

WHAT IS
YOUR
IDEA
OF A
NATURAL
PLACE?

BEING
THERE
SITTING

WHAT
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IDEA
OF
NATURAL
PLACE

BEING
THERE

History Call



Being There.
Oltre il giardino

A project by Claudia Losi
Curated by Leonardo Regano

Project supported by:
italianCouncil
Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs


Direzione Generale
Creatività Contemporanea


Ministero Regionali
Marche

“The perceptions of any people wash over the land like a flood, leaving ideas hung up in the brush, like pieces of damp paper to be collected and deciphered. **No one can tell the whole story**”.

Barry Lopez, *Arctic Dreams: Imagination and Desire in a Northern Landscape*

The relationship between humans and their environment is highly complex: this complexity can be dramatically experienced every day on a global scale. Today, our way of interacting with the world is mostly destructive, even though as a species we have at our

us possible different directions. One of these practices is art".

(Alice Benessia 2021)

One of the most peculiar and recurring features of my own practice is to imagine projects as diverse movements of a single body-mind whole, declined in different times and spaces composing what I would call a "mobile assemblage". They are

A number of implications stem from this general problematic framework, and they can be summarized by the following questions: to what extent is a place described by geology, geography, history, and to what extent is it instead imagined?

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One of the most peculiar and recurring features of my own practice is to imagine projects as diverse movements of a single body-mind whole, declined in different times and spaces composing what I would call a “mobile archipelago”. They can include both descriptions triggered by experience and descriptions arising from the imaginary that eventually mesh and produce further, different places from those in which we are currently, physically situated and in which generations to come will live.

A number of implications stem from this general problematic framework, and they can be summarized by the following questions: to what extent is a place described by geology, geography, history, and to what extent is it instead imagined? What does it mean to think about and feel a place? How can we try and “dwell”, while taking a stance, in this great interrelated system which is the world? I think these are precisely the questions that each one of us, using our own language – be it verbal or non-verbal – is urged to ask and required to at least attempt to answer.



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Also for this project, *Being There. Oltre il giardino*, I set as a starting point the relationship between real and imagined space. In this case, though, the question at the center of my shared endeavor is an apparently quite simple trigger question:

“**what is your idea of a natural place?**”.

The aim is to activate from here different yet entangled travels (that I have already done and that I hope to do in the future), workshops, performances and collaborations.

What I am interested in here is a relational and processual perspective from which to look at phenomena and “read” the world around us. There is nothing neutral and acquired once and for all. Each individual, based on their culture and language, the geography they come from, the history of their body, of their memory, and their imagination, will provide a specific point of view.

So, again, the question is: what is it that we call nature and naturalness according to this perspective?

In order to orient the collection of these various points of view, I have identified three main macroareas that compose this project’s “mobile archipelago”: **body/memory – place/landscape – identity/imaginary**

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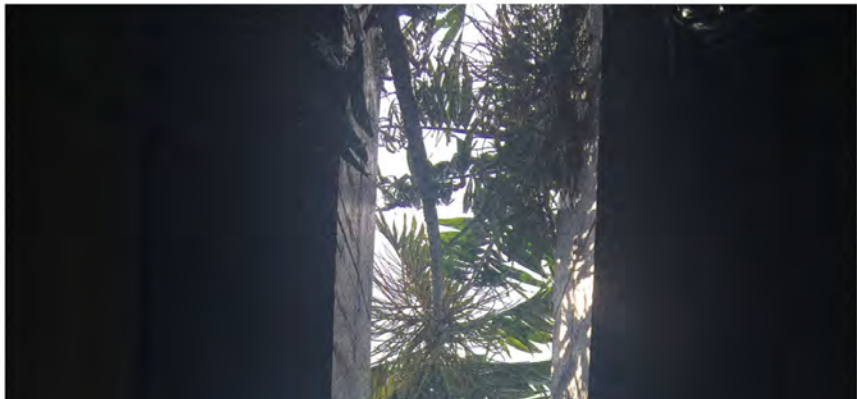
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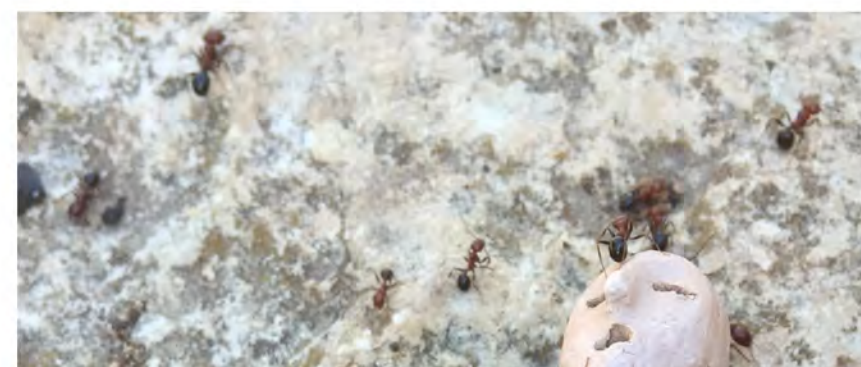
As a final result a kaleidoscopic collection of written and visual contributions has been reworked by the artist in the form of a textile installation and of an artist’s book.



