

# MY FASCIST GRANDPA

Action: Site-specific projections and live painting of collected family pictures. Exhibition: Collages, Found pictures, Maps, Fine Art Prints, 120x80 cm

A project by Laura Fiorio in collaboration with Mario Marganii and with visual material by Leonor, Annalisa, Mario, Francesca, Tonino, Mariavittoria and Giovanni

supported by Garage Arts Platform

Carlentini (IT), 2022

According to American historian Ann Laura Stoler, the term aphasia describes the inability to talk about one's past, especially in the context of colonial power relations. Drawing on my family history, focussing primarily on my grandfather, who fought in the fascist army in Ethiopia, I employ participatory archival methods to deal with materials (family photographs, letters, objects, official documents) that belong to what is commonly called a difficult heritage. Relating the intimate to the monumental heritage site of Borgo Rizza, built in the 40s by the Entity of Colonization of the Sicilian Latifondo, I aimed to shift the narrative of institutional memory linking it to the personal and the affective, and to stress its connection with a violent historical past, often not critically discussed. I mixed my family's materials with those collected through informal invitations and open calls. Through site-specific projections on the modernist architectures, and discursive live painting workshops, the items were activated and reworked individually or in collaboratively. Exercises in dealing with histories that, being located in our proximity and intimate sphere of affection, reveal the normalization of ideology and oppressive systems of power among people. Making possible connections between local histories and collective memories, and bringing the discussion from a verbal to a visual level, this work problematizes my and many others' grandfathers' involvement in the fascist regime in Italy and in colonial settlements. Connecting intimate archives and experiences is a practice that can lead to healing processes, collective discussions and shared counter-narratives.







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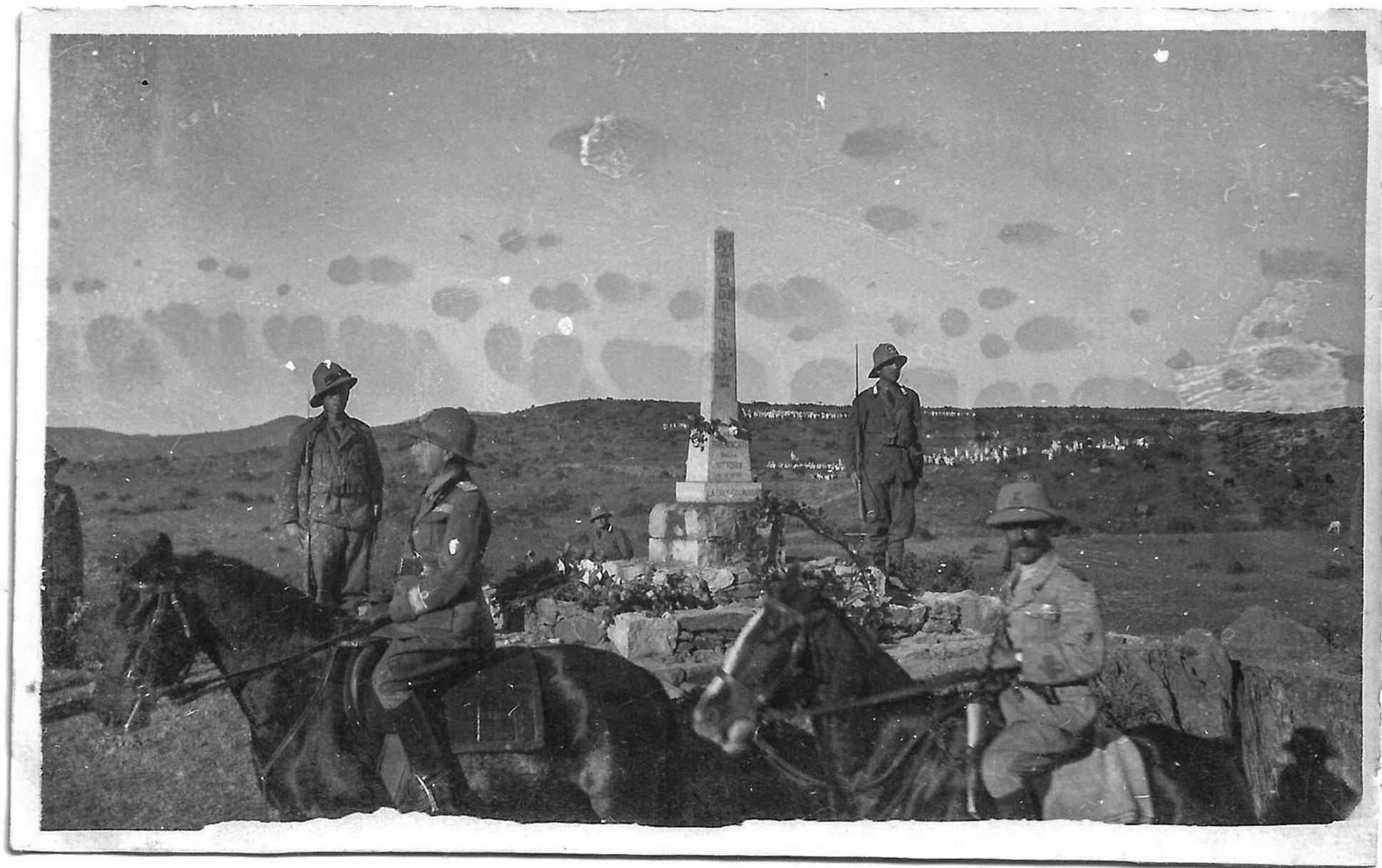
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