

Videos **Belleville**, **The Housing Agenda**, **The Housing Question** with wall drawing. Exhibition view of the installation **The Housing Question**, ngbk, Self Made Urbanism Rome, Berlin, 2013. Photo: Rena Rädle

The Housing Question

The Housing Question is a series of works that emerged from our years-long involvement with the situation of Roma in Europe. The relation of European societies towards its biggest minority is exemplary for internalised colonial thinking and for aggressive class-based racism inherent to contemporary societies. The work demasks some of the crucial mechanisms that keep the order of society working. Our artistic researches and interventions tackle the housing question with different approaches in terms of how we positioned ourselves and on which fields we focused: the political, ideological or social.

The work consists of:

Video Belleville (PAL, 21 min, 2009): <http://vimeo.com/112930589>

Video The Housing Agenda (HD, 29 min, 2012): <http://vimeo.com/113035473>

Video The Housing Question (HD, 11 min, 2013): <http://vimeo.com/114080642>

Produced with the support of: ngbk Berlin, S.M.U.R. project group, Pro Helvetia, Schweizer Kulturstiftung, Goethe-Institut Rom, Istituto Italiano di Cultura Berlin, X-OP network, MAA school Helsinki, HIAP Helsinki, Ateneum Art Museum and Culture For All, Helsinki



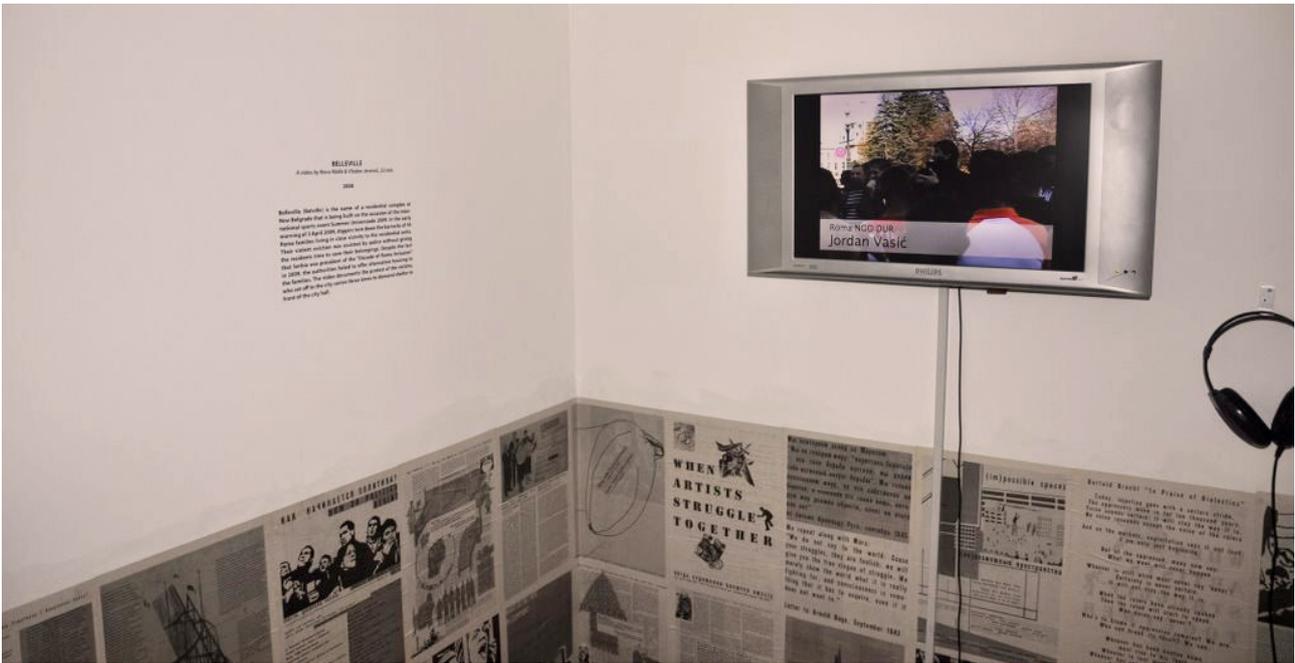
The Housing Question, screening at workshop of Roma women organisation, Novi Bečej, Serbia, 2011. Photo: Vladan Jeremić



The Housing Question, screening during the protest at an event organized by the solidarity movement, Belvil settlement, Belgrade, 2009. Photo: Vladan Jeremić

The video **Belleville** came out from our direct involvement into the protests against evictions in Belgrade, Serbia. It is recorded from within the situation and became a political tool during the struggle. Afterwards it was also used in educational and political contexts by organisations fighting for Roma rights.

