

Migrating Objects.  
Dialogues on the memory of the journey

in occasion of the exhibition

The Memory of the Sea.  
Objects Migrating within the Mediterranean

curated by Anna Chiara Cimoli

July 6 2013, h. 15:00

GAMEC – Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea  
via S. Tomaso 53  
Bergamo - ITALY



Photo: Alessandro Brasile

MeLa\*- European Museums in an Age of Migrations

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## Migrating Objects. Dialogues on the memory of the journey

Saturday July 6th, on the occasion of the exhibition *Memory Of The Sea. Objects Migrating Within The Mediterranean*, curated by Anna Chiara Cimoli (MeLa\* Project-EU 7FP-Polimi), the GAMeC invites you to take part into an afternoon session (from h. 15:00) of dialogues about the memory of the journey, and the objects which represent this memory.

The exhibition describes, through the pictures by Alessandro Brasile and Mattia Insolera, a very special place: the Sea Memory Museum in Zarzis, Tunisia.

There, in his own garden, Mohsen Lihidheb has been collecting for years everything the sea left on the shore: objects belonging to the natural world as well as traces of migration towards Europe. Poor but precious objects, which Mohsen has honoured by transforming them into installations, and having a "dialogue" with them throughout time.

The format of the event is borrowed, not without irony, from *speed-dating*: brief but intense meetings, which allow everyone to talk to everyone else face to face. In fact, there is a lot of talk about migrations, but meeting people behind their roles is not so obvious.

The protagonists, here, are the migrants, who have travel stories to tell and who, by reading them again and again, update and transform them from an inert material, forever linked to the past, into a malleable substance that can be interpreted in the light of the present life and the projects for the future.

Yet everybody, migrant or not, is invited to take an active part: each participant will speak and listen in turn, always in a face to face dynamic. Everyone, in fact, has got a story to tell, as well as material or immaterial objects linked to a particular journey. It is neither about exoticism nor folklore, on the contrary we meet and let ourselves be met in an informal way around something that is shared by everybody.

**All participants are invited to bring along an object** evoking an important journey (be it a journey in space, as well as human, personal, affective or professional...). The objects will be displayed in the museum's room just for the afternoon, therefore composing a sort of *pop-up* collection. Afterwards they will be given back to their owners.