

AL DI LÀ DELL'ACQUA

The title of the project derives from the phrase "Lòt Bò Dlo", a Kreyòl expression of the Haitian inhabitants, which stands for promise (of a better future) and peril (of Black Atlantic Ocean), hope and despair, seeking different answers *on the other side of the water*.

This is the starting point of my project, a four-year period spent in the exploration of cargo vessels of different nationalities; I started also from the literary inspiration of the novel "Novecento" by Italian writer Alessandro Baricco: the novel tells the story of a sailor who decides that a life entirely spent on board, although far from the earth and from its "guarantees", will be the best choice, always and forever

I got into work areas, looking for the captain's headquarter, observing the rest rooms, the places of leisure, the private cabins. I excluded the inhabitants from the photographs, we find them out instead through objects, in little totems or amulets which are used to create a connection with dry land. The oxymoron lies in the existence of daily normality made up of small rituals which is in a state of continuous movement.

These "islands" enclose internal rules as they were city-states awaiting new geographies. The exterior, when visible, is backlit, can be seen through a window, a porthole, but the horizon seems hazy. What matters is what happens inside the *house*: the rooms, one after another, describe a division of roles, of tasks assigned, an inevitable hierarchy which needs a structure, even architectural.

A daily but peaceful routine is shown more evident by those elements capable of reconstructing an idea of living space, a domestic stability sought and obtained.

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