

tema celeste

contemporary art

rossella biscotti

self-portrait



I started to pay particular attention to people having found myself in the position, under commission by a young artist, of looking for models who could work well as subjects for his work. I went out to a really odd assortment of places and I frequented different environments both night and day. I was amazed and fascinated at people's availability and their total willingness to become part of my file I was building.

My own practice then continued in the same direction and brought

me to see situations that I myself had experienced, my friends and family, the rented houses that I found myself living in, in another way. At the same time, I explored in greater detail other people's spaces, offices, public parks, other people's seaside holidays, searching for a way to be able to observe everything from afar.

I started with this observation and the result, whether it is dealt with in a video, installation, or a drawing, is nothing more than the final phase of an attempt at getting closer to and participating in that



▲ **Rossella Biscotti** "Destinazione di viaggio privilegiata," 2003, felt-tip pen on paper, 20 x 30 cm.

◀ **Rossella Biscotti** *Patricia y Antonio*, 2002, still from video.

▶ **Rossella Biscotti** *Rick*, 2002, still from video.

which is distant from me. I decided to borrow a few fragments of other people's real life and I mixed these with paradoxical imaginings that included in their aim Russia, flat fields, Humphrey Bogart, and spaghetti westerns.

The chosen subjects are bound to an idea that brings together individuals who differ in their living habits, culture, age, but also because a few details of their persona seem not to completely align with their environment, as happens in *Rick*, or with the situation that the subjects experience in *Patricia y Antonio* and in *Coming Back*. In both, the cases compel me to linger to observe their extreme and almost unconscious naturalness.

The domestic environment that makes up the background is always bound to their life, but it changes totally for the subjects of the drawings. These deal with people traveling through Italy, from whom I receive images gathered on the Internet, and who above all are extraneous to the natural/historic landscape that surrounds them.

In these works what interests me above all is making the significance of not belonging emerge and drawing attention to the capacity that individuals have for giving life to a microclimate made up of complicity and exclusivity. This has led me to observe the different results I achieve in the videos, which are much less immediate considering that in order to bring them out an extended time of observation is necessary. These are obtained by resorting to an intense and continual exchange between myself and the people involved and also by their relationship to the architectonic space that inevitably



conditions the objects, the light, and the sound, as well.

I like that the interaction of the video starts when the communication relationship between the various elements is already established and everything is organized, when the cigarette is lit and the person is there, standing still, and smokes.

Rossella Biscotti was born in 1978 in Molfetta, Bari. She lives and works in Naples.
Photo Credit: T293, Naples. Translation by Amanda Coulson.