



Research Cluster: Enable – Design & Art Competences, Material Culture, and Human Development | Timespan: 2013 - 2016

Atlante dei Classici Padani

L'Atlante dei Classici Padani (Atlas of Padania Classics) is the book containing 5 years of work by the 'Padania Classics', a photographic project by Italian artist Filippo Minelli

Team

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The Atlas of Padania Classics is a publication that collects the photographic work of Italian artist Filippo Minelli. From 2010 Minelli is taking hundreds of photos of the urban landscape in the North of Italy. The idea is to focus just on urban elements that have been built in the last 50 years, thus excluding natural or historic subjects. The result is a collection of almost 1000 photos representing what Filippo has defined as Padania Classics: building sites, traffic circles with monuments, highways, shopping malls, commercial billboards, industrial buildings, and so on. In the eyes of Minelli these elements represent the new features of our environment and thus they define our social habits, our relation with that environment and our way of life.



Figure 1. Glance at the book – stone mine

The project was born as a website, in the form of a digital photographic archive, but in 2013 me and Francesco D'Abbraccio – through the research and publication collective Krisis Publishing – have asked Minelli to work together in order to create an editorial project, a publication of the Padania Classics. We worked with a journalist too, Emanuele Galesi, who wrote and edited all the texts of the book. As Krisis Publishing, we worked as publishing house, editor-in-chief of the book, and visual designers – thus, selecting the images, defining the images' categories in order to create a kind of order and coherence among hundreds of photos, arranging the index and designing some of the other visual contents, such as the thematic maps.

Divided in 18 chapters this book analyzes in obsessive way subjects related to what separatist politicians call the Macro region: from urbanism based on overbuilding to the God of Gold, from waste dumping to architecture and absurd monuments, from politics to religion, from betting to 'oriental' massages providing a full insight about contemporary landscape and human behaviors of Northern Italy.

The book has received a good critical attention in the national press, and between 2015 and 2016 we have organized almost 30 presentation in the north and centre of Italy. We've also organized two exhibition, one in Munich (Passinger-Fabrik) and one in Mantova (Muty).



Figure 2. An abandoned pillar in Pozzaghera

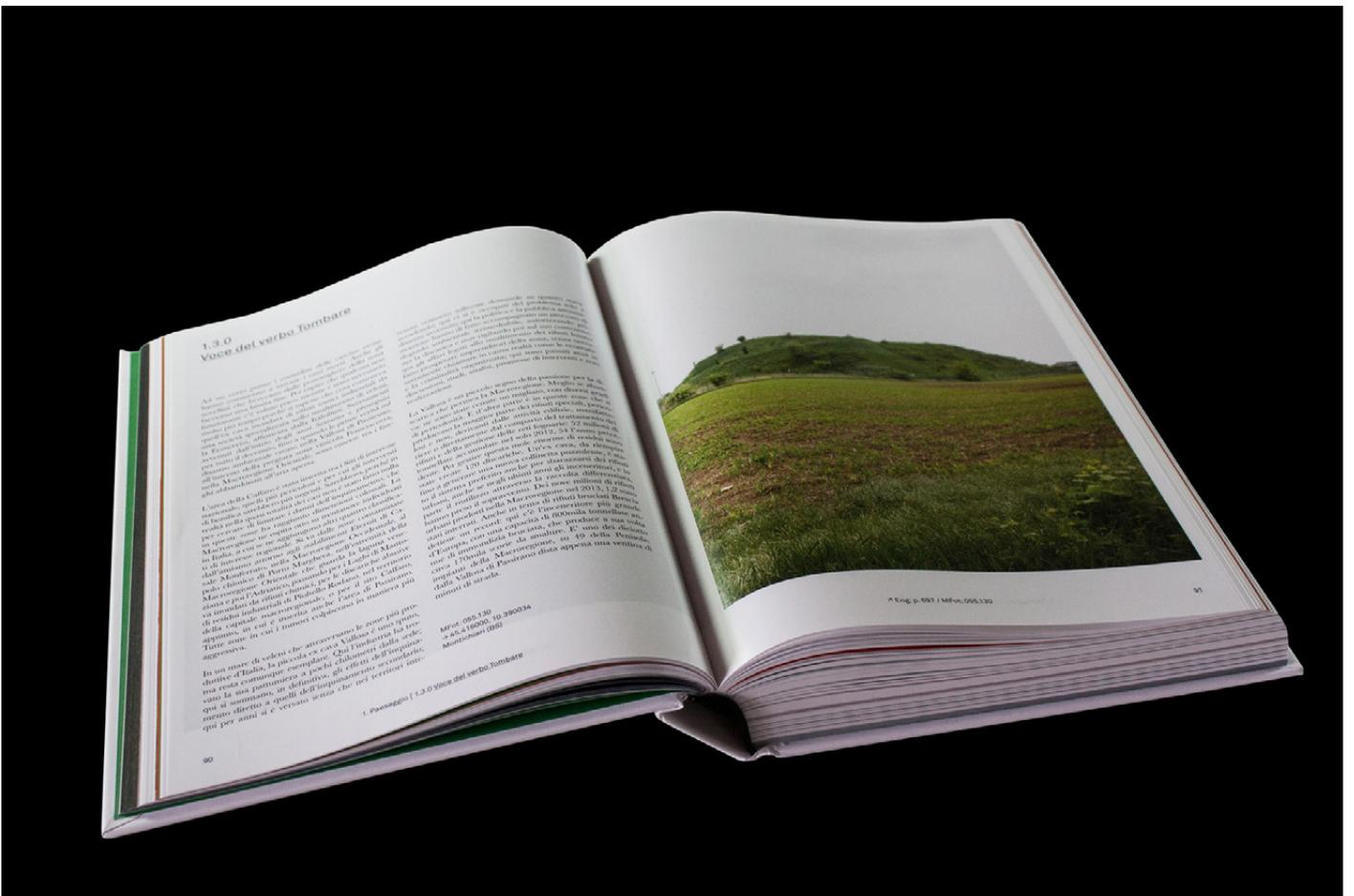




Figure 3 - 7. Various places and constructions in Northern Italy