nonivelēt līdz *United Colours of Benetton*. Pārvietošanās ir realitāte, kur dažādību pārvalda, ar to risina dialogu un ar to ir jātiekt galā, nebaidoties no visiem ar to saistītajiem konfliktiem. Nedrīkst no tās vairīties, vērst pret to spaidus – tad tā var uziet gaisā un kļūt nekontrolējama.

**B.F. Tavs pēdējais videodarbs "Kolonna" (2013) tika radīts tieši šīs ceļojošās izstādes vajadzībām, tajā refleksija pievēras migrantu plūsmām un work in progress jau universālā un metaforiskā līmenī. Video ar izcili tiru un skaidru attēlu un skaņu redzam, kā marmorā blukis uzsāk pārvērtību ceļu no Ķīnas uz Eiropu ar kuģi-fabriku, kur pieci tēlnieki izķal klasicisku kolonnu ar korintiešu kapiteli. Tātad Eiropā nonāk Eiropas antīkās kultūras paraugs, kas ir ļīniešu kopija, un tas, ka radišanas laiktelpos atbilst pārvadāšanas laiktelpei, uzsver pārvērtības norišu svarīgumu. Tas, ka kolonna ir apskatāma guļus, vēlreiz liek aizdomāties: vai guļus tiek izstādītas tikai pusgata-**

which belongs to me. In our times, immigration is a very powerful theme. We cannot imagine a world in which capital moves completely freely, but people have to stay where they are. Like we cannot imagine a world where only the powerful can travel freely, wherever they want, while the poor are forced to stay closed in. It's not possible to deal with immigration in a peaceful way, in perfect harmony, where everyone is fed and happy. Immigration is born of contradiction and brings new contradictions. These contradictions must be solved politically, they cannot be deleted out, ignored. And culture also has to give its due, it has to open up the field of vision, help to open people's eyes and for them to be informed, but it cannot solve the problem. That's why, when tragedies take place such as the ones we experienced recently, then we can only bow our heads and remain silent...

**B.F. Indeed.**

**A.P.:** Such a powerful event – in the end, what does it all mean?... With all of today's opportunities for communication, you cannot deny people the possibility of travelling physically. However, physical displacement leads to contradictions, which enlightened politicians can only govern to some extent, but cannot eliminate. Multiculturalism, in a sense, is its consequence. In a world where people move from place to place, bringing with them their culture, language and way of life. I don't agree with the idea that all of this enriches us and – full stop. We cannot reduce this to the level of United Colours of Benetton. Migration is a reality where diversity is managed, dialogue is used to resolve it, and it has to be dealt with, without fearing the conflicts associated with it. We mustn't try to avoid it, or stamp down on it – then it could explode and become uncontrollable.

**B.F. Your latest video work, *The Column* (2013), was created for this travelling exhibition specially, and transposes the reflections on migratory flows and work in progress to a universal and metaphorical level. In the video, with its outstandingly clean and pure images and sound, we see how a marble block begins its journey of transformation from China to Europe on a factory ship, where five Chinese sculptors carve out a classical column with a Corinthian capital. Therefore, an example of antique European culture, which is a Chinese copy, arrives in Europe, and the fact that the time and space of its creation corresponds to the time and space of its transportation underlines the importance of the process of its transformation. The fact that the column is seen lying down makes us think again: are only half-finished columns still being made or those which are in ruins displayed lying down? And a column which is still in "operation" is always set up in a standing position and fulfills the functions of a support? Columns remind us a little of horses who never lie down, only when they die... How would you explain the point of this complex work?**

**A.P.:** Before the idea, in this work, there was a story. Someone told me that there were these factory ships on which they produce these marble sculptures. When I encounter such a story, what interests me is its visual potential. I found very powerful the idea of an antique model that travels from the east and returns to the west through this physical journey across the ocean of the Chinese sculptors on a ship. I was struck by the fact that, present simultaneously on the one hand, is the beauty of an artefact, a classical example, and on the other, the dynamics of our modern world with its political contradictions, with exploitation of labour and China as

vas kolonas apstrādes fāzē vai arī tās, kas ir drupās, sagrautas? Vai kolonna, kas "darbojas", vienmēr ir piecelta stāvus un pilda balsta funkcijas? Kolonnas nedaudz atgādina rumakus, kas nedaudz nemetas guļus, vienīgi tad, kad mirst... Kā tu raksturotu šā sarežģītā darba jēgu?

**A.P.:** Pirmā doma šajā darbā ir stāsts. Kāds man stāstiņa, ka esot tādi kuģi-fabrikas, uz kuriem tiekot darinātas marmora skulptūras. Kad sastopas ar šādu stāstu, mani ieinteresēja tā vizualizācijas potenciāls. Doma par antīku paraugu, kas ceļo uz austumiem un atgrīzas rietumos ar šā fiziskā ceļojuma palīdzību, ļīniešu tēlniekam peldot uz kuģa pa okeānu. Mani satrīca tas, ka vienlaikus klātesošs, no vienas puses, ir klasiska parauga artefakta skaistums, un, no otras, ir jūtama mūsdieni pasaules dinamika ar tās politiskajām pretrunām, darbaspēka ekspluatāciju un Ķīna kā ļoti nozīmīgs spēks mūsdieni globālās pasaules dinamikā. Lūk, kad vienā stāstā ir tik bagāts potenciāls, tad es sarosos, lai kaut ko darītu. Tātad šis darbs ir dzimis, lai mēģinātu izpētīt minēto potenciālu, tas nav tikai vēstījums un *basta*, nozīmē un *basta*. Tajā ir iespējas, ko šai stāstā saskatīju jau no paša sākuma.

