

Ricostruzione: Disertori/Libera

Tom Holert with Claudia Honecker

2008, video essay and various display elements

Tom Holert's writings deal with visual culture, politics, war, mobility, glamour, and the governmentality of the present. In *Ricostruzione: Disertori/Libera* he has teamed up with Claudia Honecker to create a multilevel inquiry into architecture, politics, psychology, and philosophy loosely based on the lives and works of Beppino Disertori (1907–1992) and Adalberto Libera (1903–1963).

Disertori was a neuropsychiatrist with neovitalist leanings as well as a humanist philosopher and antifascist active in the resistance during the German occupation of Italy. His prolific writings span clinical studies, psychology, philosophy, and travel. Libera, likewise a native of Trentino, was one of the most visible young “rationalist” architects during Italy's Fascist regime; he continued to work in post-war Italy as a project manager with INA-Casa, the vast state reconstruction program — posited as a laboratory for new articulations of dwelling — that generated hundreds of building projects between 1949 and 1963. The juxtaposition of Disertori and Libera may (and should) appear incommensurate and forced. *Ricostruzione* neither initiates a posthumous dialogue between the two nor suggests a reconciliation. Instead, it reads their historically and intellectually specific projects by reconfiguring and fictionalizing them. At the same time, it raises questions about the potential for research within the institutional and theoretical realm of contemporary visual arts.

Berlin-based art historian and critic Tom Holert is working on a long-term study of “the diagnostic modern.” Claudia Honecker is a tv journalist living in Berlin.