



nowhere



GIUDITTA VENDRAME

Italy, 1985

Danube: an international waterway

2017, digital video, ~20 min

Taken on a journey along oscillatory shapes and inertia forms, the work 'Danube: an international waterway'; is a recent project by Giuditta Vendrame. Fed by melting water and rain, the Danube is seen as the aorta running through the European continent. It is the second longest waterway of Europe and crosses ten countries in and outside of the European Union. This hugely important river forms the center of this work and fits perfectly in Vendrame's oeuvre: water has been at the focus of her practice for a couple of years. The work captures the unlikely event of frozen flowing water and sheds light onto the metamorphosis of fluid to solid, as well as onto the transitional melting phase turning the matter back into its original condition.

Inside there was only an enormous, transparent block with infinite internal needles in which the light of the sunset was broken up into colored stars. Disconcerted, knowing that the children were waiting for an immediate explanation, José Arcadio Buendía ventured a murmur: "It's the largest diamond in the world." "No," the gypsy coutered. "It's ice."
(One Hundred Years of Solitude)

Questioning the freedom of movement, the territorial movements of water are heavily charged. Though, escaping topographical and political hierarchy, water crosses borders without conflict and owns "citizenship" in its fluidity. By portraying water as a connector, Vendrame erases the logic that we imply to land division and highlights the right of water on its own. The work therefore shows that flowing water as no man's land can be healing and unifying, rather than a divider of sorts.