

A PROJECT BY
SILVIA MAGGI

Dream Archive

AN ARCHIVE OF THE
COLLECTIVE IMAGINARY

Dream Archive is an itinerant artistic research project exploring the relationship between place, dreams, memory and collective imagination.

The project starts from the idea that inhabiting the same place means sharing a continuous sensory experience: the same weather and light, the same sounds and rhythms, the same streets, landscapes, histories and stories.

These experiences shape our perception of the world while we are awake , but might they also leave traces in our dreams?

Dreams are usually understood as intimate and individual experiences. Dream Archive looks instead at what happens between them.

By collecting dreams from people who inhabit the same territory, the project looks for recurring images, places, presences, symbols and atmospheres: fragments that may reveal an imaginary shared by a community, even when it remains invisible in everyday life.

The archive therefore does not seek to interpret dreams or establish a scientific relationship between place and dreaming.

It creates a space for listening, collecting and putting individual experiences into relation.

At its centre is a simple question:

What can the dreams of a community tell us about the place they inhabit?

This question becomes an investigation into the dream world contained within the place: its ephemeral connections, its life beyond waking, and the collective imaginary that takes shape between individual dreams.

THE ARCHIVE

Listening to a city while it sleeps

Dream Archive is built through encounter.

The project enters a territory and creates situations in which people can share and record their dreams.

Through conversations, listening sessions, workshops and informal encounters, dreams are collected as fragments of an ephemeral archive.

The focus is not on who dreamt what, but on what begins to appear when many dreams are placed next to one another.

A house appears in several dreams.

A street returns in another form.

A stranger becomes a recurring presence.

Water, darkness, animals, voices or forgotten places begin to connect different stories.

These coincidences are not treated as evidence to be explained.

They become material for artistic research.

The archive is therefore a living process.

A dream changes when it is remembered, changes again when it is told, and changes once more when it enters a collective body of images.

The collection of dreams will seek to encounter different voices connected to the city and to observe how a shared environment might surface through their nocturnal experiences.

The resulting archive will remain intentionally open: a constellation of voices and images rather than a definitive catalogue.

An archive of what normally disappears in the morning.

THE COLLECTIVE DREAM

From individual fragments to a shared dreamscape

The collected material becomes the starting point for a new artwork.

Rather than documenting or illustrating the dreams literally, Dream Archive transforms their fragments, images, words, atmospheres, sounds, memories and recurring motifs into a collective dreamscape.

The final outcome is a video artwork: a macro-dream constructed from multiple individual experiences.

There is no single protagonist and no single author.

The work emerges through accumulation, overlap and transformation.

Individual dreams lose their boundaries and begin to form a larger landscape: one in which different voices, memories and imaginary spaces coexist.

The video becomes a way of making visible something that normally remains intangible: the life of a place beyond waking.

A city made of fragments.

A city connected by invisible threads.

A city that continues to exist while its inhabitants sleep.

Dream Archive is an attempt to collect those threads and turn them into an image of the collective imaginary.

Many dreams.

One place.

A world in between.

DREAM ARCHIVE

An itinerant archive of dreams, memory and collective imagination.

An ongoing artistic research by Silvia Maggi

Chapter I

Pennabilli, Italy

Semina Residency

Crossings: for a living community archive

2026

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