

Olivia Valentine

fig.1



Metropoliz Future Forest

Drawn Prospects



1 Firat Erdim, Kim Karls-
rud, Daniel Phillips
and Olivia Valentine,
Metropoliz Future Forest,
2015, Rome.

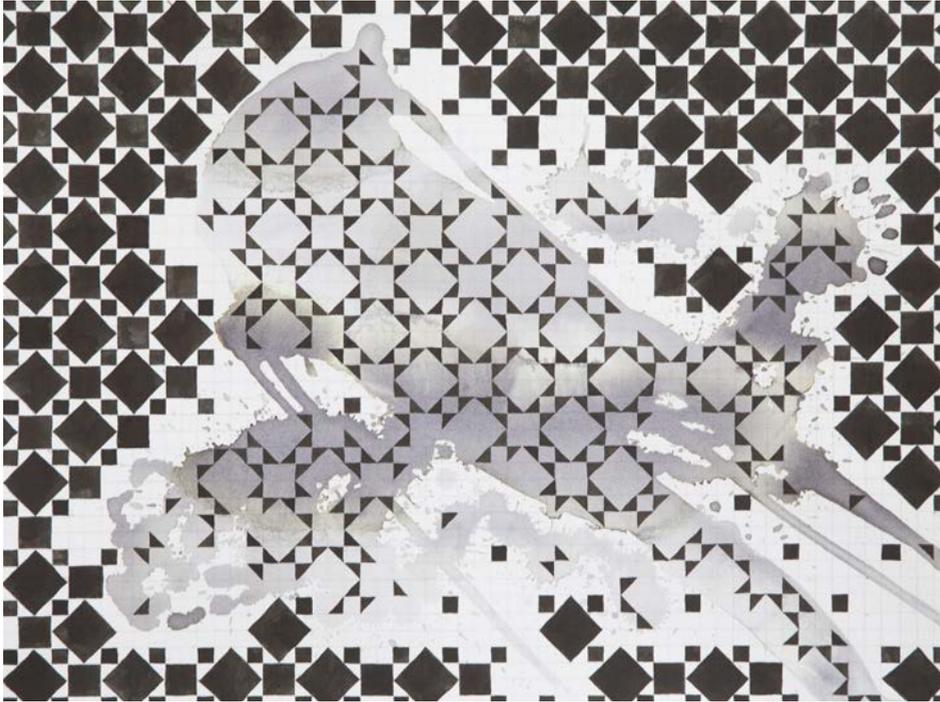


fig. 2

Metropoliz Future Forest is a 1:1-scale plan,¹ drawn in situ at the Museo dell'Altro e dell'Altrove di Metropoliz, an informal immigrant community and art space located in an abandoned salami factory compound on the periphery of Rome. As a plan, this project both predicts and facilitates the growth of a future forest and garden, slowly created over an extended period of time by subsequent perforations in the concrete ground [fig. 1].

Metropoliz Future Forest grew out of a series of watercolor and graphite drawings, entitled *Interruptions*, based on floor tile patterns found in central Rome [fig. 2–4]. Referencing the tile patterns in a variety of spaces in Rome, the *Interruptions* drawings act as plans for imagined spaces and landmasses. Using water alongside watercolor pigments and graphite, these drawings are simultaneously improvisational and algorithmic in nature.

Stemming directly from *Interruptions*, an initial scaled plan for *Metropoliz Future Forest* was created in graphite and watercolor across several large pages [fig. 5]. The initial plan takes into account drainage, the

