



School of Integration

1-10 March | DAMSLab and Cinema Lumière / Cineteca di Bologna

TANIA BRUGUERA

special project for *Atlas of Transitions Biennale*

Born out of an idea by Cuban artist and activist Tania Bruguera, *School of Integration* is a temporary school that imitates the German-style *integration schools* intended for newly arrived migrants, inverting however the point of view. Each of the 10 lessons will in fact be presented by a member of a community of foreigners residing in Bologna, teaching their knowledge of the body, artisan skills, oral poetry, symbolic practices, culinary traditions, musical contaminations and many other elements of their own culture that they are proud to share. Aimed at a wide and variegated range of participants, the lessons are open and intended for all those who may be interested.

The Cineteca di Bologna has become part of the *School of Integration* project, coherently following up on others that for some years have led it to explore “other” cultures through film narration. Ever since the World Cinema Project was created in 2007, with the backing of Martin Scorsese, thanks to which dozens of films representing various forms of world cinema have been restored, the Cineteca di Bologna has promoted a deep and comprehensive knowledge of African, Asian and South American cinema.

Friday 1 March

8:30 p.m. – DAMSLab

Lesson #1 Eritrea

Praising or decrying in rhyme: Eritrean oral poetry

In Eritrean culture, human beings are considered immortal. The dawn of life begins with trills, is prolonged through ancestral lullabies and later embodied in the *aulo*, a form of poetry sung during public occasions that pays tribute to the ancestors, accompanying humans until and beyond their death and making them eternal through the continuity of memory. Poetess Ribka Sibhatu will guide us through the poetic universe of her own land while overseeing the coffee ceremony, whose history and legends she will recount.

Saturday 2 March

6:00 p.m. – DAMSLab

Lesson #2 Western Africa

Tell me what cloth you wear and I'll tell you who you are

Searching for hidden messages in the colours of African fabric

African fabric talks, bearing encoded messages that speak of desires, warnings and emotions. The cloth coming from Western and Sub-Saharan Africa that will be exhibited includes wax prints from the Ivory Coast, Gambia, Senegal and Nigeria, and *bogolan*, hand-dyed fabric from Mali, whose production techniques, symbols and proverbs will be explained. The tailors from Vicini d'Istanti, furthermore, will give us the chance to get involved firsthand, cutting and sewing to create a custom-tailored piece.

Sunday 3 March

6:00 p.m. – DAMSLab

Lesson #3 Ukraine

Pysanka: the rite of the eggs

Decorating eggs, in Ukraine, is a rite unto itself. The famous *pysanka* is indeed an Easter egg, decorated and coloured with a technique based on hot wax and natural colours, while patterns are inscribed with a special stylus called a *pysachok* or *kistka*. The word *pysanka* itself comes from the verb “*pysaty*” (“to write” in Ukrainian): the eggs are literally written on, as those participating in this lesson-workshop will be able to see.

Monday 4 March

6:00 p.m. – DAMSLab

Lesson #4 Morocco

Discovering the zājal: Arabian poetry and sonorities

At the same time as the Rolling Stones were rising to the top of the charts, in Morocco the group Nass El Ghiwane came to the limelight: their success was due to the appeal they were able to give to popular Moroccan songs and poetry. By discussing their pieces, that often take up the metric form of the *zājal*, Sana Darghmouni will review the years when the group’s popularity reached its peak, while Hajiba Radouane and Abderrahmene Jahbli will explore the traditional rite of *Saharawi* tea.

8:25 p.m. - Cinema Lumière / Cineteca di Bologna

film

ALYAM, ALYAM

by Ahmed El Maanouni

Morocco

1978 | 90' | original language with Italian subtitles

Alyam, Alyam narrates the circumstances that led to the collapse of traditional Moroccan society. The strength coming from desperation and the ruthless destruction of entire generations are conveyed by the opening music, by a skeletal, empty building filling up with people, by the space of the village and by the film’s last shot, with a crowd appearing from behind a hill in the desert. The dreams of a society becoming weaker are reflected by the vulnerability of the mother’s prayer: “I need your shadow, I need your light, I need your face”.

Tuesday 5 March

6:00 p.m. – DAMSLab

Lesson #5 Palestine

The grammar of embroidery: decorative designs and colours in traditional Palestinian dresses

The *Al-Thob* dress, which first appeared more than five thousand years ago, has always been closely tied to the region in which it is produced. Its colours and embroidery change from one locality to another: from the kind of dress worn by Palestinian women, their area of origin can be identified. During the lesson given by Jalal Albess, the differences between these dresses and their particular features will be shown, accompanied by popular melodies played live by Hudud and traditional dances performed by the Donne di Sabbia.

