

The Smell of the Fig Tree

« The Smell of the Fig Tree »

annick bureaud

visual diary

July 2017

images by Annick Bureaud and Robertina Sebjanič
with some by Manja Ristić, Sonja Lebos and Darko Fritz

Critical Tourism 2

Underwater: Escaping (Sound) Pollution

(research residency)

annick bureaud with robertina sebjanič

Siva Zona – Grey) (Area

Korčula

curator Darko Fritz

20 - 28 July 2017

with support from the French Institute Zagreb and Hotel Park Korčula

I have several, probably too many, goals for this week-residency, among which:

- Performing the story « *The Jellyfish and the Moon* », written by my friend Fabienne Gambrelle and illustrated by Anaïs Tondeur & Gabriel Grandry. I shall tell the story and show the images while Robertina and another artist Manja Ristić will play sounds. I have never met Manja before, but Robertina and her have already played together.
- Following (assisting?) Robertina in her underwater sound recordings and do some personal-private hands on workshops with her.
- Talk and exchange with Darko and Robertina.
- Read the book *Decolonizing Nature. Contemporary Art and the Politics of Ecology* by T.J. Demos, Sternberg Press, Berlin, 2016
- And of course, just «free float » to let the ideas emerge (and, yes, swim in the sea!)



On our way to Korčula, aboard « Dubrovka »,
the Jadrolinija catamaran.
Ready for 3 hours boat ride – 2017/07/20

RECEPTION ➔

Hotel Park is a pure time capsule from the '70s.
Nothing has changed since then.

It is a combination of fabulous (italian) design with former Yugoslavia socialist flavor. You can perceive that the hotel was highly cutting edge and high standard at that time. Today it feels the poetics of dereliction together with lovely absurdity. This « reception » goes nowhere (there is another « real one ») and its hallway is filled with water but I could steal the sign for the design of the arrow.

It is going under renovation in a year or two. I did not have the nerve to steal the table lamp in the room but may be Darko will get it for me when everything will be thrown or given away.

I loved it. I loved its design and its functionality, or its functional design. I loved its « modernity » flavor.

I also loved the time travel between the atmosphere of the hotel and the current hectic touristic zoo at the entrance of the city. Going back in time after a day out, whatever we were doing, was refreshing and peacefull in a way.



Mind your step ...



Lamp story 1
Designed by Harvey Guzzini for Meblo Company
(so much sputnik-flavor)



Lamp story 2
(Mamamouchi-flavor)

Darko gives us a
tour of the city
(2017/07/21)



Korčula looks like a leaf, with a main street oriented North-South as the central vein (this picture with the Cathedral at its central point) and lateral streets «attached» to it that are oriented East-West. To insure good ventilation the western streets are straight when the eastern ones are bent a bit.

When seeing Korčula map, Dubai and its island in the shape of a palm tree comes to mind as a contemporary version. But in Dubai it is exactly the opposite of Korčula: spending money and energy for geo-engineering a resort that does not have any sustainable dimension and is using air-conditionning instead of natural air flow by knowledge of how the winds blow.

Darko explained how the status of Korčula from medieval times was much more advanced than the current city-country rules and systems, for instance in collecting garbage.





