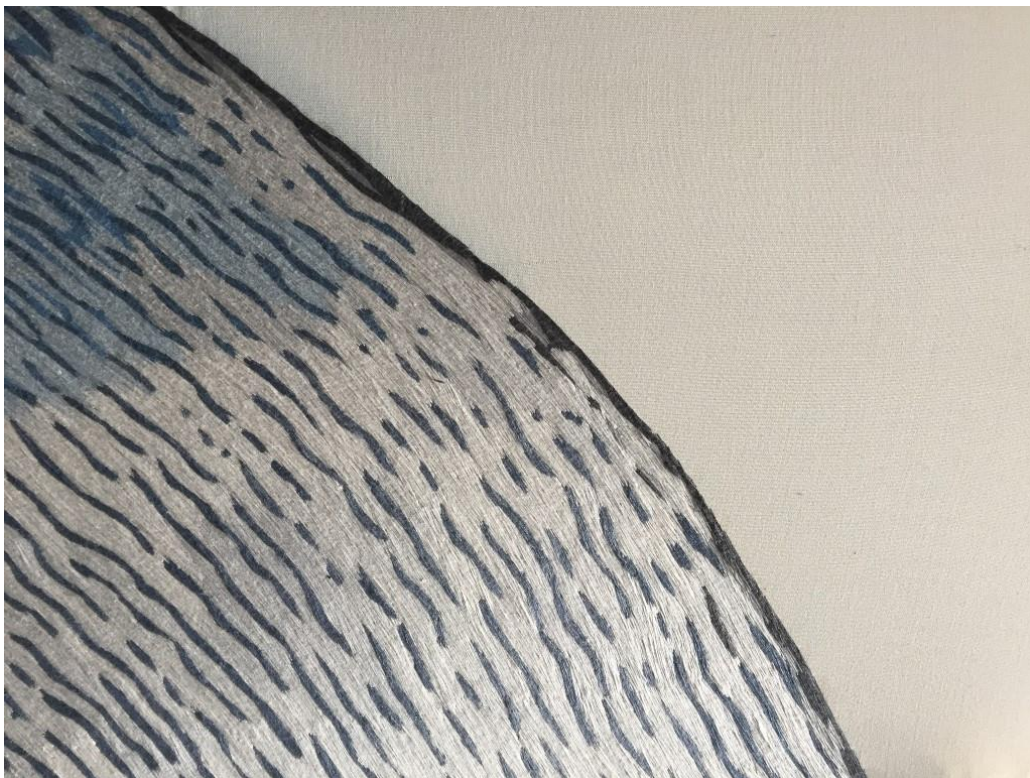


Claudia Losi *Being There*

18 September - 24 November 2019



Claudia Losi, *Poli Antartici Constitutio*, work in progress (2019)
Courtesy the artist

Being There is a project conceived and realised by Italian artist Claudia Losi in collaboration with arts collective, Collettivo Amigdala. Commissioned by Ikon Gallery in 2019 and supported by Q-International, Fondazione Quadriennale di Roma and Regione Emilia Romagna, *Being There* is comprised of two parts, an exhibition and a performance, which are inextricably linked.

Exhibited for the first time in Ikon's Tower Room, *Poli Antartici Constitutio* (2019) is an intricate silk embroidery featuring a depiction of the Antarctic as illustrated by Athanasius Kircher in his visionary writings *Mundus Subterraneus* (1664-1665). The piece was fabricated over a period of two years by a group of twelve women, none of whom are professional embroiderers; mostly friends and acquaintances of Claudia Losi who attended her studio to dedicate a few hours of work as a break from their daily working routine. This collective work carries the stories, conversation, secrets and laughter of the women in every stitch.

Collettivo Amigdala is an artistic group using voice as a medium in site specific performances. They activate Losi's exhibition through a performance along Birmingham's canals. Using *Slow Boat* as a stage, the performers interact with local singers along the towpath, creating a quasi-spontaneous choral dialogue.

Composer and vocal researcher Meike Clarelli has collaborated with Davide Fasulo to compose a fusion of folk songs, love ballads, women workers' chants and children's lullabies, which are stitched together with text by Losi and the improvisations and musical contributions of the participants. The passage of the boat gives rise to numerous reactions from the performers and singers along the canal, intertwining male and female voices, moving and stationary, which together sew a story that moves along the surface of water and then disappears, like a voice.

ENDS

For more information, high-res images and to request interviews please contact Rebecca Small or Laura Jaunzems on 0121 248 0708 or email r.small@ikon-gallery.org / l.jaunzems@ikon-gallery.org

Social Media Handles:

Instagram, Twitter and Facebook:

@ikongallery #IkonGallery #ClaudiaLosi

Links: ikon-gallery.org / claudialosi.com

Note to Editors:

