

A stylized graphic featuring two Carabinieri officers in black silhouette, riding bicycles against a light blue background. The officers are wearing traditional uniforms with white epaulettes and red stripes on their trousers. A white rectangular label with the word 'CARABINIERI' is positioned on the front of the first officer's bicycle. Two white gear icons are placed near the pedals of the bicycles.

CARABINIERI

STAZIONE MOBILE  
2008

Giannotti&Giuriati  
BELGIUM

*Aldo Giannotti*

(1977, Italy)

studio@aldogiannotti.com

Visual Artist, lives and works in Vienna

*in Art Studies in:*

Carrara/Italy, Wimbledon/England and  
München/Germany.

*Several projects, exhibitions and group exhibitions in the field of  
installation, video and photography i.e. at:*

artlab Galerie Hilger Vienna, *Austria*

Künstlerhaus Wien, *Austria*

Kunsthalle Wien, *Austria*

Sammlung Essl, *Austria*

Lothringer 13, *Germany*

Fruchthalle Kaiserslautern, *Germany*

Kunsthallen Nikolaj, *Denmark*

Ter Caemer-Meert Contemporary, *Belgium*

*Stefano Giuriati*

(1966, Italy)

stefanogiuriati@web.de

Visual Artist, lives and works in Munich

*Art Studies in:*

Venezia, Bologna, Carrara/Italy.

*Several projects, exhibitions and group exhibitions in the field of  
installation and video i.e. at:*

Museo Arxiu Tomàs Balvey, Barcelona, *Spain*

Kunsthalle Wien, *Austria*

Directors lounge Berlin, *Germany*

Officina giovani Prato, *Italy*

Galerie der Künstler, Munich, *Germany*

Lothringerhalle 13, *Germany*

Senko Studio, Viborg, *Denmark*

Ter Caemer-Meert Contemporary, *Belgium*

*Since 2006 also collaborating with the name* Giannotti&Giuriati.

*Representative gallery* nt artgallery, Bologna

*During the summer of 2007*, the exposition b.LINE brings together twelve artists who live and work in Munich, in the small village of Nieuwerkerke in the Northwest of Belgium, an area commonly referred to as 'Westhoek'. One of the participating artists is the Italian Stefano Giuriati, who has been working together with fellow artist and compatriot Aldo Giannotti for a few years. In a barn next to the entrance of the Ter Caemer-Meert property a dia show of the third installment of their joint project 'Carabinieri – Stazione Mobile' is shown. Their video monitor stands on a small side table, fronted by a few old chairs and a tandem bicycle with a metal identification plaque marked 'Carabinieri'.

The curatorial concept of b.LINE is based on the specific geographical location of the exhibition site. Situated on the border between France and Belgium, wedged between Belgium's French-speaking Wallonia and Dutch-speaking Flanders, this small piece of land has a very particular history, and its inhabitants relate to borders in their very own way. Similarly, the concept of identity and all variations thereupon, takes a central place in most of the participating artists' works.

*The first part* of the ambitious 'Carabinieri – Stazione Mobile' program is staged in Munich in the summer of 2006, as part of the 'Toleranz. Gefährliche Kreuzungen' project. Giannotti&Giuriati, dressed-up as Italian Carabinieri, pose and are photographed in front of various monuments and state buildings of the Bavarian capital. They drive their 'police car' along a route previously cleared but also precisely prescribed by the local police authorities, through the centre of Munich. They visit the Bavarian Parliament, the Staatskanzlei, the Pinakothek museums, and the Königsplatz. An inspiring but highly controversial project, in which the artists try to add a self-critical aspect to the obsessive South German desire for security and safety, spiced with a healthy dose of humor.

This first action is preserved through a number of exquisite documentary photographs and a year calendar, published specifically on the occasion of this performance.

*The second part* of 'Carabinieri-Stazione Mobile' is situated in the Italian university city of Bologna. It's winter. The Carabinieri's police car crashes into the facade of a restaurant located next to an art gallery (nt art gallery) in a small narrow street. An impossible situation since such an accident, given the specificity of the site, can't really happen. The whole scene is staged by the artists. In the adjacent art gallery they present their recent oeuvre. This intervention, which goes untitled, is also photographically documented.