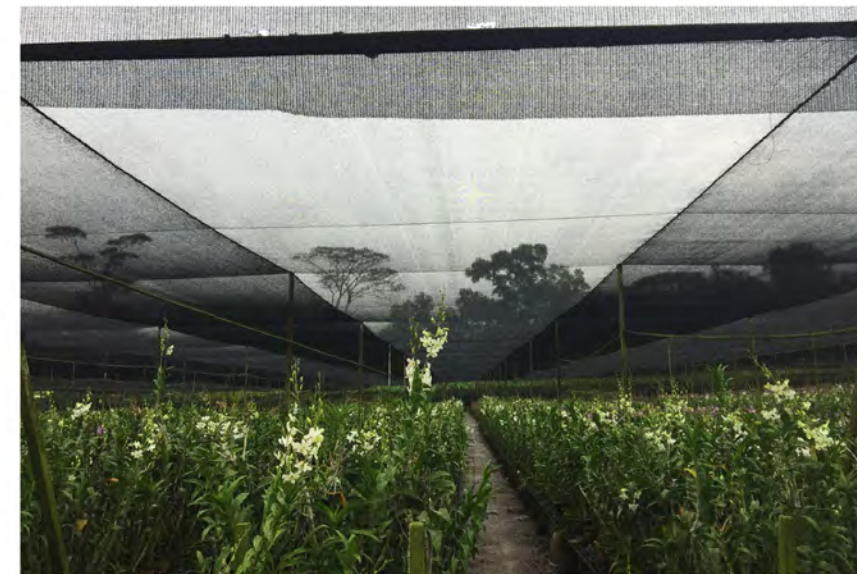
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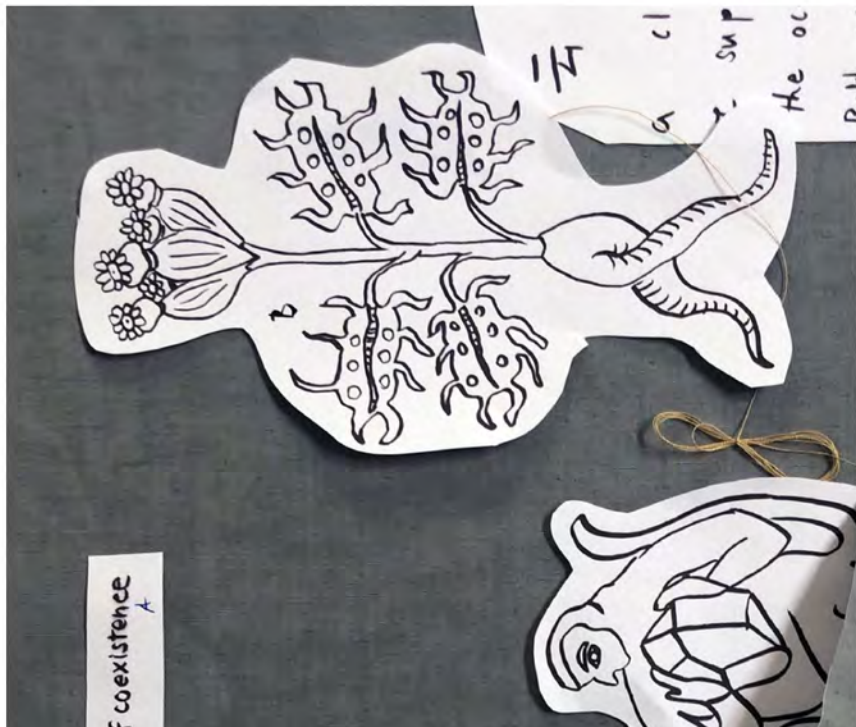
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WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF A NATURAL PLACE?



