

The Gallery of Maps – First Variation



The starting point was an error on Google Translate. The terms being translated from English to Italian were from the text that outlines the criteria of our two strands of interest, which bring together various areas of expertise connected to Italian culture, as well as the Interdisciplinary Italy 'project'. This, combined with the Studio Azzurro's particular form of expression of drawing maps as a poetic form of research, led to the suggestion to make an imaginary representation of a map of Interdisciplinary Italy that shows, both visually and through other referential systems, a territory and an expressive artistic mode that the 'project' has started to investigate in depth.

Primitive Maps

To draw the first map, the starting point was the two terms that happened to have been imprecisely translated by Google. The terms 'culture' and 'politics', decontextualized in this way and associated with a system of Cartesian axes, give rise to the creation of an imaginary instrument that may help us orientate ourselves in the complex territory of poetic and artistic expression from 1900 until today.

It would be interesting to see over time how much of what is on the ends of these systems of reference and written in simple terms will prevail over the others, or if they will be in perfect balance, and which expressions from the visual arts and beyond will find themselves at the mobile crossroads of the various possible combinations. The second map and those that follow try to organise the new terms of reference in a 'consistent' way, even if they are rather arbitrary in comparison with the initial ones.

The third map substitutes the terms on the ends, and also tries to maintain a certain coherence in trying to organise – although according to arbitrary criteria – words with contradictory meanings that can, nevertheless, evoke a political and cultural dimension to artistic research. The counterpoint or harmony that results from placing them alongside each other can produce symbolic indications and suggestions.

Almost as in automatic writing, to cite a practice used in artistic expression in the period being considered, other maps were added to the first one, and, in a sort of axonometric projection, these maps are decentred by the presence of other pieces of text.