*In Belgium*, in the context of the b.LINE exhibition, the artists add a third and last instalment to the 'Carabinieri-Stazione Mobile' project, entitled 'A Love Story'. In contrast with Bavaria, this country relates in a very different way to the concept of safety. Additionally, the Belgian sense of humor is very tongue-in-cheek, a bit morbid, and as per social consensus sarcastic and full of irony. The response to the question whether the Carabinieri can freely circulate on and around the exhibition grounds, is a dry "No problem as long as they don't bother anyone!". Belgium is a tolerant and car-loving country. Borders are there because of their "couleur locale", maintained as tourist traps full of local flavor.

Most inhabitants of this small country prefer the grey language of diplomacy and compromise. Absolute statements are considered suspect. Is it the grey mass of clouds which glides over the North Sea before revealing a sun-drenched clear blue sky, which shapes the Belgian's nature? Or the fact that Belgium is a mixture of two very different cultures, forced to live together? A difficult act of balancing attraction and repulsion, which was brought to a good end after all.



That is, until a few months ago; the political crisis in which the country finds itself is entirely due to the fact that politicians forgot their (Belgian) willingness to compromise. Belgium suffers from a deep identity crisis and risks falling apart. Set against this specific background, the project 'A Love Story' from Giannotti&Giuriati is a remarkable photographic and filmic document.

*'A Love Story' is the first film project* which both artists deliberately realized as a duo. It is the cinematic report of an extraordinary journey, set within the artistic framework of b.LINE, and a true masterpiece. A few hours of footage were condensed into seven minutes of viewing pleasure. Two Italian policemen discover the 'Westhoek', crossing the border between Belgium and France, between French and Dutch speaking regions, several times, on foot and by car. They visit the North Sea coast of Nieuwpoort, and ride their two-seated bicycle onto the beach. Their journey ends with a remarkable meeting. The plot is surprising, to say the least. It is entirely unexpected that this travel log would turn into an out-of-place love story. The atmospheric shots stand in sharp contrast with the documentary-style photographs of the prior two episodes. The way in which Brel's 'Plat Pays' is rendered is very moving. The world seems plain and simple, open, happy. The illusion is created that one can breathe the fresh sea air, feel the breeze. The Flemish biking tradition of the cyclist battling upwards is suggested, people seem infinitesimally small against the big windy sky. Caught by the rough beauty of the country, both policemen forget their parts on various occasions and deviate from the traditional role which society prescribes them. They follow their hearts and become tourists themselves. As a viewer one empathizes with them. At the end of the film they meet two women on the beach, both dressed identically in red: lifeguards. An intense embrace ensues. This meeting was not planned or orchestrated. A total coincidence, a happy twist of fate: A Love Story ... in Belgium.

**Erno Vroonen**  
Curator b.LINE



# JANUARY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			





*Posing Carabinieri (monument to the fallen, city of Poperinge)*

# FEBRUARY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						
4	5	6	7	1	2	3
				8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	<i>Stefano's birthday</i>					
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		
						







# MARCH

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
 3	 4	 5	 6	 7	 8	 9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						







# APRIL

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				






# MAY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



# JUNE

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
 2	 3	 4	 5	 6	 7	 8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						





*Carabinieri lost in a corn field, between France and Belgium*

# JULY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 <i>Birthday of Stefano's mother</i>	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 <i>Birthday of Stefano's father</i>	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FRANCE

50



90



130







10 t

SAUF LIVRAISONS



# AUGUST



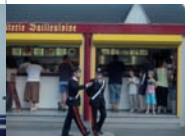

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
 4	 5	 6	 7	1 8	2 9	3 10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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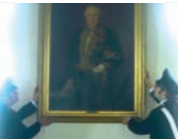

# SEPTEMBER

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	<i>Aldo's birthday</i>				
						



*Carabinieri greet the inhabitants of Poperinge*

# OCTOBER


Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		







# NOVEMBER

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
 3		 5	 6 <i>Birthday of Aldo's mother</i>	 7	 8	 9
 10	 11	 12	 13	 14	 15	 16
 17	 18	 19	 20	 21	 22	 23
 24	 25	 26	 27	 28	 29	 30



*Belgian countryside with bunker and Carabinier*

# DEZEMBER

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	<i>Birthday of Aldo's father</i>			
						

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*Imprint*

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*Photos:* Viktor Schaidler and Lore Rabaut  
*Graphic:* Florian Hulan  
*Translations:* Michael Meert

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Landeshauptstadt  
München  
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