The research and intervention in Helsinki, Finland were directed to the ideological field. The resulting video **The Housing Agenda** is a video summary of the debate we organized with activists, politicians and urbanists. With a proposal for migrant workers homes put forward to the participants of the debate we intervened into the discourse about "Roma beggars" that we had mapped before with a study group.



Video **Belleville**, exhibition view ICA London, 2010. Photo: Vladan Jeremić



Installation **The Housing Question**, exhibition view, Kraljević Gallery, Zagreb, Croatia, 2013. Photo: Rena Rädle

The third video titled **The Housing Question** developed from an artistic case study conducted in Rome, Italy. The work gives a framework to the whole research containing a level of analysis and interpretation that is visually prolonged into wall drawings. Monologues derived from factual information and interviews tell a dense story that puts the findings into a larger historical and economical context.



Exhibition view of the installation **The Housing Question**, Self Made Urbanism Rome, ngbk, Berlin, 2013.
Photo: Rena Rädle

Belleville

The video Belleville arose from the protests against forced evictions of Roma in Belgrade, Serbia. It belongs to the series of works **The Housing Question**.

To make space for a real estate investment related to the sports manifestation "Universiade 2009" the homes of over 40 families were destroyed by diggers over night. The shocked inhabitants of the settlement blocked the street to protest against the violent attack.

The video was recorded spontaneously while the protests were evolving over a period of several days and nights. In the evenings the recordings would be reviewed together; we would listen again to the list of demands and the statements of politicians and UN-officials; a raw cut would immediately be on the internet. It was an immense motivation for the people that there was a camera documenting what was going on. Through the montage the density of the events was reduced and brought into a shape that allowed for an understanding and analysis of the events. The process of recording was a process of witnessing, self-reflection and learning with the community. **Belleville** was first publicly viewed in the Roma settlement and was afterwards often screened in educational workshops, conferences dealing with the issues of Roma rights and European fascism, in campaigns for Roma refugees' rights to stay in their country of asylum and, last but not least, at art exhibitions.



Video **Belleville**, 21 mins, camera and editing: Rena Rädle, 2009, Belgrade, Serbia.

Detail of the wall installation **The Housing Question**, Self Made Urbanism Rome, ngbk, Berlin, 2013.

Photo: Rena Rädle

Video Belleville (PAL, 21 min, 2009): <http://vimeo.com/112930589>

Related text:

Vladan Jeremić and Rena Rädle, *Power Relations in a Nutshell: On the Video Works Belleville and Gazela*, first published in: *To Think (Film) Politically: Art and Activism Between Representation and Direct Action*, edited by Jelena Vesić and published by DeLVe/Institute for Duration, Location and Variables in Zagreb in 2010, pp. 50-67. http://issuu.com/vladanrena/docs/power_relations_in_a_nutshell_weiyt

Suzana Milevska, *What Comes After Racism? On different racial technologies and on solidarity with Roma in the works of Rena Rädle & Vladan Jeremić*, published in: *Psychogeographical Research, The Museum of Contemporary Art Vojvodina in Novi Sad*, 2009, pp 29-35.
http://issuu.com/vladanrena/docs/what_comes_after_racism



Stills from the video **Belleville**





Stills from the video **Belleville**



WE WANT ĐILAS!

A list of demands is prepared.



Everything goes according to the lists of names.

You take money from business tycoon Mišković to evict us from here!



Exhibition view **The Housing Agenda** with billboards of the **World Communal Heritage Campaign**, La maison Folie Wazemmes, Lille, France, 2012. Photo: Vladan Jeremić

The Housing Agenda

The Housing Agenda is an artistic research and intervention conducted in Helsinki, Finland. The resulting video **The Housing Agenda** is a video summary of the debate we organized with activists, politicians and urbanists. With a proposal for migrant workers homes put forward to the participants of the debate we intervened into the hostile discourse about "Roma beggars" that we had mapped before with a study group in the publication **The Pull Factor**. After the demolition of a Roma settlement in Helsinki and forced resettling of its inhabitants in 2011 we invited activists, politicians and urbanists to discuss on stage about our proposal to establish a trans-urban network of "workers hotels" open to precarious migrant workers in European cities.

The debate **The Housing Agenda** at Ateneum Art Museum unveils how culturalisation of social problems, stereotypes and internalized anticiganism hinder solidarisation and adequate solutions for the housing of Roma in Europe.

A set of principles for local housing solutions which would be realized in Helsinki and elsewhere in Europe was formulated. The contributing participants later published the resulting proposals in form of "The Helsinki Housing Manifesto".

