



LI QUADERNI

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Rappresentazioni urbane Urban Representations

a cura di ETICity

- Simone Tulumello & Giacomo Ferro |
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- Giansandro Merli & Monia Cappuccini |
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- Maria Elena Buslacchi |
- Petra Potz & Ariane Sept |
- Lidia K.C. Manzo |

- Cristina Gorzanelli, Gail Ramster, Alan Outten & Dan Lockton |
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- Giuliana Visco & Alioscia Castronovo |
- Claudia Bernardi |
- Maria Luisa Giordano |
- Irene Dorigotti |
- TooA |
- Oginoknauss |

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Progetto grafico e impaginazione
Nicola Vazzoler.

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Kigali or building a symptomatic city. Young's Imaginary and Crea(c)tivity in Rwanda after 1994

Visual
Anthropology
Post-genocide



The video is based on an ethnographic research in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda, which had been carried between July and November 2012. It puts forward a research that investigates the relationship between audiovisual production and artistic imagination among a group of youth. Youth's dreams and the future images that underline audiovisual production are analyzed using collaborative videomaking. To discuss the process of State reconstruction taking place in post-genocide Rwanda, the fieldwork investigates how the relationships among Art, Urban Architecture and Ethnography are set on the Rwandan terrain and how these relationships have a role in the new elaboration of the past and the projection towards the future.

Though the genocide was over in 1994, uncalled violence and social dis-

order are still running in the country, even after the stated end of the war between the two fighting ethnic groups.

Trying to forget this past, Rwanda is looking ahead to a future with the young generation. The society believes in the role of the Young as active culture makers and consumers, able to re-shape the leading ideals and practices and as the primary source of internal transformation of a given culture and society to re-build the New Rwanda. The establishment is focusing, on one hand, on the idea of a society as an ever-changing system, while, on the other hand, is considering the society as an agency of social actors.

“Vision 2020” is a Government development programme in Rwanda, launched in 2000 by the Rwandan President Paul Kagame, and its main target is transforming the country into a knowledge-based and middle-income society, thereby reducing poverty, health problems and making the nation united and democratic. “Vision 2020” is at the same time a remote control, which is made actual through a massive propaganda which spends all the energy on the Youth selling and building a new way for their future.

Linked to this, the Kigali Conceptual Master Plan will help to create a new city that is a symbol of the Rwandan culture that serves as an example for modern Africa.

This Plan becomes a real experience of traumascapes. It aspires to celebrate the best parts of the Rwandan history and culture while laying the groundwork for a dazzling future. A traumatic event, experienced by an individual, is so overwhelming that it cannot be assimilated into a linear time. The Past intrudes on the Present. The Past is never done with, and its meaning never finalized or fixed so now we have only a future. Rwanda 2020 is clearly a great example of an African country taking the initiative to develop and transform itself into a non-place, a “space which cannot be defined as relational, or historical, or concerned with identity”. Kigali City is one of the fastest growing cities in Africa and has the fastest rate of urbanization growing from a population of 6,000 people in 1962 to nearly 1 million currently. Once the observer has arrived to the end of the central video sequence, the “narrative out-of-frame” embodied in these faces obliges him to look back searching for a story. Sharing the view of this landscape with the visual artists gives us the opportunity to imagine and to portray the perception of the new city.

Luckily not all Rwandans are lined up with the urban future and with the rebuilding as one young Artist states: “I don’t get it, why do Africans always want to copy Europeans and everyone else? What’s the point of having a culture when everyone is too busy copying the West?” (from Richard’s interview of 20/9/2012)

The disintegration of the traditional Rwanda is violent and cruel; it ends in a long chain of civil and ethnic conflicts. The discourse on the past meant to keep at bay and deactivate this traumatic memory watching across a new city: Kigali is becoming a sort of symptomatic city, colorless and suffering, as the passage of an illness.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgH-Mjy3GMI>

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È stato bello fare la tua conoscenza!
cercaci, trovaci, leggici, seguici, taggaci, contattaci, ..

It was nice to meet you!
search us, find us, read us, follow us, tag us, contact us, ..

