



Exhibition 'Elogio del Limite'

Galleria Civica G. B. BOSIO
Desenzano del Garda

pannello 1 introduttivo

The world, as we know it, is changing quickly before our eyes; much like in the movies when the bridges start to collapse under our feet, and we have to run to the other side, not knowing if we are going to make it. It is clear that **the limit has been crossed**.

We need to stop, look around and find a way to a new respectful **balance** of the limit that Nature manifests us more and more violently.

We aren't scientists or prophets; we like travelling and narrating stories. Stories that have so much to tell, even about this limit. Listening to them is a bit like changing.

Giuliano Radici - Direttore artistico.

Elogio Del Limite is the artistic project included in *Life SalvaGuardia*, a campaign funded by the LIFE programme of the European Union, which focuses on the Brescian shore of lake Garda, a beautiful but fragile land, which we have to preserve and protect.

The exhibition invites us to think about the effects of climate change and the environmental impacts caused by men in the habitat where they live.

It is time to find a new balance and inaugurate a new era of peaceful cohabitation between Man and Environment.

Elogio Del Limite, through the language of art, encourages all of us to give life to a new **cultural renaissance** based on the importance of an **ecological culture**, sided by an **active safeguard** of the territory and of its resources.

Happy Limit to everyone.

pannello 2 stanza 1 - reportage

There is only one myth to debunk, the one that we don't have a choice. A new model of society is possible.

RED MUD ON THE FOOT OF PARNASSUS

Photos by Francesco Pennacchio, text by Chiara Cervigni.

Parnassus is the mountain of mythology, consecrated to Apollo and house of the Muses. It looks over Delphi, the navel of the ancient world, where the Pythia - through the divine - gave oracles. Here everything speaks about ancient gods, heroes and epic wars and beauty. But after crossing the mountain pass, a red dust starts to appear, which first covers the roads, then the signals and the surrounding hills.

We are near Agios Nikolaos, and this is the industrial site of Aluminium of Greece, the second producer of bauxite in Greece and Europe.

Bauxite that becomes aluminium.

Aluminium presents an important property: it can be recycled endlessly, without losing its characteristics.

Contrarily to the production process by bauxite, recycling is highly sustainable, because it allows to recover precious elements, to reduce waste and polluting emissions and to save 95% of energy.

However, although the recycling rates are rising, the world's demand of aluminium is in constant growth, and even if the alternative to the continuous mining of resources exists, this way is not always taken.

pannello 3 stanza 1 - reportage

It seems obvious, but the river flows into the sea.

The Danube drags along a load of baggage.

BORDER LANDS

Photos and texts by Gianluca Checchi

C.A. Rosetti, *Delta del Danubio*, 2019

"The Danube is everywhere and even its end is in each of the delta's 4300 square kilometres"

Claudio Magris - Danube

A trip through the landscapes between the moon and the desert, passing through plains created by centuries of river sediments and villages crystallized over time.

Here, where "bate ventu"* - as it is said in Romania, a very strong wind - the horses run free in a unique biosphere.

With the end of socialism, the delta area became a Natural Reserve of the Biosphere, which caused the de-industrialization of fishing, with limitations and restrictions on the various related activities.

The major consequence was a sudden lack of workplaces, which made this area one with the highest unemployment percentage of Romania.

Many are the dangers that threaten the waters: metals, industries' pollution and microplastics end up here, the end of the long path of the Danube, which starts in the Black Forest in Germany, flowing through the Balkans for 3000 km to conclude its slow journey in a delicate and fragile unique ecosystem.

**Romanian for 'the wind blows'*

pannello 4 stanza 1 - reportage

Everything is connected: space, society, economy. It is impossible to change without this awareness.

THE SKY OVER TOGLIATTI / Border Waters

Photos of Francesco Pennacchi, Giuliano Radici

Togliatti, 2019

Togliatti. The only Russian city with an Italian name; Togliatti, where FIAT started the motorisation of the USSR. Togliatti, what's left?

Vaz is the industrial complex born with the Togliatti Project, launched in 1966 with a deal between Moscow and Fiat from Turin, a project that underlined the ambition to modernise while creating an opening in the "Iron Curtain". The utopia of industrial city that Togliatti would have been, is still visible in buildings and factories. A skyline characterized by the chimneys which billow grey clouds through the Sarmatic sky in the early morning. Nearby, perpetually and in its own time, the waters of the Volga, on whose shores Russia was born and has recognised herself over the centuries, slip away.

pannello 5 stanza 1 - reportage

Tomatoes, a lot of tomatoes. But courgettes, aubergines, peppers and cucumbers as well. All the year round. But at what cost?

MY HOME THANKS TO YOUR BUSINESS

Photos by Giuliano Radici, text by Beatrice Mazzocchi

Almeria, 2019

Almeria's greenhouses are said to be one of the few things visible from space. There are more than 350 km² of structures where edible plants are cultivated and that are on our tables. It is called "Mar de Plastico". A name that derives from the fact that this territory is completely occupied by a large quantity of greenhouses covered in plastic, which have transformed one of the most arid zones of Europe into a vegetable garden.