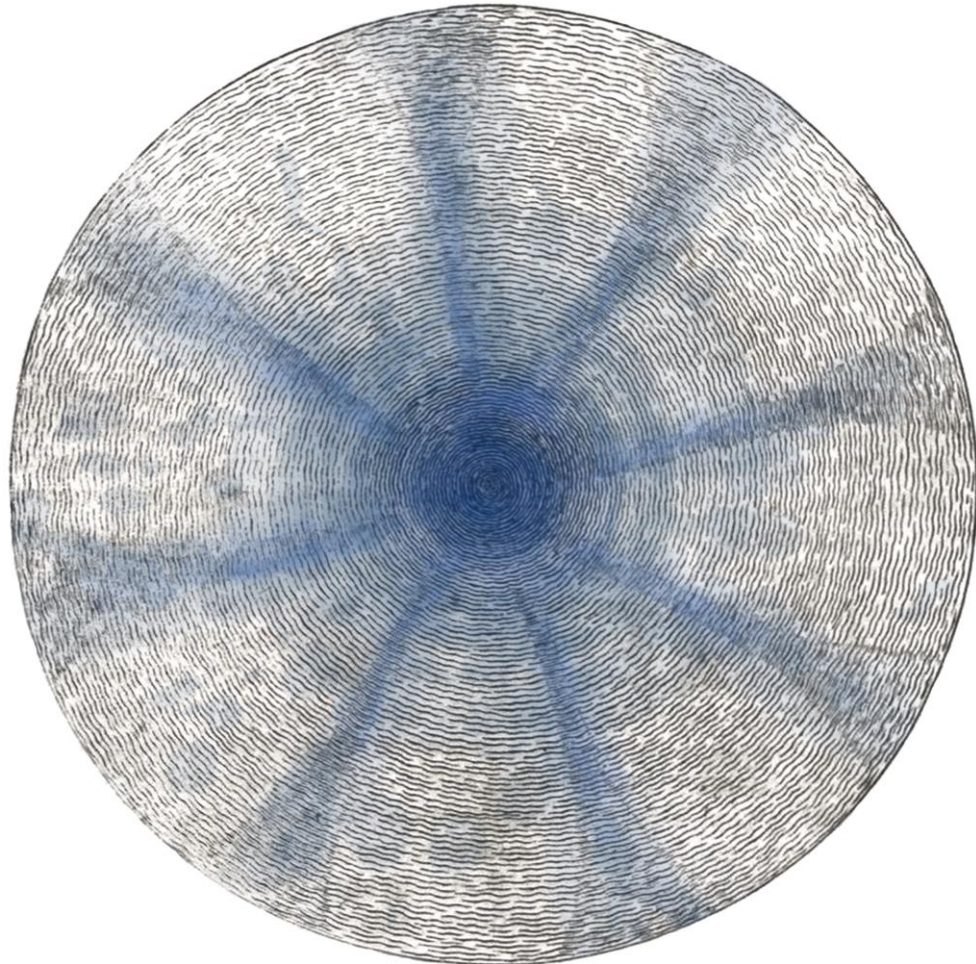
1. *Being There* performance with Collettivo Amigdala, Wednesday 18 September, 4-5.30pm.
Being There exhibition opening, Wednesday 18 September, 6-8pm.
2. Claudia Losi met Collettivo Amigdala and their composer and vocal researcher Meike Clarelli in 2018 during the realisation of *Voce a vento* on Monte Bulgheria in Cilento and Vallo di Diano National Park (Province of Salerno). Here, two female choirs of thirty women crossed mountain paths singing words especially written by Losi, alongside an installation of thirty handmade windsocks marking the direction of the wind. Losi and Chiarelli are producing a new LP and book focused on this performance, curated by Katia Anguelova and produced by Snaporazverein-CH and Kunstverein -I. The LP is first in a series of vinyl by Losi focused on displaced performances connecting the landscape through choral chants. The second issue of this series will be dedicated to *Being There*.
3. Ikon is an internationally acclaimed contemporary art venue situated in central Birmingham. Established in 1964 by a group of artists, Ikon is an educational charity and works to encourage public engagement with contemporary art through exhibiting new work in a context of debate and participation. Education is at the heart of Ikon's activities, stimulating public interest in and understanding of contemporary visual art.

Through a variety of talks, tours, workshops and seminars, Ikon's Learning Team aims to build dynamic relationships with audiences, enabling visitors to engage with, discuss and reflect on contemporary art.

4. Ikon is open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am - 5pm. Admission is free. Ikon Gallery is supported using public funding from Arts Council England and Birmingham City Council. For the latest news and events follow @ikongallery on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).
5. Ikon's *Slow Boat* programme, *Looping the Loop*, is supported by Arts Council England Strategic Touring, Michael Marsh Charitable Trust, W.A. Cadbury Trust, Grantham Yorke Trust, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council and Canal & River Trust.
6. Arts Council England is the national development body for arts and culture across England, working to enrich people's lives. ACE support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to visual art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2018 and 2022, ACE will invest £1.45 billion of public money from government and an estimated £860 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. [artscouncil.org.uk](https://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

IKON

Ikon Gallery
1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS
0121 248 0708 / ikon-gallery.org
Open Tuesday-Sunday & Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am-5pm / free entry
Registered charity no. 528892



Poli Antartici Constitutio, preparatory drawing from Athanasius Kircher: *Athanasii Kircheri E Soc. Jesu Mundus Subterraneus Amstelodami* (1678), Amsterdam, ex officina Janssonio-Waesbergiana (1678).
Courtesy Biblioteca Nazionale Braidense, Milan

IKON

Ikon Gallery
1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS
0121 248 0708 / ikon-gallery.org
Open Tuesday-Sunday & Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am-5pm / free entry
Registered charity no. 528892



Claudia Losi, *Voce a vento* (2018)
Courtesy the artist