

BELLIGERENT EYES | 5K CONFINEMENT: AN EXPERIMENTAL MEDIA RESEARCH FACILITY AT FONDAZIONE PRADA IN VENICE

Venice, 26 May 2016 – “Belligerent Eyes | 5K Confinement” is an upcoming, pioneering project on contemporary image production. Conceived and designed by Luigi Alberto Cippini and developed in collaboration with film director Giovanni Fantoni Modena, “Belligerent Eyes” sets itself as an experimental media research facility geared in the spaces of Fondazione Prada’s Venetian venue, Ca’ Corner della Regina, from 27 May to 11 September 2016 .

With “Belligerent Eyes” Fondazione Prada, restlessly searching for new grounds of confrontation on cinema and visual languages, experiments with new forms of collaboration, analysis and research. “Belligerent Eyes” was born out the Fondazione’s will to create a reciprocally stimulating exchange with younger generations working in the realms of cinema and visual arts research and production, enabling them to work in complete autonomy and freedom. This new relationship has marked independence as the core of such an artistic collaboration, offering the Fondazione the opportunity to re-invent the expressions of its cultural commitment.

At a time when cinema has lost its capacity to assert itself as the beholder of collective imaginary, “Belligerent Eyes” aims at introducing new didactic perspectives in both filmmaking and film studies. An international network of academics and practitioners, together with fifteen selected participants, will be entrusted as a core group with the development and sharing of various academic initiatives revolving around the future of motion pictures.

The intended disciplinary spectrum will investigate the most diverse aspects in contemporary image production: by challenging the traditional norms related to education and scrutinizing the current socio-cultural transformations endured by the field, Ca’ Corner della Regina will foster a borderline association where both professors and students, as part of a sole academic body, will set themselves against new practices and innovations.

“Belligerent Eyes” establishes itself as an aggregator of projects and individuals: by pre-emptively exposing all the contributors to the cultural and intellectual lines of research, these have been allowed to react and adapt their personal investigations to the proposed contents.

Lecturers will include filmmakers, urban planners, geographers, scientists and economists, while each participant – with an active background in architecture, visual arts, journalism and digital humanities – has been selected through a structured and transparent process. A password-protected website has been shared among a wide range of universities and institutions around the world, in addition to a number of alternate social networks for guaranteeing the attendance to the program to individuals normally kept out the traditional academic network.

The program is composed of six cross-curricular phases and a fortnightly corollary module. Each interdisciplinary session will be anticipated by a preparatory week and will last seven days: various practitioners, also in regard to their own standard practice, will asymmetrically go a long way towards the experimentation.

The bi-monthly lateral discussion will conversely take place every two Fridays (27 May, 9 June, 24 June, 8 July, 2 September) and will be directed by Christian Marazzi, an economist and university professor: by provoking new lines of research on image economy, it will be partially-open to the public. Sylvère Lotringer, founder of Semiotext(e) will take part in the panel discussion scheduled for 9 June. This choice will allow a selected wider audience to enhance and share the proposed cultural platform, besides highlighting the nature of the assembly as a solid research media facility.

Since knowledge production is nowadays generally perceived as the main derivate of what museums and visual art institutions can engender, "Belligerent Eyes" aims at not dismissing research and its cultural inquiries as a sole commodity for a nominal exhibition.

In order to reduce and govern the visibility of what will be produced within its premises and to guarantee the necessary privacy for analysis and exploration, Ca' Corner della Regina will be open only on designed occasions and upon reservation through website www.belligerenteyes.com.

John Palmesino and Ann-Sofi Rönnskog, architects and founders of the independent organisation Territorial Agency, will inaugurate "Belligerent Eyes" with a series of seminars revolving around the analysis of current mode of communication via contemporary infrastructures (Phase One, *Transmission Compound*, 27– 31st May). Trevor Paglen, an artist, geographer and author, will present an investigation on the future of vision and the increasing role of computerate weight on human sight (Phase Two, *Ex-Predator*: 10–14 June). Mauricio Gris, former Combat Camera Team Leader, will analyse the physical lexicon born out of adversarial realities (Phase Three, *Camera Combat*: 24– 28 June). Vittorio Gallese, a scientist who was instrumental in the discovery of mirror neurons, together with actress Stacy Martin, will challenge the curricula of dramatic arts through contemporary vision technologies enabling body scrutiny (Phase Four, *Habeas Corpus / Neuro-Aesthetical Regimes*: 8–13 July).

From the 15 July to 28 August, during Phase Five, "Belligerent Eyes" will become a web-based platform on censorship studies guided by Display.XXX, a multi-skilled design office based in Milan. This will materialize as a collaborative online project which will both expand the reach of "Belligerent Eyes" and increase the number of participants involved. *Censorship Design* will focus on direct interaction, the act of seeing and challenging the traditional use of monitors, and will welcome active participation from the general public (details will be available soon on www.belligerenteyes.com).

In conjunction with the Venice Film Festival, “Belligerent Eyes” will lastly promote a broadcasting experiment in Phase Six, *New Never (Intra / Extra Moenia)*. This will set itself beyond the traditional Western standards, and it will condense the idea of merging into a singular production structures and disciplines traditionally foreign to the realm of cinema.

“Belligerent Eyes” finds its roots as a film school prototype. The interiors of Ca’ Corner della Regina will undergo an architectural intervention that will challenge and overturn the traditional use of recording devices. The equipment generally available to film students will here be reinvented by an environment that integrates mass surveillance and information technologies: this will imply a somersault of the means of communication and the consequent implementation of a 5K confinement – the ultimate purpose of the entire effort; i.e. the creation of a new media throughout the assembly, use and consumption of diverse apparatus in the field of existing mass communication, information and image production.

Press Contacts

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CALENDAR OF PUBLIC PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Admission to the panel discussions is free. Booking is required through belligerenteyes.com, under the "reservation" section. For more information, please contact: press@belligerenteyes.com.

27 May 2016 - 5 pm

Transmission Compound

John Palmesino, Ann-Sofi Rönnskog. Guest: Sarat Maharaj. With the participation of Luigi Alberto Cippini and Giovanni Fantoni Modena

Territorial Agency (John Palmesino & Ann-Sofi Rönnskog) leads a debate on the current status of infrastructures of communication and their role in the transmission of contemporary practices for image production.

9 June 2016 - 5 pm

Ex Predator

Christian Marazzi, Sylvère Lotringer. Guest: Trevor Paglen

Christian Marazzi, economist, professor and author, and Sylvère Lotringer, cultural theorist and founder of Semiotext(e), will join forces in the investigation of what should be evaluated as relevant factors in today's production of images, while recollecting stories from their careers, cultural creations and interventions. Their contribution will be mirrored and confronted by visual artist Trevor Paglen who will introduce a reflection on the chances regarding the inner future of vision.

24 June 2016 - 5 pm

Camera Combat

Christian Marazzi. Guest: Mauricio Gris

Captain (Retired) Mauricio Gris, former Camera Combat Team Leader, will be presenting an account of his battlefield experiences, while introducing the impact of warfare conditions in the collection of visual materials. Christian Marazzi will challenge the discussion by presenting means of economic thinking and his thoughts on the systematisation of economy as it is shifting from an economy of language to an economy of war.

8 July 2016 - 5 pm

Habeas Corpus / Neuro-Aesthetical Regimes

Vittorio Gallese

Vittorio Gallese, a neuroscientist, will present an account of the merging factors between the study of visual materials and new researches in the field of neurosciences.

2 September 2016 - 5 pm

New Never