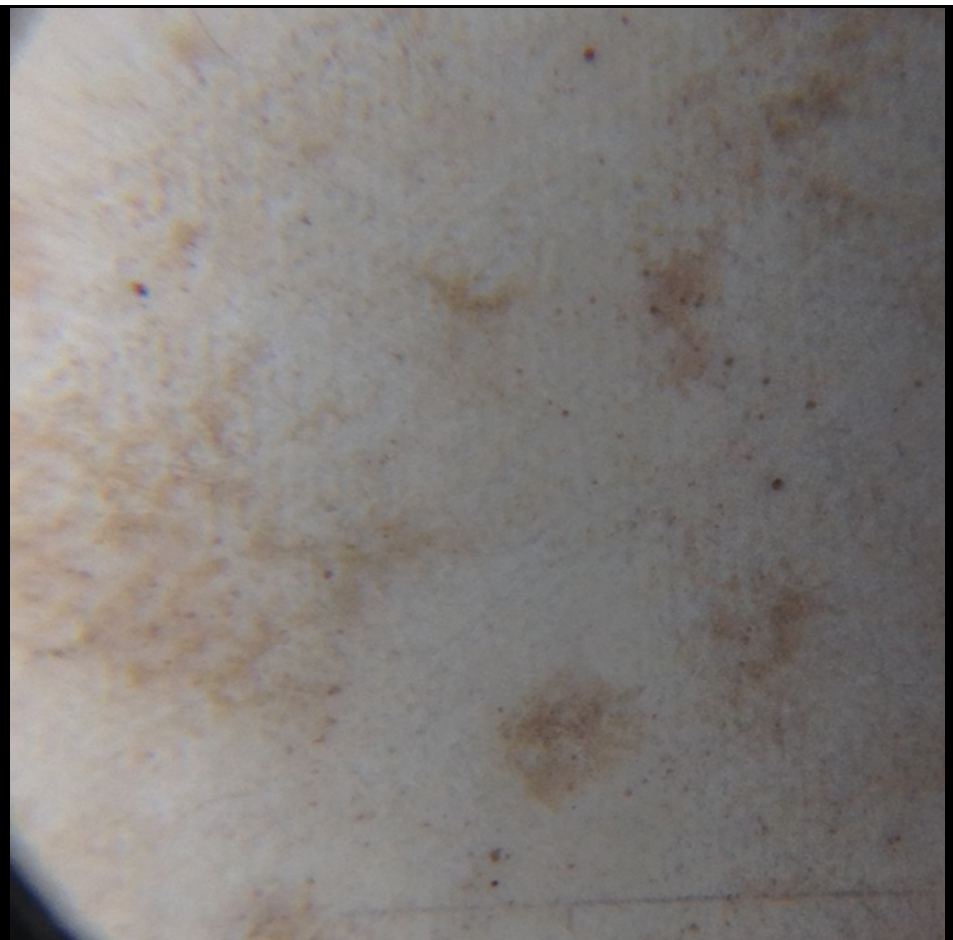
Trying to survive the heat with coffee, good company and passionate discussions among which about Critical Tourism and New Materialisms, two of the threads followed by Darko in Grey) (Area (2017/07/21)

Friday ²¹	Saturday ²²	Sunday ²³	Monday ²⁴	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	city (NB)		Island				
							Departure
	US sailing	Work with Robinson performance					
					16h30 Personal		
	Swim - + find records	Podcast Data					
					-Performance		

Scheduling, always good to do scheduling ...
(2017/07/21)



Annick's first DIY microscope private workshop
(Robertina teaching) – Taking macro pictures



DIY microscope workshop – Taking macro pictures
Left : Robertina teaching picture
Right : Annick homework on a stone found on the
beach (hum ...)

I have to admit that I am not that much of a DIY or hands-on workshop person.

I like to do things with my hands though but for this I need to have a purpose. Learning is not enough. I get bored.

I had noticed that already, during the *Trust Me, I'm An Artist* event in Copenhagen. I had undertaken the workshop organised for the curators and other cultural players thinking it would bring me new knowledge and maybe ways of doing/organising things but I did not focus on the tasks to accomplish up to the end. Having no goal (they can be « silly » as long as I have one) makes things uninteresting for me.

We did not manage to find time to do the soldering workshop with Robertina while in Korčula. I regret it, I would have liked to see how one can build those hydrophones but it is less to do it than to understand Robertina's approach and way of working. And to understand how hydrophones work. I guess I can read about that ...

(and also, I feel a bit ashamed as Robertina carried all the equipment from Ljubljana specially for me to learn!).





