



Roman Signer // **A Step Towards the Sea** (+DVD)

Published on the occasion of the exhibition Roman Signer. Films and Installation, hosted at the MAN (Nuoro, April 22nd – July 3rd, 2016), *A Step Towards the Sea* tells the relationship between the artist and Italy. Signer's bond with the country is a special one, bearing in mind some of his most renowned works, produced on the Stromboli volcano, or the numerous actions and sculptures that revolve around an Italian iconic subject such as the Ape Piaggio. The central section of the book is dedicated to Sardinia, with a conversation between Lorenzo Giusti and the artist and a photographic essay by Barbara Signer. A text by Barbara Casavecchia contextualizes Signer's Italian dimension by introducing the viewing of *Reisen Italien*: a personal collection of filmic notes produced by the artist in the course of his journeys with the family in the 1990s. The essay by Rachel Withers introduces the hefty iconographic setting of his entire Super-8 production, which consists of 205 clips filmed between 1975 and 1989 and presented in a large installation within the exhibition in Nuoro. The book is accompanied by a DVD which, in addition to the unreleased film, gathers all of the actions Signer carried out in Italy starting from the 1990s and a piece he produced specifically for the exhibition, after which the book is titled.

The artist Roman Signer (1938 Appenzell, Switzerland) is best known for having defined a new concept of sculpture linked to process, transformation and movement. Signer creates installations as actions, experiments, almost always single-handed, for which he uses objects of everyday use activated by gunpowder or natural forces, such as wind or water, in order to produce explosions and collisions, visually and emotionally intriguing, which interpret the empirical approach as an artistic challenge. He has participated in major international artistic exhibitions such as documenta 8 in Kassel (1987), the Skulptur Projekte in Münster (1997) and the Shanghai Biennial (2012). In 1999, he represented Switzerland at the Venice Biennale. Recent personal exhibitions have been held at: Bonnefantenmuseum (Maastricht), Camden Arts Centre (London), OK Centrum für Gegenwartskunst (Linz), Aargauer Kunsthaus (Aarau), Hamburger Bahnhof (Berlin), Swiss Institute (New York), Sala de Arte Publico Siqueiros (Mexico City), the Hangar à Bananes (Nantes), Kunsthalle of Mainz, Kunstmuseum (St. Gallen), Barbican Centre (London), Kunsthaus Zug and Centre Culturel Suisse (Paris).

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