

Alberto Garutti

(Galbiate, Como, 1948)

“Come down from the pedestal”: according to Alberto Garutti, this is what the artist must do in order for art to act in the real world and be truly public. Recognizing the work of art as a place within which client and artist encounter each other — in a web of economic, social, and political relationships — Garutti brings these relationships into the creative process. The inspiration and ideas that are the genesis of each work, whether destined for an institution, an urban space, or a private collection, are not sought in the solitude of the studio, but instead are developed through encounters, conversations, and research in the field. “The work,” Garutti maintains, “is designed as a two-faced device. It is conceived as a useful object for citizens, and only in this way has the possibility of being rooted in the region and continuing to live, but at the same time, it is presented as a linguistic exploration of our imagination for people who belong to the art system.”

Ho camminato per 1270 metri dalla Galleria d'Arte Moderna di Torino alle OGR (I Walked 1270 Meters from Turin's Gallery of Modern Art to the OGR), 2008, is a large digital print within which a continuous line is compressed, whose length corresponds to the distance indicated in the title. The work belongs to a series where Garutti incorporates into his work the physical distance between places in the city that have particular significance for the potential collector, literally travelling and then drawing the itineraries, thus giving physical form to the urban and social fabrics that are fundamental to his artistic research. In this case the relationship relates to the current site of GAM-Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea, located in the center of Turin, and the OGR (Officine Grandi Riparazioni), a large complex of buildings that originally served as a large railroad repair shop and is now a new potential exhibition hub. (MB)