

Symposium Festival Studies

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Lisa Mazza



Lisa Mazza (1980, Merano) is based in Bolzano and works as cultural organizer and curator there and elsewhere. Next to her MA in Sports, Culture & Event Management at the University of Applied Sciences in Kufstein she holds an MA in Contemporary Art Theory from Goldsmiths University London. From 2007-2011 Mazza acted as Biennial Coordinator for Manifesta (www.manifesta.org) and Managing Editor of Manifesta Journal (2009–12). She also served as Managing Editor of the first Manifesta Journal Reader published on the occasion of Manifesta 10 in 2014. Her curatorial projects include "Kritische Komplizenschaft/Critical Complicity", co-curated with Julia Moritz for Kunsthalle Exnergasse in Vienna, Lungomare Bolzano-Bozen and Galerija Škuc in Ljubljana. 2013 she co-curated "Lungomare Gasthaus" and is a member of the Lungomare's (www.lungomare.org) artistic directors team since 2014. In the same year she acted as General Coordinator of the World Biennial Forum No 2 (www.biennialforum.org) in São Paulo and co-founded together with Simone Mair and Filipa Ramos BAU (www.b-a-u.it), an initiative for artistic production in Südtirol/Alto Adige. Recently BAU curated the commissioned public art project "Art & Nature 2016 Walking with Senses", held in Merano, Naturno, Scena and Tirol (I).

Keynote: Manifesta – A Biennial for Europe

Since its first edition of Manifesta, the European Biennial for Contemporary Art in 1996, the number of art biennials and perennials has grown exponentially. Being the only roving biennial in this extended landscape, Manifesta still keeps its unique character and focuses on building up a network that fosters an exchange between a local and international art scene but also between different biennials around Europe by experimenting with formats of mediation and networking. During my keynote lecture I will further elaborate on these and some further pilasters the legacy of the biennial is built on.

A talk about umbrella associations

Case Study: The World Biennial Forum 2014

Initiated by the Biennial Foundation, the World Biennial Forum is a gathering of biennial practitioners and appreciators to examine and discuss the foremost topics and concerns within international contemporary arts. The World Biennial Forum's role is to signal primary concerns in biennial art environments, investigating and researching the various modes of operation and production in different regions, and offering insights into the current issues and needs surrounding art biennials worldwide. During my interactive talk focusing on Biennial Foundation's role in developing a shared platform for biennials world-wide I will focus on the World Biennial Forum No 2 held on the occasion of the 31st Biennial de São Paulo (2014) as a tool to foster exchange and building up a network between practitioners (curators, organizers, funders) from very different geopolitical contexts.