

ART WITH THE CAMERA

ROSA BARBA'S CONCEPTUAL OBSERVATION OF THE PRESENT TIME

Rosa Barba's work is conceptual and brings films and sculptures into dialogue with each other. Her artworks are reflections of the present day, while reflecting their subjective view of the world. Her current monograph, *From Source to Poem*, features the artist's most recent works, including an impressive piece from the exhibition now on display at the Pirelli HangarBicocca, Milan.

Berlin, August 10, 2017 — With her films, sculptures, and printed editions Rosa Barba (*1972) has created an oeuvre of poetic density within the last fifteen years. Most of her conceptual explorations are based on historical or site-specific research. Their themes are fundamental questions, regarding, for example, the media conditions of time and memory, or the interplay between form and artistic content. At the center is the medium of film, in both its narrative and perceptual forms.

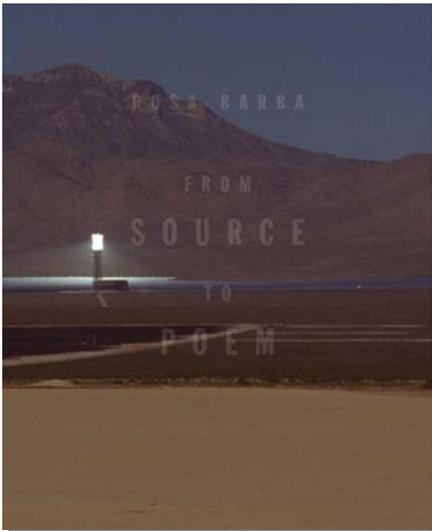
Geological, historical, and socio-political phenomena are starting points for Barba's processual research. This in turn finds its way into her films, which she produces in traditional 16 or 35mm format, edits herself, and scores using passages from her own texts and musical compositions. Barba's film locations are remote; the plots have a documentary-style quality, but are always subjectively narrated and interwoven with fiction.

Barba's sculptural oeuvre is influenced by film. Most of her three-dimensional artworks comprise visual projections, sequences of speech, and physical and imaginary objects that relate to each other in a dialogue. In this way the Berlin-based artist also investigates the nature of documents, not just as a found product, but as reflections of the present day. Barba translates documents into art, material into images, and images back into material: content becomes form, form becomes content.

Her current monograph, *From Source to Poem* particularly underscores the context in which the works of art are presented, on both an architectural and a conceptual plane. Besides numerous films, sculptures, and works in light, the catalogue will also feature the Italian premiere of her latest 35mm film, *From Source to Poem* (2016), at the exhibition in Milan's Pirelli Hangar Biocca. As part of this work, hundreds of photographs from historical American archives were assembled into a kind of collage depicting the cultural legacy of a twentieth-century Western civilization.

Barba was born in 1972 in Agrigent, Italy, and raised in Germany; she now lives in Berlin. She studied theater and film at the University of Erlangen and visual art and film at the Academy of Media Arts Cologne, followed by a two-year residency at the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Amsterdam.

Current exhibitions: Pirelli HangarBicocca, Milan, May 5–October 8, 2017; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Palacio de Cristal, Madrid, May 17–August 27, 2017



ROSA BARBA
FROM SOURCE TO POEM

Texts by Rosa Barba, Manuel
Borja-Villel, Giuliana Bruno, Joan
Jonas, Elisabeth Lebovici,
Roberta Tenconi
English, Italian
2017. 304 pp., 125 ills.
hardcover
19.20 x 24.00 cm
ISBN 978-3-7757-4326-6

40,00 EUR

ABOUT HATJE CANTZ

Hatje Cantz is a groundbreaking international publishing company specializing in art, architecture, and photography. Since 1945 Hatje Cantz has been using its profound expertise and enthusiasm for craftsmanship to produce and publish books of the highest quality. We currently release around two hundred new titles annually.

Especially in the digital age, Hatje Cantz regards itself an element linking museums, artists, galleries, collectors, and art lovers. Conveying knowledge - in terms of both content and visuals - as well as an enthusiasm for art is always at the heart of our engagement.

In keeping with our ambition to make it possible to experience art beyond the medium of the book, Hatje Cantz has launched the EDITION GERD HATJE as we continue to expand our portfolio of strictly limited, signed editions featuring works on paper, photographic works of art, and art objects.

www.hatjecantz.de
www.editiongerdhatje.com

PRESS CONTACT

Sara Buschmann
Head of Press Department
s.buschmann@hatjecantz.de
Tel. +49 30 3464678-08

Jennifer Berndt
PR Manager
presse@hatjecantz.de
Tel. +49 30 3464678-23

**HATJE
CANTZ**