

744 km

**Stories from the Swiss-Italian
Alpine frontline**

Date

**26.11.2022
10.12.2022**

Location

Milano

Istituto Svizzero

Information

**A VOLUMES archive section
in collaboration with Istituto Svizzero
and SPRINT**

Category

Books, Literature, Exhibition

744 kilometres, that is the length of the border between Italy and Switzerland, which runs through the Alps but also the lowest point in Switzerland. This physical and mental border metabolises the shared histories and frictions between the two territories. The display showcased at Istituto Svizzero launches a research project that will keep on growing and to which you are welcome to contribute.

Since 2013, VOLUMES has built a collection of art books, zines and magazines, thanks to the many donations received annually for its' international open call exhibition and publication award. Taking this library as a site of investigation, the collective has been researching new forms of organizing and understanding the archive and the challenge of categories and inventories. To do so, VOLUMES collaborates with external voices to interact with the content present, but also absent, that could be added to the archive following specific curatorial lines. The collection is therefore archived through a range of dynamic sections, which keep growing and get showcased online, through talks and exhibition displays.

Departing from publications already present within the VOLUMES Archive, the new selection 744km attempts to grasp past and present mobilities between Switzerland and Italy through their shared border. In order to address entangled histories shaped by movements and policies, a wide range of published matter taken from different fields has been assembled.

The selected publications, articles and essays from artists, independent, academic and mainstream publishers point to different stories, projections, narratives, that are embedded within the border's topography.

Holding many paradoxes, borderscapes are indeed challenging to grasp:

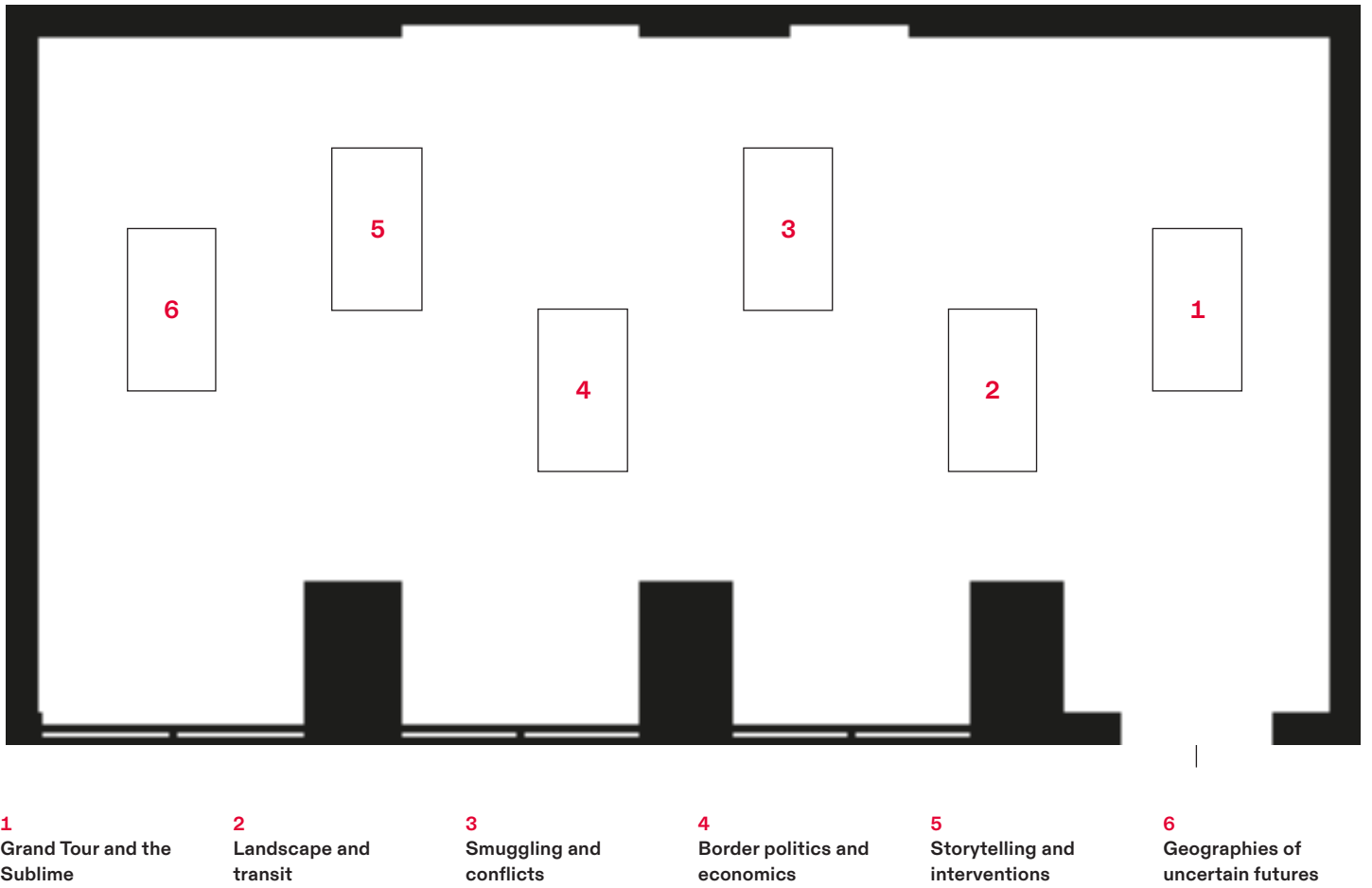
«*Borders are inherently spaces of contradictions. They are spaces of encounters and divisions that separate and unite. They are visible yet invisible, fixed yet mobile, rigid yet porous, and remote yet so central to politics*». Shine Choi