Rain - Singapore 2018



What is your Idea of a Natural Place?



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WHAT IS YOUR IDEA OF A NATURAL PLACE?

BEING THERE

History Call

What is your Idea of a Natural Place?

We asked to describe, as accurately as possible, by words and/or drawings a natural place, a real or imaginary one. The description concerned a natural place related to a positive or negative experience, to a childhood memory or to a recent one.

The call has ended on 31th of January 2022



What do we consider a natural place?

What kind of descriptions are triggered by direct experience

What do we consider a natural place?

What kind of descriptions are triggered by direct experience of a place and what kind of descriptions arise solely from imagination?

How does memory shape our perception of the world?

The answers to these questions have been re-interpreted and re-arranged into a “continuous collective landscape” which will be the subject of the artist’s book (launch on October 2022).

Being There_Oltre il giardino (Beyond the garden) is part of an ongoing research project begun by Italian artist **Claudia Losi** in 2012, which revolves around our physical, sensory, and cognitive relation to places *. “Being there” is considered as the act of encountering a place through multiple narratives based on embodied experience, personal memory, remote imagination, or abstract knowledge.

Since its beginning **Being There** has taken on many different forms and characterizations: data collection, large collective embroideries and choral singing performances. In this specific phase the collected descriptions, the images, the videos will converge in a large woven mapping, drawn by the artist and then will be included in the final publication, in which all of its multiple phases will be collected.

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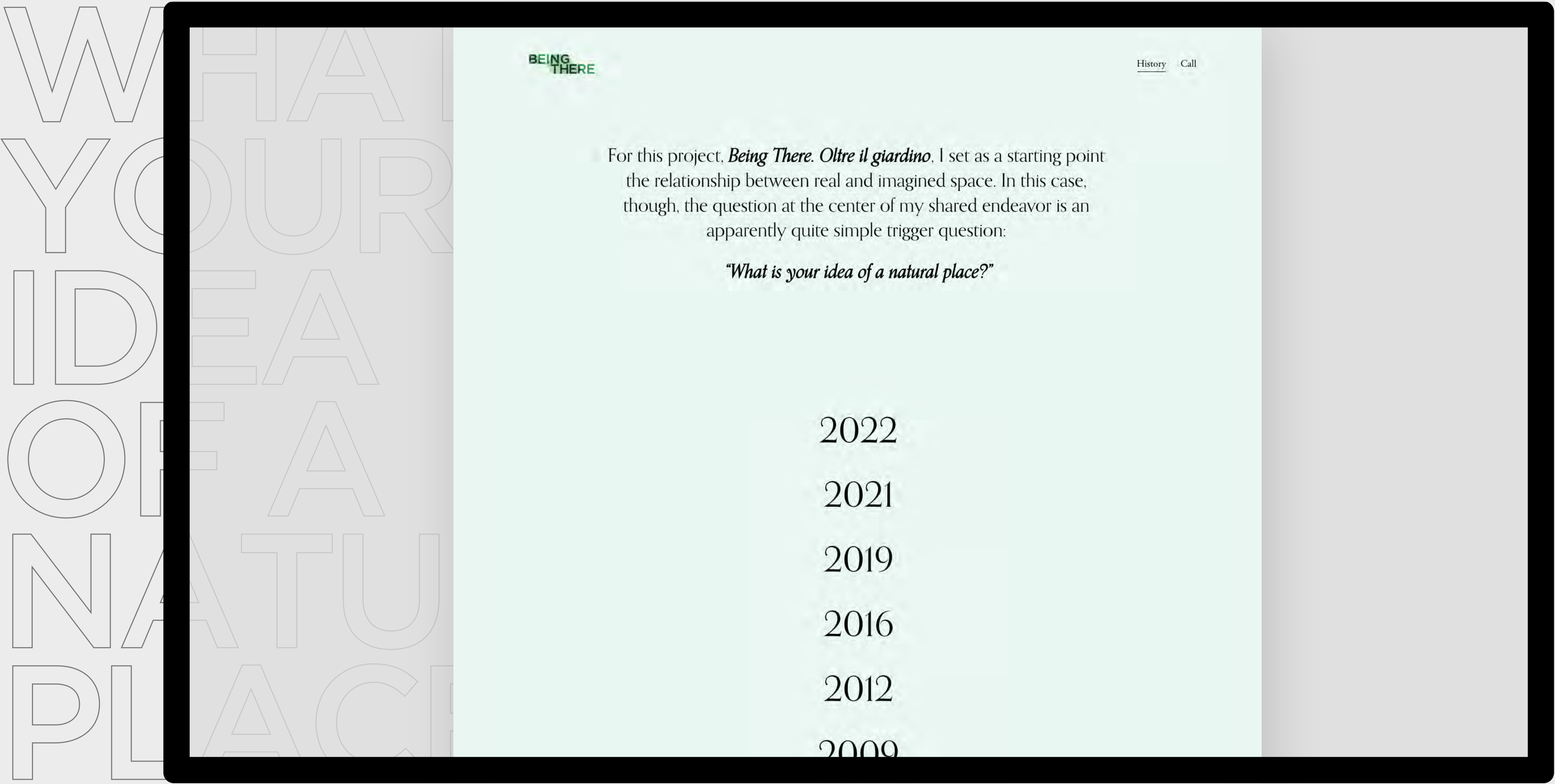
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2022

