

FieldWorks_Wachau

andrea caretto | raffaella spagna

Opening: 17 January 2015, 6pm

kunstraumarcade

Hauptstrasse 79, 2340 Mödling

Presented by AIR—ARTIST IN RESIDENCE in cooperation with **kunstraumarcade**

Curated by Verena Gamper

The primary focus of the artists Raffaella Spagna and Andrea Caretto, who have worked together since 2002, is on the relationship between man and nature in terms of philosophy, economics, society and architecture. Drawing on their original training – as landscape architect and scientist respectively – they apply the tools of research and experiment to their work. In this regard the breeding ground for their installations, collective actions, performances and sculptures is always the specific context in which the works are created. The current emphasis of their artistic work is on morphogenesis, according to which in their belief the concrete form of an object – and of an artwork as well – is the expression of a complex field of relationships between the actual material and physical and creative powers.

During their stay at AIR—ARTIST IN RESIDENCE in Krems, the Danube as well as archeologically and geologically interesting sites in the Wachau became focal points of their work. In the exhibition, Caretto/Spagna present a possible formalization of their field research as an installative notebook: They reflect the winter landscape of the Wachau, whose skeletonised body is missing its otherwise so picturesque dress, in a morbid installation in the main room of the kunstraumarcade. The vaults of this space provide the appropriate setting for the staging of a pseudo crypt in which river pebbles are presented on a hybrid of altar and museum-like showcase as the “skeleton” of nature. In addition to stones, other objects and forms with a strong thing-power are also part of the installation, such as tree stumps that beavers have transformed into perfect cones, or assemblages of polyurethane boards and foam glue – reminiscent of contemporary sculpture – that have washed up on the river bank. The landscape as a whole as well as the forms of the individual finds are the result of a constant interplay of forces that the two Italian artists observe with meticulousness. In a process of selection and consolidation they translate it into an installation, thus creating an image of the Wachau that is as compelling as it is unusual.

(Verena Gamper)

Duration of the exhibition: until 31 January 2015

Opening times: Fri. 3-6pm and Sat. 10am-3pm

www.kunstraumarcade.at

www.air-krems.at