A "miracle" only possible thanks to the massive exploitation of agricultural land and people. A very cheap labour, mainly composed of foreign workers who earn 30/35 euros per day, and behind the sparkle of this artificial sea they live in plastic huts without electricity and water, often also deprived of basic hygienic needs. Those who try rebelling get kicked out. Also because in southern Spain there are a lot of African immigrants in search of a job who are willing to accept exploitation.

pannello 6 stanza 2 - testo integrale del pannello Antropocene

The interminable sequence of geological eras, periods, and epochs - exclusively determined by natural events that have marked the history of the earth since the dawn of time - seems to be about to end.

With the industrial revolution and demographic explosion, we have entered a new phase of planetary history: the one in which a single animal species, man (*Homo sapiens* L.) **has the capacity to alter the entire earth system. We are in the Anthropocene**, term coined at the beginning of this millennium to indicate the current era, marked by the absolute prevalence of Man as the main environmental force that can modify the planet's surface, climate and ecosystems. Urbanisation, industrialisation, intensive exploitation of natural resources, deforestation, poaching, pollution. They are just some of the most devastating processes put in place by man **to the detriment of his own Planet.**

Human activities are quickly changing the gas concentrations in the atmosphere, triggering **global warming**. Droughts and desertification are intensifying, i.e., the process through which soil degradation occurs. We also observe the disappearance of flora and fauna and the transformation of the natural environment into a desert. Agriculture, mining and urbanization are reshaping the earth, **consuming large quantities of land**, so much so that, between 2008 and 2015, land consumption in Italy was estimated at around 6 square meters every second. The effects of global warming are causing **the melting of the polar caps and glaciers**, and the huge deforestations destabilize, if not eliminate, natural ecosystems as well as causing the extinction of numerous species. The **loss of biodiversity** affects the entire biosphere, i.e., all living beings. We are facing an extinction potentially greater than the one that has occurred on the planet in the last 65 million years, greater than the one that marked the end of the dinosaurs!

The survival of our Planet depends mainly on one species: ours. This means that with our lifestyle and consumption we can decide whether to contribute to preserving the Earth or speed up its degradation. And on how we will be able to rebuild a harmonious relationship with the environment, using natural resources without destroying them.

pannello 7 stanza 2 - testo integrale del pannello CAPITALE NATURALE

One of the most precious goods of our planet is "Natural Capital": natural resources, living organisms, air, water, soil and geological resources, which contribute to the production of goods and services for humans and are necessary for the survival of the same environment that generates them.

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|-----------------|-----|------|--------------|
| NATURAL CAPITAL | | | |
| Water | Air | Soil | Biodiversity |

Biodiversity: plants, animals, fungi and microorganisms that interact with each other and the environment.

pannello 8 stanza 2 - testo integrale del pannello CAPITALE NATURALE

NATURAL CAPITAL

The natural capital provides goods and “eco-friendly services”, which are very important for humanity. All these services together represent the basic material for human survival. They allow health, security, good social relationships, and they lay the foundations of freedom of choice and action of each person.

GLOBAL ECO-FRIENDLY SERVICES

Provision: food, water, wood

Regulation: regulation of climate. Control of floods. Soil health. Control of erosion and illnesses. Quality of water

Culture: recreation, eco-tourism, aesthetics, spirituality, cure

Support: primary services. Soil formation. Cycle of nutrients and water. Primary production

pannello 9 stanza 2 - testo integrale del pannello CAPITALE NATURALE

The big planetary challenges and the worries caused by the current consumption rates of natural resources make us rethink our relationship with nature. The scientific knowledge shows us that if we preserve nature, we preserve ourselves. If we weaken Nature, we weaken ourselves.

That is why we must implement the following policies:

- 1 Stopping the consume of soil
- 2 Recovering the degraded areas
- 3 Safeguarding and reconnecting ecosystems
- 4 Keeping the natural capital guarded
- 5 Starting new eco-friendly financial activities
- 6 Planning resources

Nature is not a place to visit. It is our home.

Gary Snyder

pannello 10 stanza 3 - testo integrale del pannello DOCUFILM

We, *7milamiglialongano* (*7thousandmilesaway*) love to **travel**, and we travel a lot. We travel to **see**, to **feel**, to **understand** what happens to us inside and out. We observe the world that changes each day, making our certainties tremble.

In these years, we are travelling mostly to document the state of **the world's waters** through our project **H2oPLANET**. What we bring back home from our journeys aren't judgments, but food for thought; we single out themes and problems in the effort to find possible solutions.

Basically, the good and the bad.

Travelling always encourages us to **face our mental or physical limits**. Sometimes, it is worth challenging them, to open up and welcome; sometimes, we need to stop, respect, protect what we have learned.

Not overstepping a boundary doesn't necessarily mean giving up, but changing our way of behaving and thinking, to consider the effect of our gestures and words.

Aq*a is our first docufilm linked to **H2oPLANET**, we shot it running along all the European coasts, searching - first of all - for the limit in our own home.



