

Press release

## *Subjective Maps / Disappearances*

National Gallery of Iceland

May 17th – June 30th, 2013

opening Friday 17th May, 2013 at 6.00 P.M.

National Gallery of Iceland

Fríkirkjuvegur, 7 Reykjavík

a project by **Little Constellation - Arte Contemporanea nelle micro-aree geo-culturali e piccoli Stati d'Europa**  
curated by **Halldór Björn Runólfsson, Alessandro Castiglioni, Rita Canarezza & Pier Paolo Coro**

artists: **Daniel Arellano Mesina, Eve Ariza, Sigurður Atli Sigurðsson, Katerina Attalidou, Sigtryggur Berg Sigmarrsson, Justine Blau, Rita Canarezza & Pier Paolo Coro, Dustin Cauchi, Jóhan Martin Christiansen, Nina Danino, Oppy De Bernardo, Hekla Dögg Jónsdóttir, Doris Drescher, Barbara Geyer, Helena Guàrdia, Unn Joensen, Irena Lagator, Victoria Leonidou, Simon Le Ruez, Ingibjörg Magnadóttir, Mark Mangion, Lorella Mussoni & Pier Giorgio Albani, Teodora Nikcević, Minna Öberg, Bjargey Ólafsdóttir, Maria Petursdóttir, Pierre Portelli, Agnès Roux, Eric Snell, Miki Tallone, Jelena Tomašević, Pauliina Turakka Purhonen, Natalija Vujošević, Martin Walch, Trixi Weis.**

On Friday, **May 17, 2013** the network *Little Constellation-Contemporary Art in the geo-cultural micro-areas and small states of Europe* will open a new exhibition at the National Gallery of Iceland, *Subjective Maps/Disappearances*, scheduled from **May 17 to June 30, 2013**.

*Little Constellation* is an international network for contemporary art. It was founded for the creation and dissemination of research projects especially attentive to the present in the small states of Europe: **Andorra, Cyprus, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, San Marino**, and in some micro geo-cultural areas of the European Union including: **Ticino, Ceuta, Gibraltar, Kaliningrad, the Aland Islands, the Faroe Islands, Jersey and Guernsey**. The network is proposed as an international cognitive platform for the dissemination of information, exhibitions, meetings and residencies for artists and to encourage the creation of co-productions and collaborations for new projects with artists, associations, museums, art centres, public and private institutions and international foundations.

The **37 artists** in the exhibition produced a series of artist's book and fanzine, inspired by the disappearance theme, as a condition of suspended between geopolitical reasons and a more private and existential dimension. Works have been designed with an idea of creating a narrative, both visual and textual, able to tell different identities, anthropological and cultural belonging to territories involved in the network.

An integral part of the exhibition will be the volume issued by **Mousse Publishing**, designed as an artist's book, an anthology of all the work produced for the occasion by artists.

Works will be exhibited in an installation specifically designed for the central hall of the museum by the Swiss artist **Oppy De Bernardo**, with the idea of making visible and tangible, through the use of simple construction materials, the size of the network, characteristic of Little Constellation. Work is presented as a display to accommodate and expose the show's fanzine *Subjective Maps* but also give the whole room a specific and recognizable visual characterization.

The exhibition, curated by **Halldór Björn Runólfsson**, director of the National Gallery of Iceland, **Alessandro Castiglioni, Rita Canarezza & Pier Paolo Coro**, curators and artists of the *Little Constellation* network, is supported by the institutions of **San Marino and Iceland** with the participation of the institutions of **Cyprus, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Gibraltar, the Aland Islands, the Faroe Islands, Jersey and Guernsey**.

The exhibition forms part of the **Reykjavik Arts Festival, 2013**, Iceland's first international cultural festival.

**Little Constellation Network, Library and Archive**  
**Contemporary Art in geo-cultural micro areas and small States of Europe**  
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# little constellation

contemporary art  
in geo-cultural micro-areas  
and small states of europe



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# SUBJECTIVE MAPS / Disappearances

A project by  
*/Little Constellation/*

Curated by  
Halldór Björn Runólfsson /  
Alessandro Castiglioni /  
Rita Canarezza & Pier Paolo Coro

National Gallery of Iceland,  
Reykjavik  
May 18<sup>th</sup> - June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013

May 18<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
June 1<sup>st</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Closed on Mondays

Opening  
Friday, May 17th 2013, 6 p.m.

Daniel Arellano Mesina / Eve Ariza / Sigurður Atli Sigurðsson /  
Katerina Attalidou / Sigtryggur Berg Sigmarsson / Justine Blau /  
Rita Canarezza & Pier Paolo Coro / Dustin Cauchi / Jóhan Martin  
Christiansen / Nina Danino / Oppy De Bernardo / Hekla Dögg Jónsdóttir /  
Doris Drescher / Barbara Geyer / Helena Guàrdia / Unn Joensen /  
Irena Lagator / Victoria Leonidou / Simon Le Ruez / Ingibjörg  
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Jelena Tomašević / Pauliina Turakka Purhonen / Natalija Vujošević /  
Martin Walch / Trixi Weis

Bookworks and Fanzines from  
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Monaco / Montenegro / San Marino / Åland Islands / Canton Ticino /  
Faroe Islands / Gibraltar / Guernsey / Jersey

## WORKSHOPS AND LECTURES Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2013

Program  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2013  
National Gallery of Iceland  
from 11.00 a.m.  
Guided Tour by *Alessandro Castiglioni*

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2013  
National Gallery of Iceland  
from 10.30 a.m to 1.30 p.m.