Field Recording:
making noise in the
water (not as much as
the boat though)
(2017/07/22)



Field Recording
Spot 1: in the « channel » between Korčula and the camping
in the next bay (2017/07/22)



Field Recording, spot 1 (nicknamed « the highway »)





In Korčula, Robertina is building up on her *Aquatocene* project that started in Izmir (where she had invited me to give a lecture), then included further underwater sound recordings in Dubrovnik, Koper, Roscoff and Bergen.

She has already produced 3 vinyls out of the first recordings. Korčula associated with Bergen will go into a 4th one. She is also planing other elements such as writings.

Researching for her project, she has been listening to Luc Ferrari's *Presque rien No. 1 Le Lever du jour au bord de la mer* (1970) based on (field) recordings he made in 1967 (some sources say 1968, needs to be checked-proof) in Vela Luka, at the other end of the island of Korčula.

Darko explained us that in Vela Luka, in the late 60's – early '70's there has been three major art events that included all kinds of artists, thinkers and researchers. It is for one of them that Luc Ferrari came to the island.

With Grey) (Area, Darko plans to conduct an in-depth research about those events as they are not well documented if not almost forgotten. After his seminal work on the Zagreb « New Tendencies », I am very much looking forward to this new project.



Recording a podcast on the terrace of the hotel dining room with Darko for the Audiolats channel of the Creative Disturbance Leonardo podcasts platform. Some more lamps to admire. (2017/07/23)

As I am working on the design of residencies for Leonardo/Olats, I am all ears to anything related.

From my notebook

- Vela Luka, in the late '60s belongs to the **artists colony** model. It reminds me of Monte Verità that started at the beginning of the 20th century.
- Today we have **residencies** of all sorts.
- Some are creating **rural communities** (that combine new agricultural working and sharing knowledge models with art research and creation, and that include temporary residencies) such as Minkalab in Colombia (that I had the chance to visit) and many others in Latin America that were presented during a panel at ISEA in Manizales. This is a movement in expansion, not only in South America.

⇒ Could be interesting to do a research and an analyse of those different models.

From my notebook

From Darko

- A residency is curating people instead of artworks
- Inviting people who are inviting others
- Keep it small, but sharp
- Grey) (Area: nor this, neither that

About micro residencies

- Strong tendency: good or bad?
- Is one week enough?
- How to balance necessary « free floating » and « organised » work?
- Scheduling or « going with the flow »? or is it possible to « organise free time » ?



Sea creatures, fake and real (but dead ...)



The « Toy-Submarine » - How much noise is it making?
Despite the fact that it was running from 9am to 11 pm, we never managed to experience the ride. But I am sure it is on some of Robertina's recordings.



Eating « marena » in the bay.

Darko explained that « marena » is a fixed daily menu for a very reasonable price and with traditional local food. It has almost disappeared from the Korčula restaurants due to tourism except for 3 of them that he showed us and for this one, near the hotel that we found.

In Occitan, it means « meal » (more lunch time than diner), strange coincidence-relation over time-space and languages.



Inquiring for the taxi boat to Vrnik for field recording day.
(2017/07/24)

They call it a « taxi » but actually it is more like a minibus
that goes on (almost) regular hours to only some of the
islands.









On the outside wall of this small restaurant, the only one in Vrnik, the first thing I saw was this framed picture of the dog.

I did not ask any question about who s/he had been.
No need to.

I thought about Maja Smrekar who won this year 2017 Ars Electronica Golden Nica in Hybrid Art with her project *K-9_topology* with her dogs.

This simple photography was gentle and moving. The people who dare put it on their wall for all to see have never heard about Donna Haraway. It came to my mind that they could deserve an honorary mention in some of our festivals or conferences.