In order to reflect the wide range of disciplines interested in border studies (such as political science, sociology, anthropology, history, international law, art, media studies, philosophy or ethics), the selected publications alternatively look at the immaterial and material manifestations of border policies, itineraries undertaken through time for official and unofficial reasons, the impact of economic and political contexts, storytelling and interventions in the landscape, to the more recent effects of covid and climate change.

This diverse constellation is a way of investigating different types of narratives. Publications here are used as a form of evidence and knowledge that can be assembled and questioned through mediation. By multiplying and juxtaposing storylines, the section aims to create and highlight associations, frictions and gaps, showcasing both mainstream and counter narratives. As the stories we are told evolve, just like the landscapes where they take place, many voices still remain unheard. This is where the work of both academics and artists acts in parallel without necessarily meeting. The lack of porosity between disciplines is another type of border that we attempt to render more porous through our selection.

744km presented at Istituto Svizzero is the beginning of a research and by no means pretends to be exhaustive. We therefore welcome any comments and suggestions regarding published matter that could be added to the selection.

We invite you for an activation of the 744km display on **Saturday 3rd of December from 5pm**, with a presentation and discussion with artists Salvatore Vitale, Maria Iorio & Raphaël Cuomo, with SPRINT and VOLUMES.



VOLUMES is a non-profit organization and collective created in 2013 in Zurich. It is run by Anne-Laure Franchette, Patrizia Mazzei and Gloria Wismer. The collective aims to support the various facets of international art publishing and introduce it to a larger audience through series of events and an ongoing research agenda. Operating in various locations, VOLUMES organizes large and small book fair events, which showcase the production of local and international independent publishers as well as self-editing artists who use small means of production. Exploring the creativity gravitating around the practices of art publishing, the collective regularly invites performances, installations, workshops, symposiums or projections within their events. In 2020 they launched their annual Book Award, to further showcase and support recent independent publications. They started alongside the VOLUMES Book Club, a series of talks, gathering people and books in series of intimate events.

On the occasion of VOLUMES being awarded the Jan Tschichold prize 2022, Istituto Svizzero hosts the launch of their new research and archive section 744km, realized in collaboration with SPRINT and in parallel with *The Most Beautiful Swiss Books* exhibition.

Bibliography

Display 1:

Grand Tour and the Sublime

La Tour Noire, Stéphanie Gyax, Rollo Press, 2010

Alpen Panoram, Klaus Burri, Heinz Wäspi, Emil Schulthess, Mondo Verlag, 1998

Victorians in the Mountains, Sinking the Sublime, Ann C. Colley, 2016, Routledge

Journal du voyage de Michel de Montaigne en Italie (éd. 1774), Hachette, 2013

Masculinity and Danger on the Eighteenth-Century Grand Tour, Sarah Goldsmith, University of London Press, 2020

Itinerari sublimi, Viaggi d'artisti tra il 1750 e il 1850, a cura di Manuela Kahn-Rossi, Museo Cantonale D'Arte, Lugano, 1998

Foto Szene GR, Albert Steiners Erben, Bündler Kunstluseul Chur Benteli, 2010

Display 2:

Landscapes and transit

Peak, Nicolò Degiorgis, Rorhof, 2017

Alpen, Die Kunst der Panoramakarte, Tom Dauer, Prestel, 2020

Die Alpen, Von Hannibal bis Heidi, Geschichten, Mythen und Legenden, Stephen O'Shea, 2017

The Architecture of Transit, Sue Barr, Hartmann Books, 2019

In/visible geographies, An investigation of the Swiss Italian borderscape, Nicoletta Grillo, manuscript, 2021

Curves, soulful driving, Norditalien, Lombardei, Südtirol, Ventien, 2022

Via Lactae, Alfio Tommasini, Edition Patrick Frey, 2020

Display 3:

Smuggling and conflicts

Escape to Switzerland, Maria Moser-Menna, National Museum Switzerland, article published 15/06/2022

Smuggling between Switzerland and Italy, Jean-Luc Rickenbacher, National Museum Switzerland, article published 05/04/2018