2021

2019

2016

2012

2009

2006

BEING
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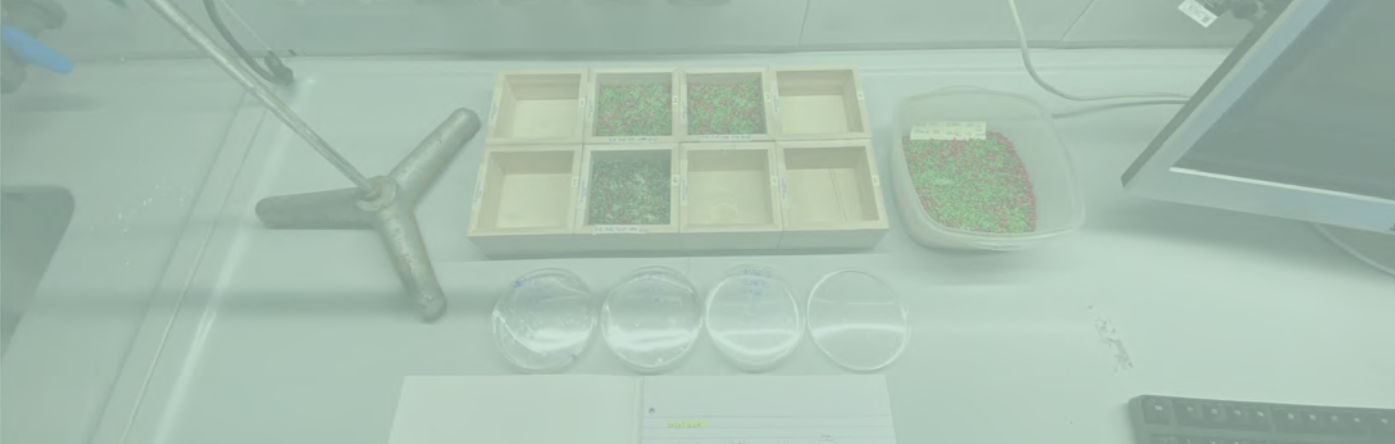
HistoryCall

