

Danielle Arnaud, London

The British School at Rome

Alice Marsh, 'June Mostra 2018 / Meet the artists...Oona Grimes'

5 June 2018

June Mostra 2018 / Meet the artists...Oona Grimes

As we approach the June Mostra, our third exhibition of this academic year, we will be publishing a series of blogs taking a closer look at the individual practices of our seven resident artists. Our interview is with Oona Grimes, our Bridget Riley Fellow.



Photo by Antonio Palmieri

Tell us about your journey in Rome so far and what you have experienced this term?

The story board rolls on...



'roman sKandals', 75x110cm

Danielle Arnaud, London

The British School at Rome

Alice Marsh, 'June Mostra 2018 / Meet the artists...Oona Grimes'

5 June 2018

I came to Rome with a selection of films playing in my head – from the Neorealists to late Fellini. Particular scenes and actions began to haunt me, sequences with particular relevance to the time and the place.



Still from 'coming soon : Stromboli's bucket'

The Piazza Rotunda was one of my daily morning walks – just to be in Rome – early, before the crowds, to watch the road sweepers and the shop keepers setting up. I began learning specific filmed actions, initially concentrating on the scene from Umberto D when he is reduced to begging outside The Pantheon – rehearsing and repeating his actions in order to know them, drawing them physically, drawing myself into the film.

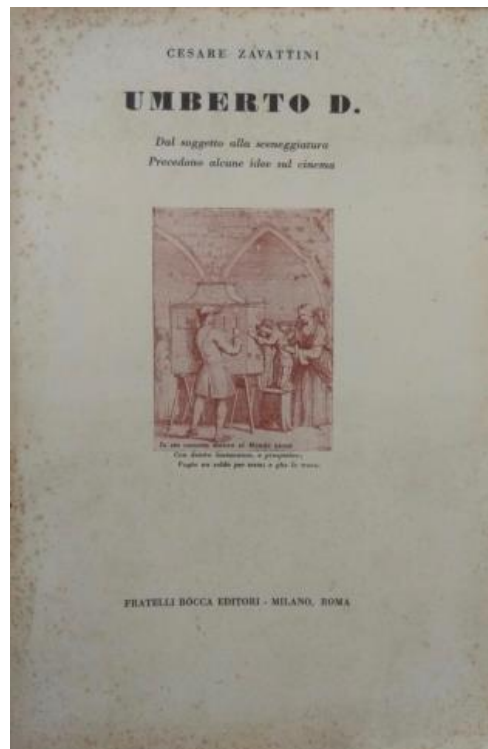
I continued filming with Mozzarella in Carrozza, drawn from Bicycle Thieves – focusing on the excruciatingly painful scene in the restaurant Antonio and his son, Bruno can't afford – a scene of misplaced pride, disillusion and the vivid class divide between them and the diners.

Danielle Arnaud, London

The British School at Rome

Alice Marsh, 'June Mostra 2018 / Meet the artists...Oona Grimes'

5 June 2018



Umberto D. Script (Photo: Rocco Sciaraffa)



Still from 'coming soon': mozzarella in carozza [Bicycle Thieves] i.phone rushes : 3'07"

Now, 'u.e u.'. from Pasolini's *Uccellacci e Uccellini*, filmed in Garbatella. Bird calls haunt me in the studio, their repetitive song invades my dreams. 'u.e u.' is a sublime dance of miscommunication, mistranslation, absurd jumpy hands gestures referencing both gestures from paintings and everyday communication. Using 16mm film cut with iPhone clips I chased language – both the learning and losing of it – the omissions, the torn, the discontinuity, the patches, the bad repairs.

Danielle Arnaud, London

The British School at Rome

Alice Marsh, 'June Mostra 2018 / Meet the artists...Oona Grimes'

5 June 2018

I spent a day at Cinecitta with an incredible fake Sistine Chapel and Chapel of Tears, the reality and the illusion madly muddled into un Papa in acqua pazza. A visit from the Vatican press intensified the hallucination as dog collars and papal gowns munched pizza over lunch.



The 'real' Sistine Chapel (Photo: copyright free image)



Spot the difference... the Sistine Chapel re-created at Cinecitta

Parallel Pantheon worlds... Bishops and Monsignors... drapes and folds and hand gestures, rituals and roses.

Danielle Arnaud, London

The British School at Rome

Alice Marsh, 'June Mostra 2018 / Meet the artists...Oona Grimes'

5 June 2018

Walking, watching, hand gestures, the sign language of hands, mis-translation and mis-communication, bird language, silent language.

Drapes and folds pleats and drapes fabric fashion folds.

In your exploration of Italian Cinema, have you found a female character to feature in your work?

I've been looking at Liliana Cavani and Ketty La Rocca, Laura Betti and Silvana Mangano but the story board embraces a motley and disparate bunch of characters none of whom take starring roles – they are more the underdogs and background extras.

Last term you spoke about your first experiences in Rome as “a sea of visual treats...felt like a veritable tartan sea sponge, a kid who has overdosed on candy floss”. Has this also been the case this term or have you been focusing on specific themes?

The sponge gets bigger!



'angelo del fango', 75 x 110cm

The six months have made an Enormous difference. Initially I was too ravenous, greedily devouring and collecting. Now it has been amazing to re-visit collections and spend time with just one work. Daily there are new discoveries and long lists for future explorations.

This term I have enjoyed watching the light change and the city fill up with visitors. The drapery, the folds, the fabric has etched itself into my brain... Folds n flocks, soft squidgy marble folds....

Danielle Arnaud, London

The British School at Rome

Alice Marsh, 'June Mostra 2018 / Meet the artists...Oona Grimes'

5 June 2018

Stay tuned... 'coming soon e.u e.' ...

Oona's work will be exhibited alongside the six other resident artists in the June Mostra. The opening will take place on Friday 15 June 18.30-21.00. Opening hours 16.30-19.00 until Saturday 23 June 2018, closed Sundays.

Interview by Alice Marsh (Communications & Events). Photos by Oona Grimes, unless otherwise stated.