

- Fulvio Pezzarossa

“What One Is Forced to Leave Behind and to Find: Objects of Memory and Desire in Migration Narratives”

The focus of this article is contemporary Italian literature by authors of migrant background, including both first and second generation writers. It provides a nuanced overview of the recurring motif of objects and spaces – such as photographs, trinkets, and bathrooms – in novels published from the late 1990s onward. The article argues that these motifs serve to express the authors’ experiences of in-betweenness and hyphenated cultural identity.

Keywords: Migrations, Africa, objects, narratives, migrant writing

- Sabrina Alessandrini

Family Memory and Identity Construction: Second-Generation Maghrebi Descendants Recount Their Parents’ Migration

For families in a permanent migratory context, the transmission of parents’ migratory journey is an important component in the construction of their children’s identity. For these young people, preserving family memories is a way to become fully aware of themselves and their roots. Based on a qualitative survey (semi-structured questionnaires and interviews) conducted on a sample of adolescents born in Italy to Maghreb immigrant families, the contribution aims to analyse the management of this inheritance in the construction of their identity.

Keywords: Family migration memory, identity construction, second generation, Italy, teenagers

- Valentina Geraci

Objects, Sensory Memory, and Identity in the Transnational Mobility of Senegalese GP

This article analyzes the role of *Gratuité Parziale* (GP), Senegalese women active in the informal transnational trade, linking Senegal to global destinations. Their practices transcend economics, functioning as acts of memory that preserve and transmit Senegalese traditions across borders. Focusing on sensory and emotional dimensions, the study explores how their mobility redefines belonging, and underscores GP’s significance in diasporic context.

Keywords: Senegalese diaspora, transnational trade, cultural identity, informal economy, migration and mobility studies

- Gabriella Ghermandi

Daddy, meet Mahlet

In this short story, Italian novelist Gabriella Ghermandi explores her feelings toward her native country, Ethiopia, which she left in 1991. Ghermandi has since returned several times, also accompanied by her daughter Mahlet. These journeys have deepened her connection to Ethiopia, allowing her to navigate questions of identity while also coming to terms with the profound changes the country has experienced over the past three decades.

Keywords: Memory, Ethiopia, identity, Atse Tewodros Project, Hailé Selassié

- Simona Cella

#### Object, Almost: The Metamorphosis of Objects Between Art, Memory, and Politics

The article illustrates the production of Meriem Bennani, Binta Diaw, and Monia Ben Hamouda, three young artists who experiment with multidisciplinary practices that transform everyday objects into performative acts, talismans or political statements. Intercepted by prestigious art prizes and foundations, they represent a new generation of artists who, moving fluidly between their country of origin and Western cities such as Milan and New York, use art as a tool for biographical reflection, social criticism, and testimony of political instances.

Keywords: Decolonial art, transcultural art, contemporary art, Morocco, Senegal, Tunisia

- Workineh Kelbessa

#### Biodiversity and the Environment: With Special Reference to Africa

This paper explores how the term “biodiversity” has been conceived, the current state of biodiversity, the threat it faces, and how humans can protect it, using some examples from Africa. While different communities have developed conservation approaches that are critical for maintaining biodiversity, enhancing ecosystem, resilience, and providing sustainable livelihoods, environmental change and current sociopolitical systems have altered these approaches and put biodiversity at risk. Collaboration between the indigenous and scientific communities, as well as national and global actors, is essential to protecting the Earth’s rich biodiversity and maintaining a sustainable future.

Keywords: Biodiversity, climate change, global cooperation, indigenous conservation practices, extinction

- Juliane Wedell

#### *Zwischenwelten* (In-Between Worlds): Art as a Means of Healing Mental Health in Refugees and Migrants

This article discusses the author’s personal experience conducting art therapy sessions with migrants and refugees in Italy. Through the presentation of some case studies, it demonstrates how art therapy can be a valuable tool to process the often traumatic experiences associated with transit and relocation.

Keywords: Displacement, art & art therapy, mental health, well-being, empowerment

- Pierluigi Musarò and Stefania Peca

#### Return to the homeland: *a tale that heals the heart*

The article focuses on women returning to their countries of origin after a period in Italy. Based on data from two focus groups within the “We Propose” project, it highlights the complexity of return as a process influenced by community context and socio-political factors. Far from being a failure, return often reflects ongoing migration trajectories and re-migration desires. The study calls for migration policies that recognize return as a nuanced experience, especially for women facing stigma both in Italy and upon return.

Keywords: Return, Morocco, Tunisia, women, agency

Tekeste Negash

*Africa e Mediterraneo* (AeM) Established 1992. A Journal that Unites People and Cultures Celebrates Number 100. A Personal Reflection

This article reflects on *Africa e Mediterraneo*'s thirty-year history, marking the occasion of the publication of its 100th issue. The author, Tekeste Negash – a lecturer in African Studies at institutions in Sweden and Italy – offers a personal commentary on the journal's cultural significance, along with recommendations for its future management. His insights are grounded in his deep familiarity with the publication, to which he has been a contributor. Negash underscores *Africa e Mediterraneo*'s unique role in redefining the Mediterranean as a space of unity and in challenging the dominance of Western knowledge systems. The journal has consistently documented the evolving relationship between Europe and Africa, offering African scholars a valuable platform to share their perspectives. However, as an independent journal lacking institutional support, *Africa e Mediterraneo* now faces a critical juncture. To ensure its survival, Negash advocates for forming partnerships with the Italian Ministry of Education and transitioning to a fully digital format.

Keywords: *Africa e Mediterraneo* journal, African studies, Italy, sustainability, publishing

- Sandra Federici

“Alphonse Madiba dit Daudet” Continues Dreaming About Europe

A review of the third installment of the graphic novel *Les aventures d'Alphonse Madiba dit Daudet* by Christophe Edimo and Al'Mata, followed by a short interview with Edimo.

- Alice Palmerini

George Zogo: *La Foule et L'Appelle*

*George Zogo: La Foule et L'Appelle* is a retrospective exhibition on the Cameroonian artist, held at the former Teatro dell'Ortiolo in Florence, in February 2025. Curated by BHMf with Alice Palmerini (curatorial assistant), Karen A (project coordination), and the students of the Master in Curatorial Practice at IED, the exhibition features paintings, drawings, sketches, videos, and private photographs from the archives of *Africa e Mediterraneo* and Dominique Tagne Waffo. Together, these works document the life and career of an artist who spent more than half of his life in Italy. Zogo's work reflects his exploration of form and an innovative interpretation of both Cameroonian and “Modernist” artistic languages. It also highlights his relationship with the city of Florence, where he helped foster intercultural dialogue and became the first African artist to exhibit at the prestigious Palazzo Strozzi. While critiquing Europe's cultural extractivism and its biased conceptions of “primitive” African art, Zogo drew from his personal experience of migration to forge a dialogue between the two worlds.

Keywords: George Zogo, visual art, Cameroon, Black History Month Florence, intercultural dialogue

- *Africa e Mediterraneo* editorial team

The exhibition “Ribelli come il vento” (Wild As the Wind) in Bologna

An exhibition inspired by the work of African-American artist Ayana V. Jackson, curated by the pupils of the IPSAS Aldrovandi Rubbiani in Bologna. It explores the themes of discrimination, intersectionality, and sisterhood.

- Keur Gou Mak art collective

*Quando scende la notte* (When Night Falls): a film by art collective Keur Gou Mak

An art collective of Italian-Senegalese women based in Milan decides to make a film on their journey of discovery of their native Senegal.