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Il Porto dell'Amore

1919. At the end of the First World War, a large part of Italian society perceived the victory as “mutilated”. Emblematic of this dissatisfaction was the situation of the town of Fiume in Istria, with a mainly Italian population, which had requested to be annexed to Italy in 1918. In September 1919, Gabriele D'Annunzio - poet, intellectual and charismatic man of action - led a handful of deserters to seize the city on 12 September. They held it for almost 16 months, until the Italian government, after having attempted to solve the issue with mediation and by siege, opted for the military solution. Between 24 and 31 December 1920, the Italian army attacked Fiume, taking it from the legionnaires despite their strenuous resistance, not surrendering to an inevitable defeat. After those events, Fiume (now called Rijeka) has been Italian (1924 - 1947), Yugoslavian (1947 - 1992) and Croatian (since 1992).

Il Porto dell'Amore is a stratified, modular work based around an urban conversion of the city of Fiume, including initiatives like the construction of a monumental interactive lighthouse in the Port. And from the Port area, the project spreads out through the narrow streets, winding up the hill, intersecting various references to the lost history of Fiume. Far from being an act of historic revisionism in dubious taste, or a tribute to a historic moment that deserves to be recovered, *Il Porto dell'Amore* is an attempt to reproduce an atmosphere, a sensation, a dream of liberty that lies an immeasurable distance from the present day world: that of a Republic founded by artists and intellectuals, that took the shape of a "pirate utopia".

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