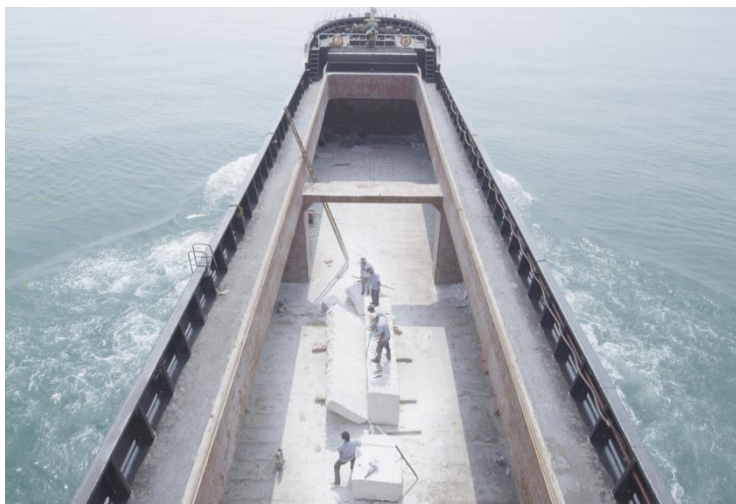


The Column

Presented by UNSW Galleries in association with Sydney Festival

Adrian Paci, Albania



“An example of the powerful transformation of nature into culture: the stone loses its raw beauty and takes on an artificial one..”

ArtMag by Deutsche Bank

“The concept for The Column was born from this exasperated economic strategy, whereby time must be condensed to the point in which delivery coincides with production...The Column has its roots in a poetic intuition: an idea in search of form will only be able to develop at a distance from its origins, much like commercial goods are increasingly conceived in one place and manufactured in another through the elaborate and methodical exploitation of cheap labour, seen, in this case, onboard ‘sweatshop ships’”.

Adrian Paci

Photo: Adrian Paci, *The Column*, 2013 (still from video), 25:44min.
Courtesy of the artist and kaufmann repetto, Milan/New York.

A video installation that enthralled attendees of the 2014 Venice Architecture Biennale, *The Column* traces the epic journey of an immense length of marble, extracted from the ground and taken to sea.

En route from China to Italy and over the course of a grand voyage, tireless Chinese workers toil to chisel and carve it into the shape of a magnificent classical column.

Albanian born artist **Adrian Paci** is on a quest to combine vast themes – dislocation, exploitation, globalisation – with footage of transcendent beauty. Mythical in conception, marvellous in execution, *The Column* is destined to make an impression.

The project was created for the Galerie Nationale du Jeu de Paume in Paris, and subsequently exhibited at the Venice Architecture Biennale in, 2014; and the Architectural Association in London, 2015. The video has also been exhibited in institutions all over the world, including the 2014 Busan Biennale. For its Australian premiere at UNSW Galleries, it will be accompanied by two other video works by Adrian Paci, *Centro di Permanenza Temporanea* and *Turn On*.

Trained as a realist painter in the Albanian capital, Tirana, Paci started to shoot photos and moving images only in the late 1990s, when the county underwent a dramatic phase of political turmoil and he fled to Milan. Gradually, he has distanced himself from his personal experience to treat collective history, in projects that put the emphasis on the consequences of conflicts and social revolutions, revealing how identity is conditioned by the socio-economic context. Working with non-professional actors, men and women in difficulty, he explores many of the existential and social problems of our epoch: migration, mobility, loss, displacement, globalization, cultural identity, nostalgia, memory.

Where UNSW Galleries

When 7 January – 13 February
Tue – Sat, 10am – 5pm
Closed on 26 January

MEDIA RELEASE

Level 5, 10 Hickson Road The Rocks
Sydney NSW 2000 Australia
Phone 61 2 8248 6500 Fax 61 2 8248 6599
sydneyfestival.org.au



Duration 26 minutes

Tickets FREE
sydneyfestival.org.au/column



The free installation **40 Portraits** also exhibiting at UNSW Galleries, 7 – 23 January, more info sydneyfestival.org.au/40portraits

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