The work consists of:

Video The Housing Agenda (HD, 29 min, 2012): <https://vimeo.com/113035473>

The Pull Factor: http://issuu.com/vladanrena/docs/the_pull_factor_helsinki

World Communal Heritage Campaign (3 billboard prints, 200x100cm):

<https://communalheritage.wordpress.com/campaign-flats-for-precarious-migrant-workers-in-helsinki/>

The Helsinki Housing Manifesto: http://issuu.com/vladanrena/docs/helsinki_housing_manifesto



Exhibition view of **The Housing Agenda** with wall drawing, La maison Folie Wazemmes, Lille, France, 2012.
Photo: Vladan Jeremić



Video still from **The Housing Agenda**, 29 min, camera: Tomasz Szrama, editing: Rena Rädle, Vladan Jeremić and Petar Savić, 2012, Helsinki, Finland.



Video stills from **The Housing Agenda**





Kiasma

Place:
Kiasma, Helsinki

Construction time:
2011-

Infrastructure:
70 flats
for precarious
migrant workers

Contractor:
European Social Fond
City of Helsinki



Billboards (200x100cm) of **World Communal Heritage Campaign** for precarious workers homes in Helsinki



Senat Square

Place:
Helsinki Senat Square

Construction time:
2011-

Infrastructure:
100 flats
for precarious
migrant workers

Contractor:
European Social Fond
City of Helsinki





Exhibition view of the video **The Housing Question** with wall drawing, Self Made Urbanism Rome, ngbk Berlin 2013. Photo: Rena Rädle

The Housing Question

The Housing Question is a video and artistic case study we made 2013 in Rome about the enclosed and guarded container ghettos for Roma people established far out of town. It reveals the political and economical exploitation of Roma people that has made possible through cultural stigmatisation, social isolation and spatial segregation in the city of Rome.

During the research we learned about Rome's history of immigration and the practice of self-organized and mostly "illegal" building of houses during the 20th century. Roma who came as guest-workers from Yugoslavia during the 70s integrated easily into this housing model. With the implementation of the "Nomad plan" in the 80s the situation changed. This new policy referred directly to the Roma population and was based on the idea of "cultural protection" of a traveling group of Sinti from Italy, securing them camping sites during their travel. From the marking of a group's "cultural identity", a new racist housing policy was derived.

The video "The Housing Question" is made from animated drawings and photographs of the city of Rome that accompany a fragmentary conversation of three figures. It is an elderly lady who survived a Nazi concentration camp in Germany and two younger figures who live in ghettoized

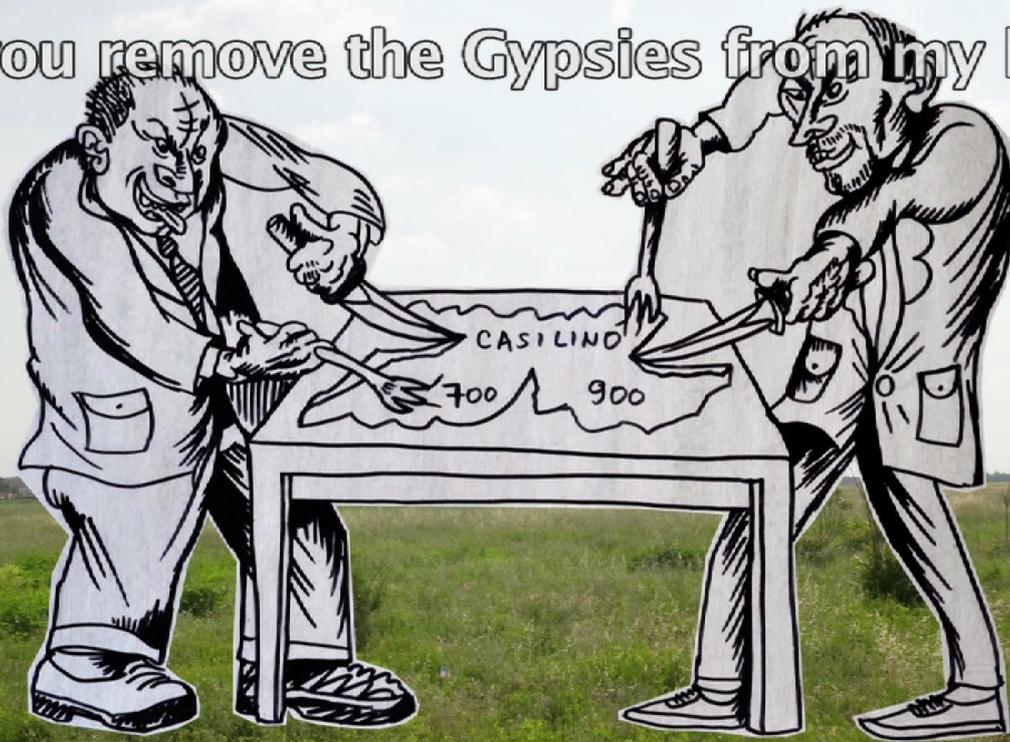
The work consists of:

