

A PALAZZO GALLERY
is pleased to present

Project room
Paolo Gonzato
L'isola delle rose

The Island of the Roses (in Esperanto Insulo de la Rosoj) was an artificial platform of 400 m² in the Adriatic Sea, 11,612 km off Rimini and 500m outside Italian territorial waters.

In 1968 its creator, the engineer Giorgio Rosa from Bologna, declared it a sovereign state with its own Government, currency and postal stamps.

The experience of the self-proclaimed Esperantist Republic was short-lived. On the 11th of February 1969, after demolishing the manmade brickwork and having cut the connecting links between the poles of the steel structure, frogmen of the Italian Navy laid mines to blow it up.

The remains of the utopian construction, which lasted a little less than a year, lie now at the bottom of the sea.

The detonation of an art form.

A broken structure, a shattered dream, portrayed by building material of a stalled site and warning signs.

The warning is for presumed imminent danger, an unbalanced state of being and the looming inevitable collapse.

Opening Friday 28th September from 6 pm
29 September – 30 November