Sherpa-curator Darko Fritz on Vrnik
(2017/07/24)



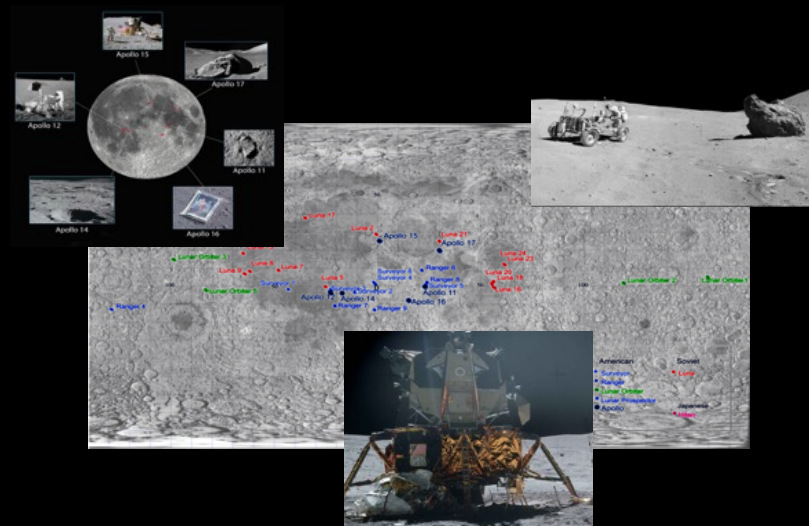
On Vrnik (2017/07/24)
Posing for posterity



Vrnik had stone quarries. Beautiful white stones that are famous and were used for building in Dubrovnik and around Dalmatia.

Today, they are abandoned, many houses are left, falling apart. Here and there, are remains from a forgotten activity.

It resonates with part of the talk I shall give on the 26th as an introduction to the performance and in which I link underwater and outer space pollution. I also show how junk can become traces from the past, archeological artefacts of a cultural heritage, such as the landing modules, gears and probes of all kinds on the surface of Moon.



Those decaying objects, on Vrnik, are both junk and testimonies from human work and society.











Nowadays, people call that « upcycling »

Life, no matter what





Edible life, capres



Grey) (Area with a group of knowledgeable people, is conducting a research to list and document all the wild edible plants on the islands, such as wild garlic (here) and capres.

Darko mentioned that not a single person knows all of them. Collective endeavour for sure.

Next, they will work on medicinal plants.

Friday ²¹	Saturday ²²	Sunday ²³	Monday ²⁴	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday ²⁷	Friday ²⁸
	city (AB)	↑	Island 10P →	lecture	lecture		
	us soldering	work with Rohit on performance		15h Koro 16h Koro		submarine - soldering	Departure
	Swim - + field recording	↑ Podcast Danks ↓	18h Back 19h field 20h	16h30 Rehearsal with Koro & Manja. onlines -	16h30 Rehearsal		
		Rehearsal AB -	EAT 2h show	17h Rehearsal	- Performance	7h P Restaurant	

More scheduling



Managed to read only 50 pages! (a shame as the book is really in tune with the residency)
Review will be for another context.



Field recording (Part 2)
(2017/07/24)







We didn't like the color.
This bordeaux is really too nouveaux riches

From my notebook

- Is this a private boat?, was I constantly asking Robertina.
- Yes, was she patiently answering.

It took me a day to fully understand her answer. Not being a « sea person » and never going on holidays to the Mediterranean sea in the Summer, I had never truly paid attention to, or even seen, those « private boats ».

I was thinking that there were a few owned by rich people.

It turns out that there are much more rich people, and for sure much more yachts than I thought in this Mediterranean sea!

I discovered that the sea can be as crowded as Paris peripheric at peak hours.

- > Traffic jam

- > No real peaceful place anywhere

- > Noise everywhere (reminded me of this survey on people developing anxiety in nature, for instance in forest, when it was too « silent » and somehow unable to hear the « sound of nature » such as the birds, or leaves falling down).

I was familiar with that noise on the shore (ah ... the “hotels entertainments” ...), but I never thought it was that bad on the water itself... naivety ...





From my notebook

« The Age of 'Aquatocene' »

Robertina has coined the term 'aquatocene' to name her project.

But what would an « Age of the Water » be?

- Flood and rising water (ice melting)
- Planet Ocean (what about lakes and rivers)
- An organisation of life from the perspective of the underwater creatures
- A non visual approach to life











Fishing octopus

The pilot of the boat that Robertina rented for field recording around the various islands near Korčula explained that for the (local) people on the shores, we looked like as if we were fishing octopuses.