8:00 p.m. - Cinema Lumière / Cineteca di Bologna

film

SAMOUNI ROAD

by Stefano Savona

Italy-France

2018 | 128' | original language with Italian subtitles

The Samouni are a Palestinian family from the rural outskirts of Gaza, decimated by Israeli bombs in early 2009. When young Amal returns to her neighbourhood, all she remembers is a sycamore tree that is no longer there. Amal and her brothers have lost everything. Now they have to rebuild their houses, their neighbourhood and their memory. Real images and animated narration alternate in creating a portrait of this family before, during and after the tragic events that occurred during operation “Cast Lead”. Prize-winner as best documentary at the most recent Cannes Festival.

Wednesday 6 March

6:00 p.m. – DAMSLab

Lesson #6 Rom and Sinti

The concept of dwelling: imagination and projects

curated by Ateliersi

It is commonly believed that Rom and Sinti people choose not to live in houses made of brick due to their cultural obstinacy, and yet many are forced to seek refuge in shanty towns while having quite different plans. Their ties to these places are often destroyed by evacuations, but experiences in constructing new ways of dwelling are relatively common and derive from personal choices pursued with imagination and diligence. Vincenzo Spinelli shares his own experiences of residential transition.

Thursday 7 March

6:00 p.m. – DAMSLab

Lesson #7 China

Chinese Karaoke

Chinese songs and Italian melodies, a history of contaminations dating to the 80s

In the wake of China's 1978 economic reform, western music began to make its way into China, with a central role played by the record label Polygram. Karaoke started to become a highly popular form of entertainment and has remained so even today, to the point of influencing daily language, social behaviour and aesthetics. During the lesson given by Zheng Ningyuan, thanks to the creation of Italianized texts, participants will be able to sing Chinese songs contaminated with Italian hits.

8:15 p.m. – Cinema Lumière / Cineteca di Bologna

film

BABA

by Wang Shuo China

2000 | 85' | original version with Italian subtitles

Baba (Papà) is the first and only film by novelist Wang Shuo, a true cultural icon in China. Based on his novel *I am your Father* (1990), it is about a widower in Beijing struggling with his adolescent son in the 90s. With a mix of satire, comedy and drama, the film looks into the end of the patriarchy and the different way of conceiving love that marks those who grew up at the end of the Mao era and the new generation. *Baba* was interpreted as an allegory for the Chinese government and censored: to this day, it has yet to be shown to Chinese audiences.

Friday 8 March

6:00 p.m. – DAMSLab

Lesson #8 Senegal

Beat, stroke, hit: playing the Mbalach

Malick Kaire Gueye helps us discover the *Mbalach*, the name of a typically Senegalese drum and rhythm. Its many functions include communication, healing, driving away evil spirits, celebrating and dancing. While rhythm is the most instinctive and primordial part of music, its liberating nature is only truly celebrated in collective contexts. The participants will try out various types of percussion instruments, learning to beat, stroke and hit them.

Saturday 9 March

7:00 p.m. – DAMSLab

Lesson #9 Peru

Rhizomes: a journey through Peru's three thousand types of potatoes

Peru has an extraordinary variety of potatoes. Whether white, yellow or native, more than three thousand can be counted over the entire Andes region. In Peru, "Potato Day" is celebrated on 30 May, an event

created to celebrate and promote tubers, reminding us of their great nutritional value. *Nadia Flores* will guide us along this journey, followed by a performance of *Cultivate dance*, curated by choreographer *Ivonne Rosia*.

Sunday 10 March

6:00 p.m. – DAMSLab

Lesson #10 Iran

A musical voyage through Persia: tradition, improvisation and imagination

Musician Darius Madani explores a world of sound that is antique, magical and evocative, without losing touch with the present day. Special attention will be given to traditional instruments: *Tar* and *Setar* (long-necked lutes), *Oud* (short-necked lute), *Tombak* and *Daf* (drums). Following a performance of a few pieces, participants will have the chance to learn the rudiments of an extremely refined technique passed down orally in Persia for centuries.

8:00 p.m. – Cinema Lumière / Cineteca di Bologna

film

BRICK AND MIRROR

by Ebrahim Golestan

Iran

1964 | 130' | original language with Italian subtitles

A modern masterpiece of Iranian cinema, *Brick and Mirror* explores themes including fear and responsibility in the wake of the coup. Golestan's first fiction work, whose title alludes to a poem by Farid al-Din Attar (*That which the old see in a brick / the young see in a mirror*), the film blends dreams and reality in its reaction to the new social climate, the failure of the intellectuals and the all-pervading corruption.

All lessons are free

€ 5 single ticket for the films

Alyam, Alyam, La Strada dei Samouni, Brick and Mirror, Baba

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