

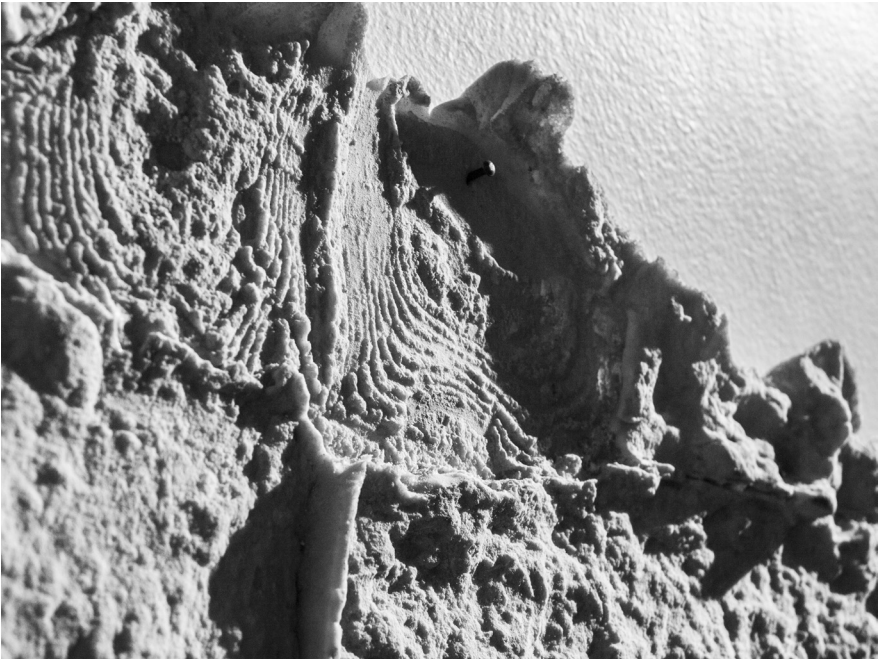
MIGRATIO

Mdina-Valletta

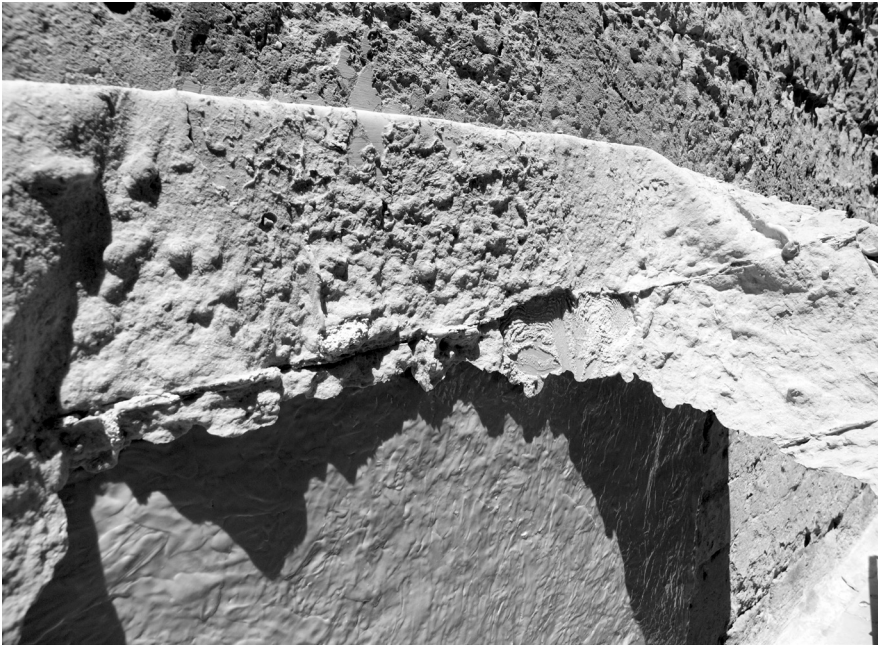
Ilaria Cuccagna

Contemporary Artist

Migratio, Mdina-Valletta is a cast created from the outer walls of the church of San Pietro in Vincoli, Mdina, the ancient capital of Malta. It reminds us of a skin that preserves the traces imprinted in the wall built of tuff, a very soft stone that is constantly exposed to corrosion. Allowing us to read the passage of time imprinted on the wall itself, its flesh: signs of the wooden beams, texture of the magmatic stone, plaster residues tell us its construction attempting and the attempts to preserve it, implemented over the centuries. The idea behind the project was to create a link between the two capitals of the island (Mdina the ancient and Valletta the contemporary), whose relationship is characterised by strong social tensions. Dating back to 1530 when the Order of the Knights of St. John arrived in Malta to settle permanently. However, the aristocracy of Mdina immediately opposed the Knights forbidding them access to the city. One of the reasons that contributed to the construction of Valletta by the Knights. The official story, instead, tells us that the aristocracy of Mdina welcomed the Order. Reflecting on this historical falsehood and the persistence of tensions between the inhabitants of the two capitals over the centuries, I wanted to cre-







ate a metaphorical union creating a bridge by moving a symbolic element of the city of Mdina within the walls of Valletta. Part of the oldest city walls belonging to the church of San Pietro in Vincoli are captured, using a silicone rubber and subsequently transported to Valletta, as an invitation to reconcile the two cities. Later the work travelled throughout exhibition in Italy, in galleries situated in Milan and Como. *Migratio, Mdina-Valletta* is a skin, contemporarily a wall and door, symbols of division but also of openness and dialogues. It was born to be transported and as a relic it will continue to migrate telling its own story.

Biography

Ilaria Cuccagna is an Italian visual artist. She lives and works between Como and Switzerland.

Images Captions.

In order of appearance.

All images are by the author.