2022

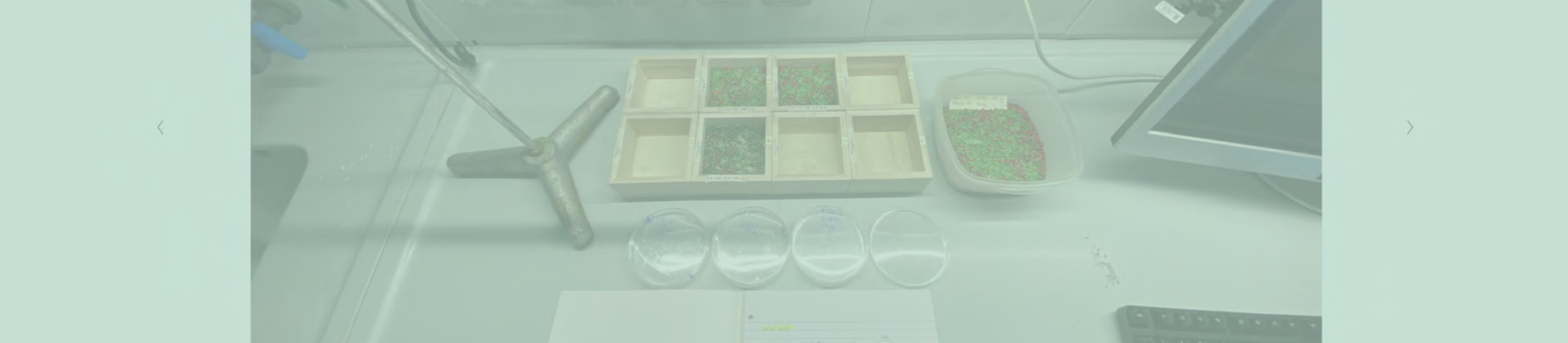
Being There
Oltre il giardino

In February 2022 the artist visited for a few days the CIMeC - Center for Interdisciplinary Mind / Brain of the Universities of Trento and Rovereto, where