To fish octopus you fully stop the engine and you dive a line ...



Grey)

(Area







All those places that look quiet and peacefull,
and that are quiet and peacefull on the
surface but underneath it sounds like on the
runaway at peak taking off time.

Truly heard it today for the first time.

Suddenly it was strange to be contributing to
the underwater sound pollution in order to
record it



Underwater: Escaping (Sound) Pollution

The Jellyfish and the Moon

annick bureaud - robertina sebjanič – manja ristić

Text by Fabienne Gambrelle, illustrations by Anaïs Tondeur & Gabriel Grandry,
sound by Robertina Sebjanič and Manja Ristić

Siva Zona – Grey) (Area

Korčula

Curator Darko Fritz

26 July 2017



Meant to be a children book, *The Jellyfish and the Moon* tells the story of a jellyfish that could not stand any longer the noise and behaviours of tourists and that decided to go to the Moon to « float in peace » as there is almost no gravity on the Moon and for sure about no one around.

Unfortunately, Moon tourism started ...

The story has been written by my friend, French writer and scenarist Fabienne Gambrelle and illustrated later on by French artists Anaïs Tondeur and Gabriel Grandry.

The translation into English has been done by Fabienne Gambrelle and Margaret Winn.

In Korčula, I shall tell the story while Robertina and Manja will play. Robertina will use her *Aquatocene* sound creations while Manja will improvise with her violin and her other (home made) instruments.

BLUES SESSION BAND - DJ ERVIN
 GRADSKA PIAZZA / CITY PARK
 KORČULA 2017.
 rezervacije stolova na tel. +385 (0)91 566 7806

MARIN JER
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 tickets are a
 or make a reserva
 KORČULA HOTELS

Prerano nas je napustio naš
ALEN SARDELIĆ - ŠORE
 BILI MOREŠKANT.
 Na svemu hvala!
 Moreška

silva) (zona - prostor suvremene i medijske umjetnosti
 grey) (area - space for contemporary and media art

**Kritički turizam (2): Podmorje:
 Bijeg od (zvučnog) zagađenja**

**Critical Tourism (2): Underwater:
 Escaping (Sound) Pollution**

audiovisual performance + performative lecture
 Annick Bureau . Robertina Šebjanić . Manja Ristić

erijska Wednesday . 26 . 07 . 21 h

Knežev prolaz . stari grad . Korčula

slobodan ulaz . free entrance

podrška: Institut Français Zagreb . HTP Korčula / Korčula Hotels
 Zaklada Kultura nova . Grad Korčula

<http://silvazona.hr> <http://arev-area.org>

www.ek-korcula.hr

KONCERT / CO

MARLIJA LEŠAJA - S
 atedra sv. Marka/St. Marka
 25.7.2017. — 21:00 h
 ulaznica/ticket: 30,00 h
 CENTAR ZA KULTURU
 KORČULA



Discussing set up for the performance (2017/07/21)



Preparing the performance (2017/07/23).
Later on, Robertina, Manja and I would spend a lovely evening at Manja's house « scoring » it.



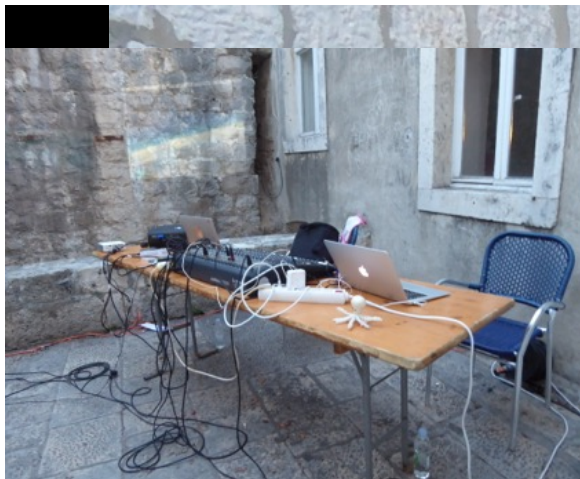
Manja setting up her microphone and instruments on the well





Wiring and plugging





All set, resting before the audience arrives



Introductory lecture, talking about Softday
Marbh Chrios (Dead Zones) Project

Reflecting upon the performance

I was very much looking forward to this evening.