Video The Housing Question (HD, 11 min, 2013): <http://vimeo.com/114080642>

Booklet with words and drawings of the video The Housing Question:

http://issuu.com/vladanrena/docs/the_housing_question_booklet

If you remove the Gypsies from my land,



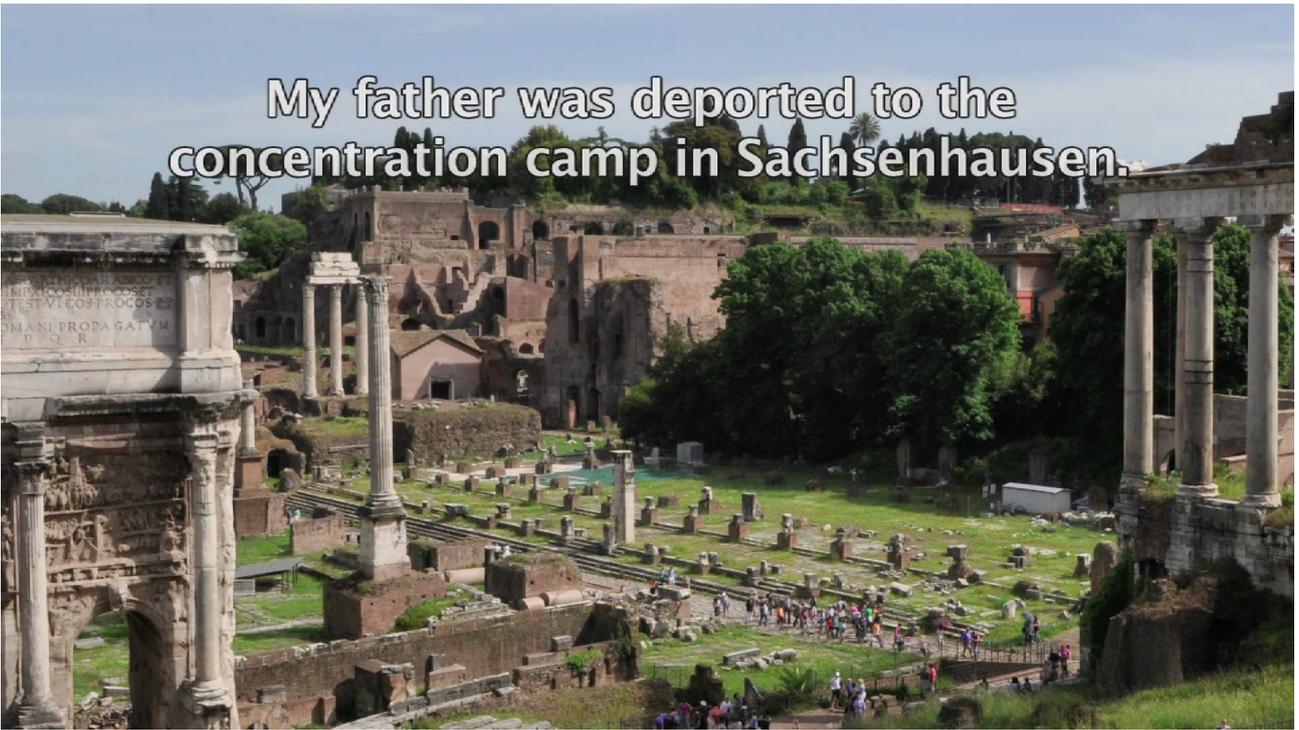
Stills from the video **The Housing Question**, 11 min, 2013

settlements in Rome that speak about their lives and everyday experiences. The video tells about the continuity of European racist policies towards Roma, situating the words in the iconic scenery of the historical city and places in Rome such as Casilino 700 and 900, where settlements have been demolished and their inhabitants relocated to containers. The words of the video and the drawings are published in a booklet too.

that survive on taking care of Roma,



My father was deported to the
concentration camp in Sachsenhausen.



Still from the video **The Housing Question**

They are fascists, that's true,
but what can I do?





Still from the video **The Housing Question**