she presented the project in a dialogue with the researchers of the institute.

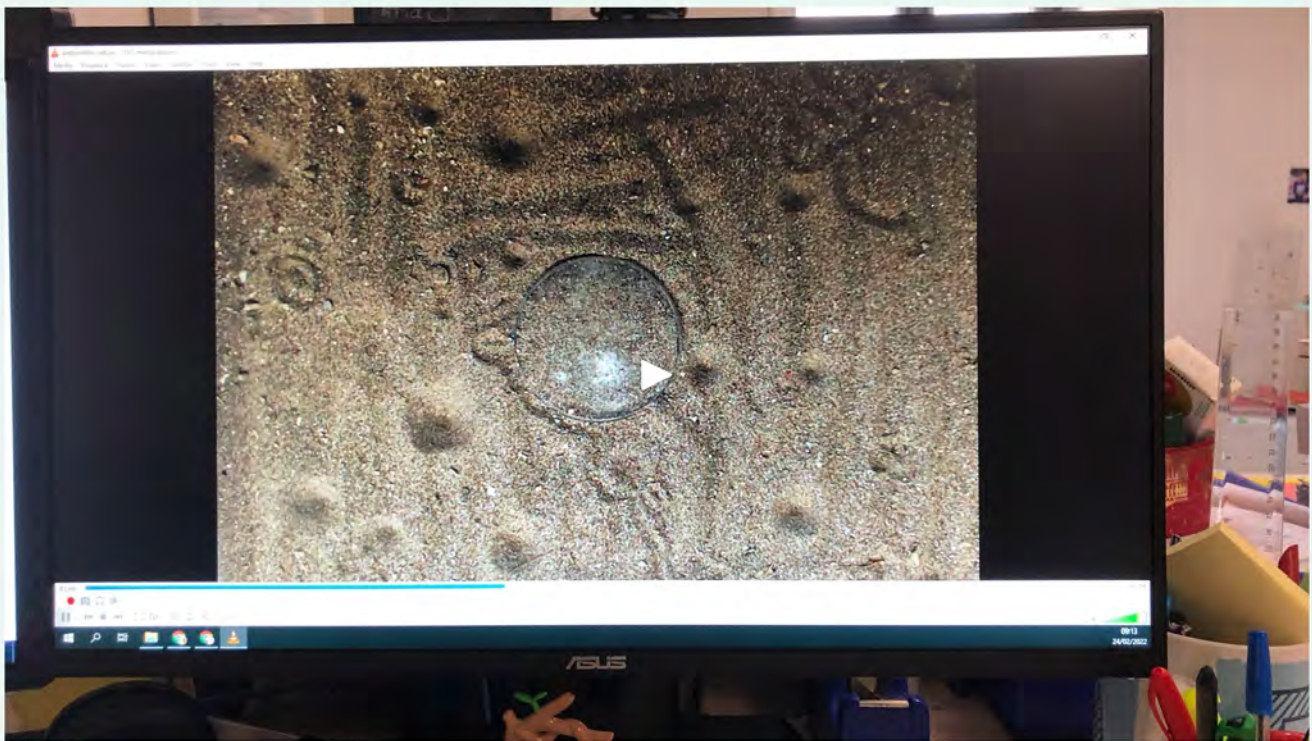
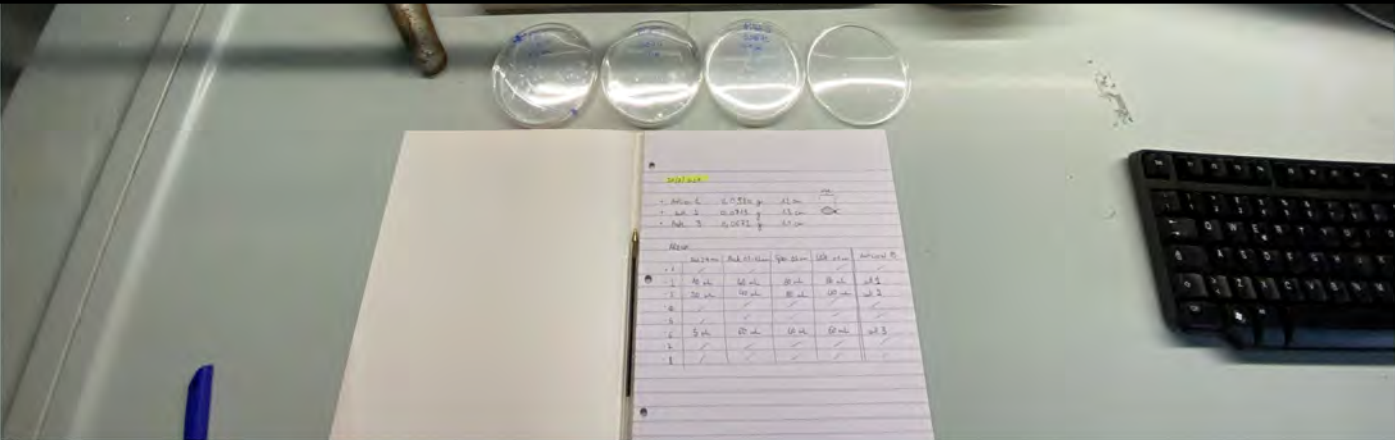
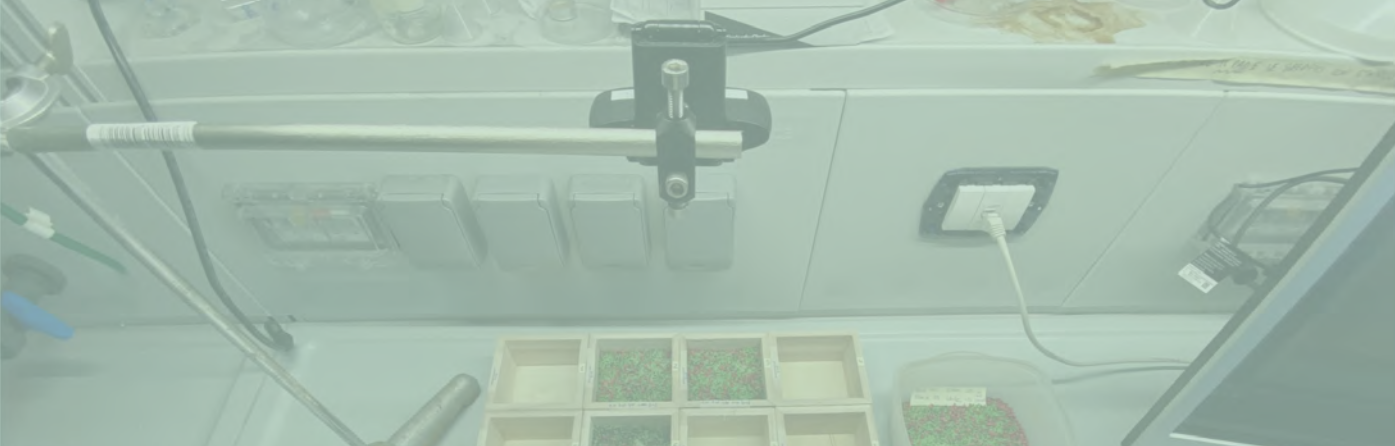
Thanks to Giorgio Vallortigara