**The Little Constellation Research Project**  
Introduction and presentation by  
*Rita Canarezza & Pier Paolo Coro*, artists, San Marino

**Of Other Places - Little Constellation, Gibraltar 2014 - 2015**  
workshop by  
*Alessandro Castiglioni*, Little Constellation curator  
*Nina Danino*, artist and filmmaker, Senior Lecturer in Fine Art,  
Goldsmiths, University of London  
*Svetlana Racanović*, Independent curator, Montenegro  
supported by  
Ministry for Sports, Culture, Heritage & Youth of Gibraltar (UK)  
Ministry of Education and Culture of San Marino  
Ministry of Culture of Montenegro

**Parallel Borders**  
lecture by  
*Mark Mangion*, artist and curator, Malta Contemporary Art

**Aspects of the hidden in Maltese Culture and language**  
lecture by  
*Georgina Portelli*, Psycholinguistic researcher, Malta

**Gibraltar Interior/Exterior a search for identity**  
lecture by  
*Gino Sanguinetti*, artist, Association of Fine Arts, Gibraltar (UK)

**/ti'tano/ Little Constellation 2013**  
lecture by  
*Alessandro Castiglioni*, in occasion of Errors Allowed - Mediterraneo 16,  
Young Artists Biennial, Ancona, Italy, 6 June - 6 July, 2013  
supported by  
Social and Cultural Activities Office,  
Ministry of Education and Culture of San Marino

*Subjective Maps / Disappearances* is an atlas: a collection of maps made by artists who work in certain specific territories of Europe, small states and geopolitical micro-areas that belong to the Little Constellation network.

But mapmaking is a form of storytelling, so these maps are presented in the guise of that cultural archetype for the transmission and preservation of knowledge: the book, found for this exhibition in a range of possible reformulations such as fanzine, object, and artist's book. *Disappearance* is a term that spontaneously emerged during a discussion with Halldór Björn Runólfsson, Director of the National Gallery of Iceland, which is housing the show connected to this publication, during a workshop held in Reykjavik in November 2011. The focus on this word generated a series of insights, some linked to the narrative tradition of Iceland. Indeed, one cannot help but note the importance in Icelandic folklore and mythology of that vast *Book of Imaginary Beings* so that fascinated Jorge Luis Borges, teeming with elves and trolls, creatures that are invisible—or visible, insofar as their presence is intensely felt—real or imaginary, lurking within or springing from the unconscious. Each of these presences is capable of conveying the deep human need for a multiplicity of archetypal visions, and the broader need to conceive and tell stories that can take on new forms in the present. Now more than ever, these insights

and sensations are facets of a compelling necessity to preserve every form of imagination, as a way of countering the very concept of *disappearance*.

Building on these ideas, certain aspects were singled out as starting points for this study of "disappearance". The first has to do with the metaphoric connotation of the idea as it relates to a sociopolitical and economic condition. Nowadays, must a small community, embedded in a context of international institutions, fear erasure?

For an individual who is part of a social system, what it mean to disappear? These questions served as points of departure for a stage of discussion and dialogue that this book documents through the contributions of each artist.

And the artists, with their various *subjective maps*, usher us into an individual, mirror-like *atlas of the emotions*, experienced within the specific geopolitical and geocultural contexts we address, or like fanciful adventure stories, take us in search of mysterious, faraway worlds yet to be explored.



Republic of San Marino,  
Three Excellencies: the Captains Regent,  
Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Education and Culture; Territory and Youth Policies,  
Tourism, Health and Social Security, Social and Cultural Activities Office



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Ministry of Education, Science and Culture  
Embassy of Ireland in Reykjavik



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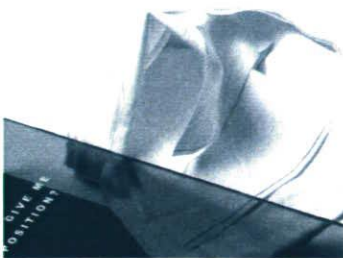
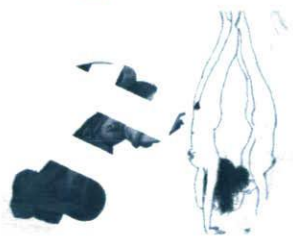
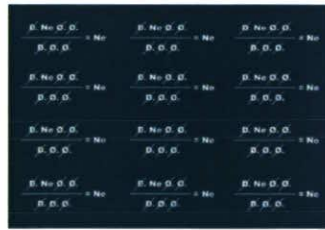
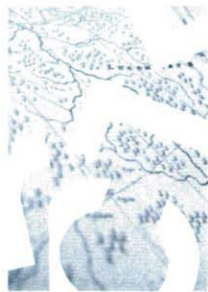
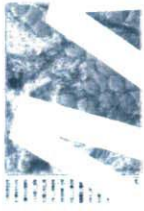
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