**B.F. Un guļošā kolonna?**

**A.P.:** Lūk, jā, guļošā kolonna savā ziņā nedaudz uzsver miera stāvokli, šo gatavību vēl vienam ceļojumam, jo tā pagaidām nav atradusī novietojumu. Tev gribas to teju vai noglāstīt, tā liekas aizmugusi. Tā man šķiet spēcīgāka guļus nekā stāvus. Un darba gaitā es atklāju vēl citas kopsakarības. Kāds man stāstiņa par kolonnu, ko Konstantīns no Romas pārcēlīs uz Stambulu, bet Musolīni lika aizvest vienu antīku kolonnu uz Čikāgu, lai godinātu kādu itāļu pilotu. Doma par ceļojošām kolonnām nav dzimusī tikai manā galvā. Šajā stāstā un faktos ir bijis kaut kas tāds, ko es nebūtu varējis atskārst, paredzēt iepriekš.

**B.F. Tava dāīrade īstenojas akvareļos, eļļas glezniecībā, tēlniecībā, izmantojot sintētiskos svelķus vai marmoru, amatieriskā video un HD ar neticami sarežģītiem tehniskiem risinājumiem. Visus tavus darbus savstarpejī saista kāds pavediens, tas nekad nav tikai tīri formāls vai ārējs, bet bieži jāmeklē dzīļakos rūpestos. Kādi būs tavi nākamie gājieni?**

**A.P.:** (smiejas) Pateikt, kādi ir nākamie gājieni, šķiet pieņemt par pašsprotamu, ka apakšā ir kaut kāda precīza stratēģija. Bet nē, es ceru, ka spēšu uzmanīgi un dabiski skatīties uz to, kas ir man apķārt, un te var notikt arī pavism negaidīti pavērsieni. Man gribas teikt – nākamie gājieni turpinās iepriekšējos, un šķiet, ka ar to nav maz teikts. Raugi, ir skaidrs, ka šajā darbā ir iekšēja dinamika. No viena darba dzimst nākamais. Bet vienmēr tajos ir logs uz stāstiem, kas atgadās ar mani pašu, uz attēliem, kas trāpās manā ceļā, uz satikšajiem ļaudīm. Līdz ar to tas viiss savā ziņā arī nosaka manu darbu. Šos gājienus nav iespējams paredzēt. Ir notikumi, kas tev atgadās, tie kaut ko atmodina un, tā teikt, kļūst par sākuma punktu jaunām dēkām.

No itāļu valodas tulkojis Dens Dimiņš

a very powerful player in the dynamics of today's globalized world. You see, when there's such rich potential in a story, it gets me going and I do something. So this work was born in order to investigate this potential mentioned, and it's not going to be just a message and *basta*, a meaning and *basta*. It contains potentialities within it, ones which I saw in the story at the very beginning.

**B.F. And the column lying down?**

**A.F.:** Look, yes, the column lying down gently emphasizes a state of peace, this readiness for one more journey, because it hasn't yet found its place. You almost want to stroke it, it seems as if it's asleep. To me it seems more powerful lying down than standing up. And in the course of making the work I discovered other connections. Someone told me about a column which Constantine carried from Rome to Istanbul or about Mussolini who also ordered the despatch of an antique column to Chicago to honour an Italian pilot. The idea of a travelling column didn't just spring from my mind. There was already something in this story and these facts that I wouldn't have been able to conceive, or predict.

**B.F. Your creative works pass from water colours to painting in oils, from sculpture in synthetic resin to marble, from amateur video to HD with unbelievably complex technical solutions. All of your works are mutually linked by some thread that is never only purely formal or external, but often has to be looked for among your deepest concerns. What are your next moves?**

**A.B.:** (Laughs.) To say already what the next moves will be seems to assume as self-evident that there is some precise strategy underneath it all. But no, I hope that I'm able to look at what's around me, carefully and naturally, and that something unexpected could happen here. I'd like to say – the next moves will continue the previous ones, and that, it seems to me, is already a lot. Look, obviously there is an internal dynamic in this work. From one job another is born. But there's always a window open to the stories I live, to the images I find in my path, and to the people I meet. That is why all of this, to some extent, also determines my work. You can never foresee these moves in advance. There are situations that happen to you, which awaken something and become, it could be said, the starting point for a new adventure.

Translator into English: Uldis Brūns

<sup>1</sup> From the German *Menschen mit Migrationshintergrund*. Here and henceforth – translator's notes.

<sup>2</sup> It. *Legge Bossi-Fini*. The law was named after its signatories – ministers in the Berlusconi government, Gianfranco Fini and Umberto Bossi; more precisely – the Republic of Italy Law No. 189 of 30 July 2002, by which the Law on Immigration and the Legal Status of Aliens was changed. The Bossi-Fini Law, among other things, prescribes the immediate expulsion of illegal immigrants from the country. Amnesty International has expressed concerns about the consistency of this regulation with the UN Convention on the Status of Refugees (1951) and on the rights to asylum.