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FOCUS PROJECT



In April 2022 the artist realised a textile book at [Lottozero](#) lab in Prato.



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2022
Sito Web
History

The visual and narrative contributions collected during some different experiences based on research and ctive involvement, have been elaborated for the realization of a new operation: **Oltre il giardino**, made for the **Rocca Roveresca in Senigallia**, is a *huge jacquard fabric 18 meters long* - realized in collaboration with the centre of research on fabric **Lottozero in Prato**, in collaboration with **Aròmata Loom Lab** in Pistoia - displaying a graphic elaboration of the contributions the artist collected during all the different phases of the project. The work of art is therefore configured as a large visual diary depicting "Being There. Oltre il giardino" in its entirety and complexity.

Claudia Losi
Being There

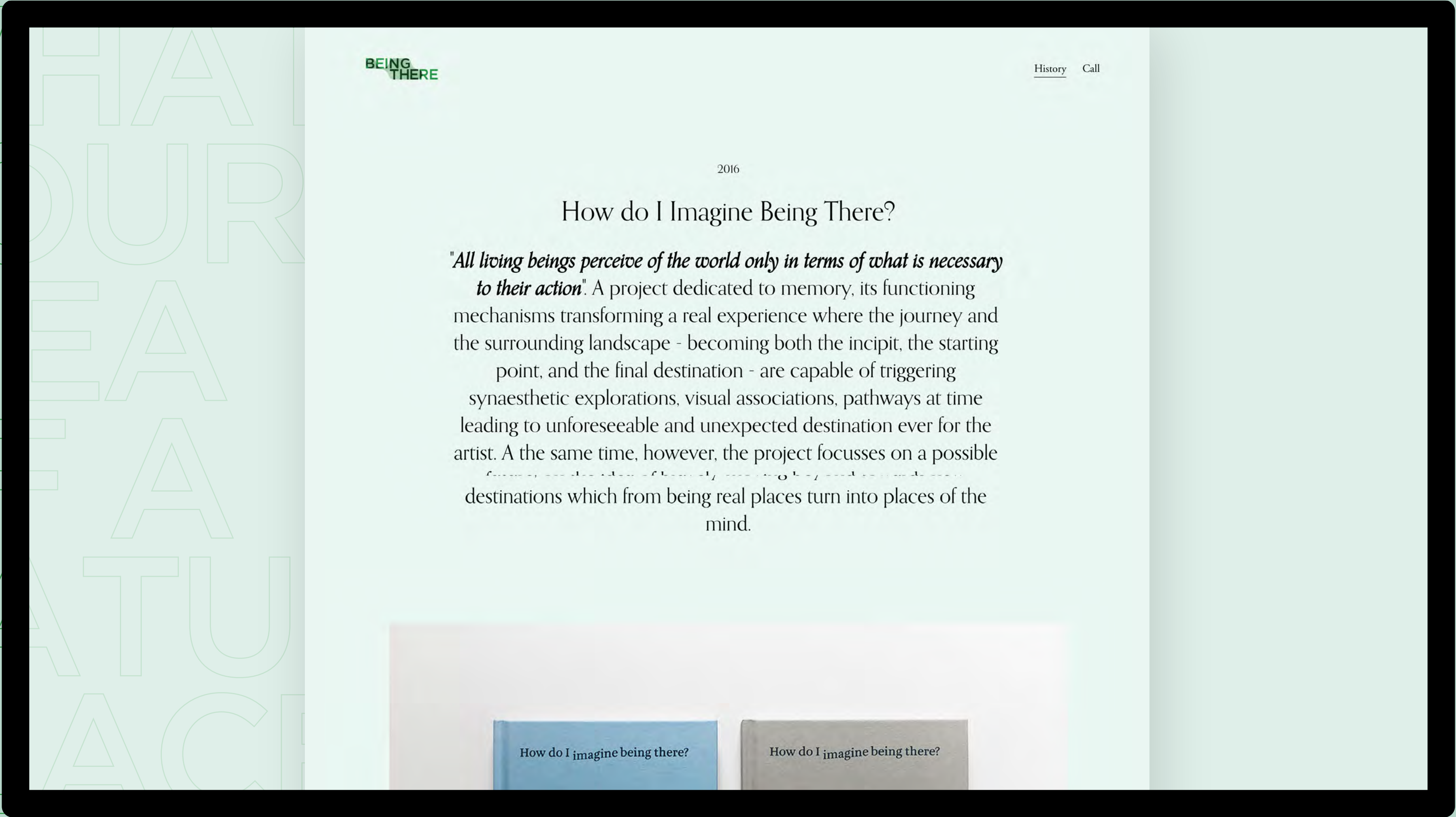
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2021
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History



© Photo Ela Bialkowska, OKNOstudio

2021 >





Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia_8 May - 16 October 2016
Curated by Marina Dacci;
“How do I Imagine Being There?”, Humboldt Books, 2016

◀ 2019

2012 ▶

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FOCUS PROJECT



Being Elsewhere Essere altrove

The places filmed were chosen in the Upper Apennine mountains. The images shot along the journey in 2006 were not used. The protagonists were four adolescent children, who were not professional actors. The video all revolves around a stone table, the concave surface of which holds several litres of clear water. A new narrative is then based on the recollection of a real-life experience, which has become a reflection on an unstable surface, just like the puddle of water on the slab of grey stone.