- To tell this story that I like and see if/how it could be developed in a live performance (that was my hypothesis)
- To perform with Robertina and Manja
- To figure out if /how I was able to tell a story and do this kind of (semi) improvisation show

Robertina and Manja had played together before and anyway being on stage is what they do. It was a first for me. I was a bit nervous but totally trusting them.

It turned out that this July 26th, one of the *moreška* society (ancient sword dance remaining only in Korčula) was celebrating its renewed premises, located right next to our little plaza, with (very) loud men choir singing traditional songs,. Needless to say that their sound interfered with ours (and probably *vice versa*).

Therefore I don't know what the audience actually heard, nor how I sounded as I was « outside » our loud speakers zone and did not have « feedback » sound.

I need to get the video and the direct sound that we recorded from the mixer from Darko to get an idea.

However, this has been a positive experience for me:

- I let it go, said my part and fully relied and leant on the girls. And this was enjoyable.
- Despite the conditions, I have the conviction that performing *The Jellyfish and the Moon* together with Robertina playing with her *Aquatocene* compositions and Manja's apt and sensitive improvisations is something that does work. The next step will be to make that happen again, elsewhere, but may be with a professional comedian or story teller instead of me (although, I'd like to try it out with good context, once).

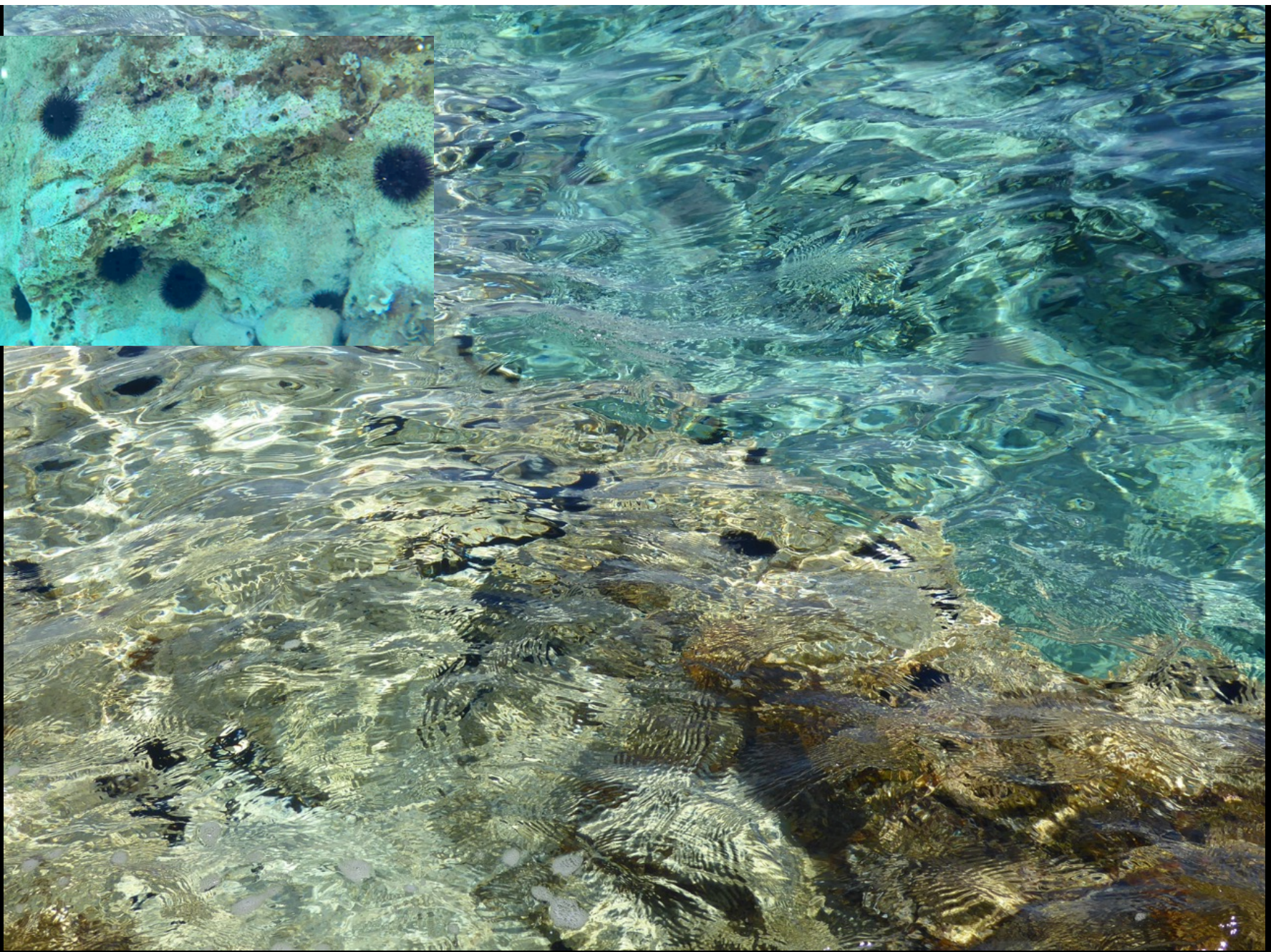
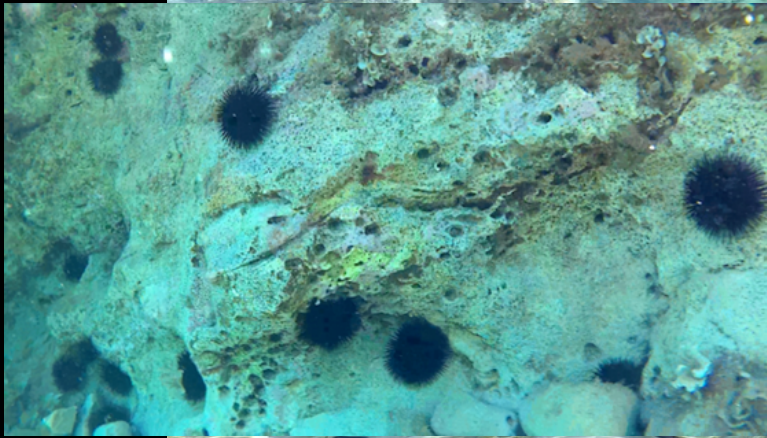


Interviewed by Radio Korčula,
after the show.









The water is cristal clear, but apart from the sea urchins and algae, there is not that much life here.

- Spent quite a time to watch the boats coming in & out and the traffic.
- Private boat < common boat
- Private car < buses & public transport.
- Not that noisy "labor sea", kind of a background sound.

* Underwater - choc of the lent of sound -

↳ Inhabiting - Uninhabiting - Rehabiting.

↳ Humans from the perspective of humans.

Living

Presence.

→ Junk

→ Sound Pollution.

↳ Humans from the perspective of the sea creatures.

Extension of what is inhabiting → sharing the space.

↳ Uninhabitable
↳ Sea Creatures.

↳ Rehabiting / Reinhabiting
for both humans & sea creatures.
What would it be?

From my notebook

Sketch for further researches,
writings, curating and projects

(much more notes and threads.
To be developed and continued.
Productive week)



July 28th 2017
on our way back home

Every morning when I was leaving the hotel and every evening when coming back to my room, I was waking by the Fig Tree and enjoying its delicate, almost unperceptible perfum.

In the agitation of the touristic season and standardized entertainments, the Fig Tree became for me a friendly presence in Korčula.

In the sound chaos, the smell of the Fig Tree was my anchor to the world.