Lungo i sentieri del contrabbando, Storie, testimonianze, appunti di viaggio, Stefano Cassinelli, Pierfranco Mastali, Pietro Macchione Editore, 2003

Il confine settentrionale, Austria e Svizzera alle porte d'Italia, Roberto Roveda, Michele Pellegrini, Oltre Edizioni, 2018

Contrabbandieri, Uomini e Bricolage tra Ossola, Ticino e Vallese, Ermínio Ferrari, Tarara, 2021

Breve storia dell'emigrazione Italiana in Svizzera, Dall'esodo di massa alle nuove mobilità, Toni Ricciardi, Donzelli Editore, 2018

I rifugiati italiani in Svizzera e il foglio LIBERTA! Antologia di scritti 1944-1945, Edizioni Cinque Lune, 1979

The Alps and Resistance (1943-1945), Conflicts, Violence and Political Reflections, Francesco Scomazon (ed.), Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2021

La Linea Sottile, Il fascismo, la Svizzera e la frontiera, Massimo Castoldi, Fabrizio Panzera, Donzelli Editore, 2022

Sui sentieri della libertà, Escursioni sui percorsi partigiani in Piemonte, Valle d'Aosta e Lombardia, Diego Vaschetto, Edizioni del Capricorno, 2018

L'invasione della Svizzera, Piani di Guerra italiani dal 1861 al 1943, Leonardo Malatesta, Norman Gobbi, Armando Dadò editore, 2020

Display 4:

Border politics and economics

Svizzera, un ponte per l'Italia, 100 anni della camera di commercio Svizzera in Italia, Ulrico Hoepli Editore, 2019

Mobilité spatiale et frontières/ Räumliche Mobilität und Grenzen, Thomas Busset, Jon Mathieu (eds.), Histoire des Alpes/ Storia delle Alpi/ Geschichte der Alpen, Chronos Verlag, 1998

Transits/ Transit, Histoire des Alpes/ Storia delle Alpi/ Geschichte der Alpen, Chronos Verlag, 2016

Gotthard-fantasien, Eine Blütenlese aus Wissenschaft und Literatur, Boris Previšić (ed.), Hier une jetzt, 2016

In den Alpen, Ausstellungsleitung Tobias Bezzola, Cathérine Hug, Kunsthau Zürich, 2007

Border Geographies: Territory, Urban Form and Lived Space in Chiasso, Switzerland, James T. Lindberg, Bachelor Arts Degree thesis, Franklin University, Switzerland, 2015

How to Secure a Country, Salvatore Vitale, Lars Müller Publishers, 2019

Bienvenuti al Confine, Schweizer Zollmuseum, 2022

Confine, A collective narrative about how the Italian city of Como and its railway station, on the border between Italy and Switzerland, became a refugee camp, Mattia Vacca, Emanuele Amighetti, Delicious Editions, 2018

The geography of border landscapes, Dennis Rumley, Julian V. Minghi (eds.), Routledge Library Editions: Political Geography, 1991

Display 5:

Storytelling and interventions

Appunti del Passaggio, Maria Iorio and Raphaël Cuomo, interview published on Radicate. Eu, 12/01/2016

Verde, Katalin Deér, Jungle Books, 2018

A Winter's Tale, Mattia Vacca, Delicious Editions, 2014

Falsche Chalets, Christian Schwager, Edition Patrick Frey, 2008

Scripts for performance, Language is Skin, Romy Rüegger, Archive Books, 2018

Arte Bregaglia, Un percorso d'arte contemporaneo da Chavenna a Maloja, Angelika Affentranger-Kirchrath, Patrizia Guggenheim, Patricia Jegher (eds.), Edizioni Periferia, 2008

Display 6:

Geographies of uncertain futures

Modelling the effect of a border closure between Switzerland and Italy on the spatiotemporal spread of COVID-19, Mathilde Grimée, Maria-Bekker-Nielsen Dunbar, Felix Hofmann, Leonhard Held, medRxiv preprint, 2021

Transdisziplinäre Ausflüge in den Alpeninen Kultur Kosmos, Flurina Gradin, Jens Badura (eds.), ZHdK Creativealps_Lab, Master Transdisziplinarität, 2019

Melting glacier in Alps shifts border between Switzerland and Italy, news article, Agence France-Presse in Zermatt, The Guardian, 26/07/2022

Il confine italo-svizzero in epoca globale, Centro Culturale Chiasso, Giampiero Casagrande ed., 2021

Twenty Two Swiss Mountain Lakes, Jan Steinbach, Edition Taube, 2018

Orae, Experiences on the border, The guide, Fabrice Aragno, Mounir Ayoub, Vanessa Lacaille, Pierre Szczepski, Lars Müller Publishers, 2021

Rhonegletscher, Hansjörg Sahli, Edition Patrick Frey, 2018

A Moving Border, Alpine Cartographies of Climate Change, Marco Ferrari, Elisa Pasqual, Andrea Bagnaton, Columbia University Press, 2018