Essere altrove / Being Elsewhere
Direction and Music: Daniele Signaroldi
Video: format 16/9, 14'41''

2012

2006

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THE
PROG

2022

BEING THERE. OLTRE IL GIARDINO



2021

BEING THERE. OLTRE IL GIARDINO



2019

BEING THERE



2016

HOW DO I IMAGINE BEING THERE?



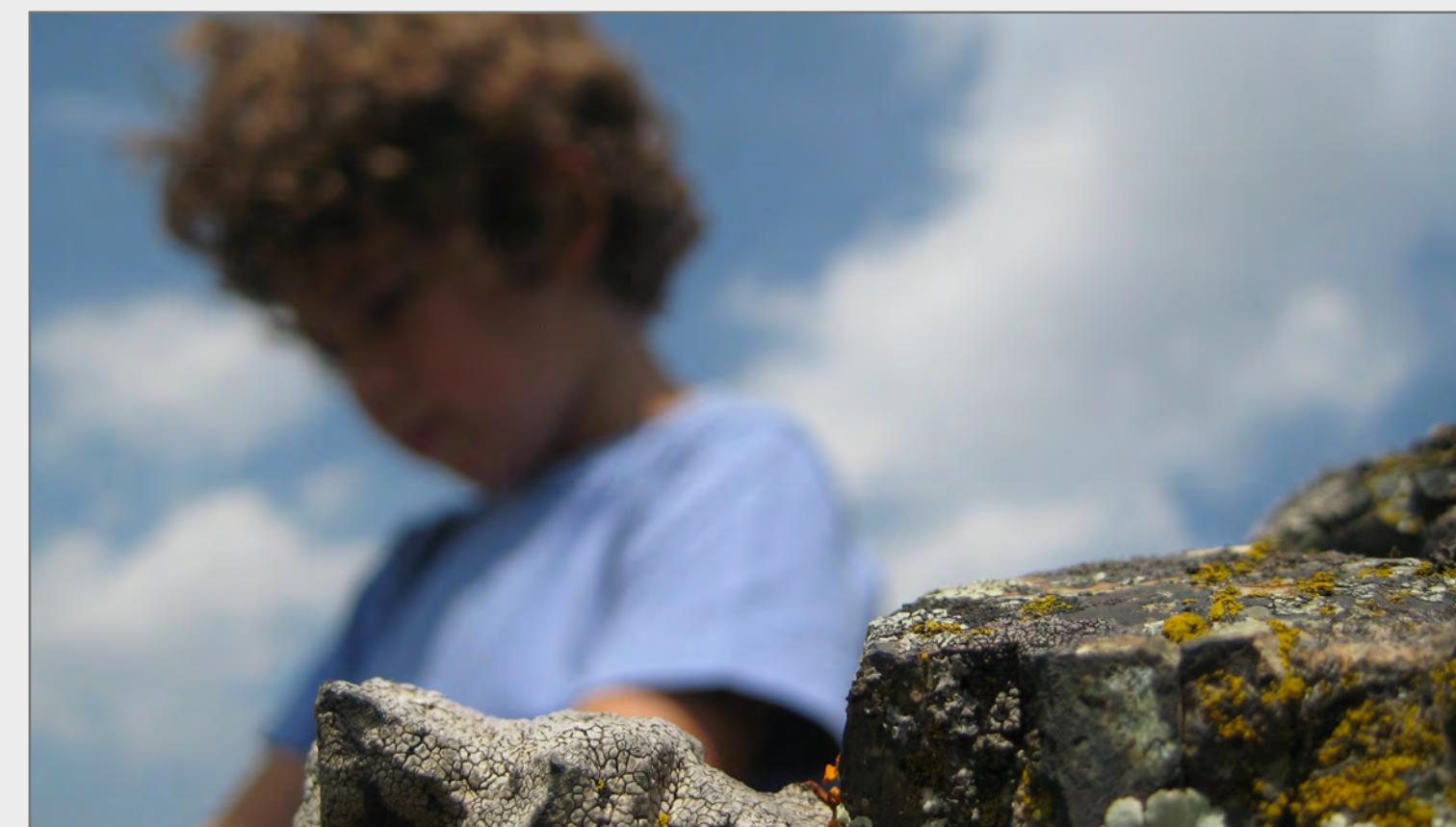
2012

ST KILDA



2009

BEING ELSEWHERE. ESSERE ALTROVE



2008

BEING ELSEWHERE. ESSERE ALTROVE