2 Olivia Valentine, *Interruptions (Santa Maria Maggiore)*, 2015. Watercolor and graphite on paper, 30 × 40 cm.

3 Olivia Valentine, *Interruptions (Carpet)*, 2015. Watercolor and graphite on paper, 42 × 56 cm.

4 Olivia Valentine, *Interruptions (Plaza Mayor)*, 2015. Watercolor and graphite on paper, 42 × 56 cm.

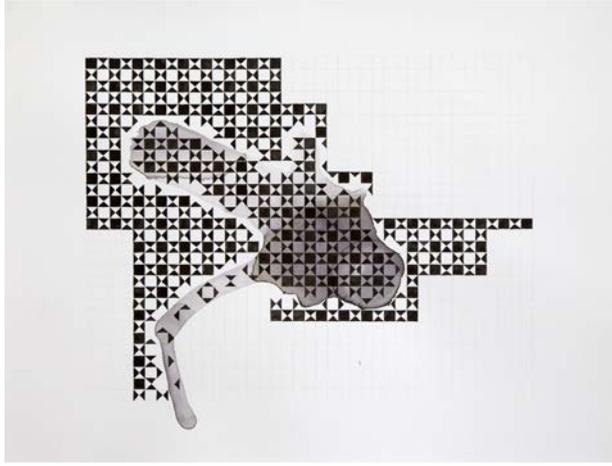


fig. 3

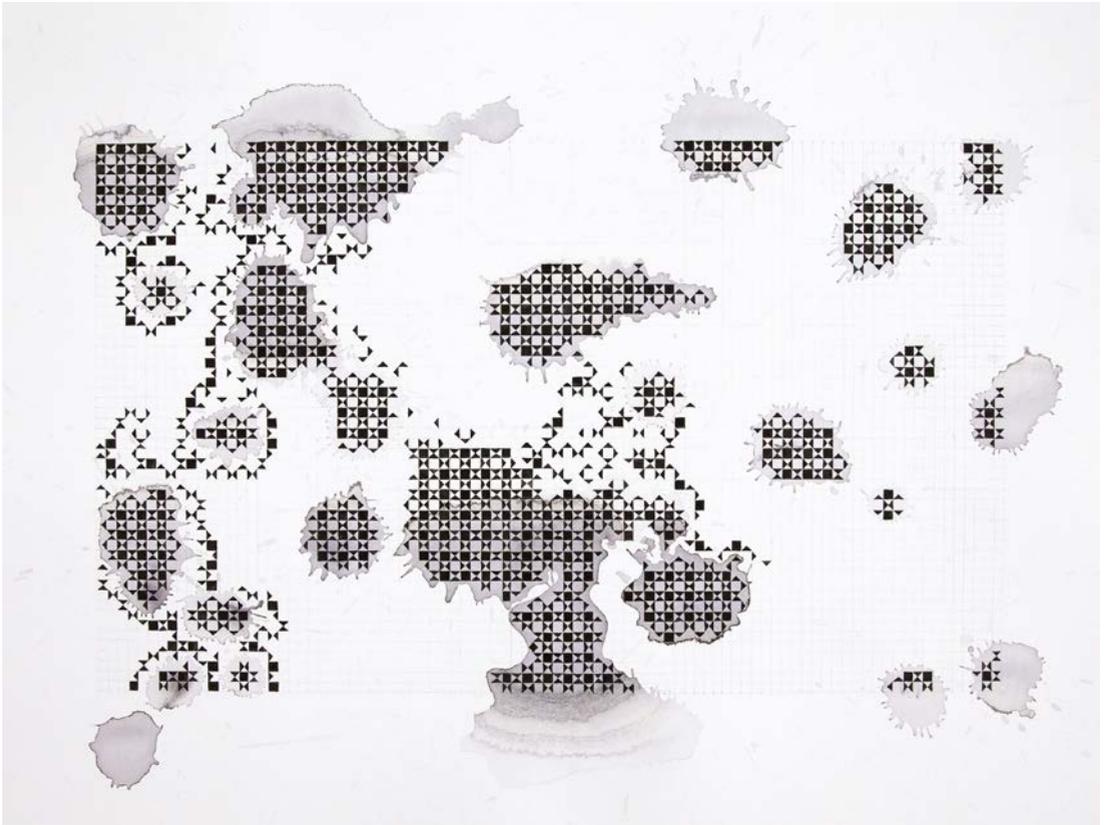


fig. 4

presence of existing flora, and routes of passage across the site taken by the different immigrant and Roma communities that call Metropoliz home. This initial plan was then executed on site in chalk and paint, laying the groundwork for a series of perforations to the concrete intended to facilitate the natural reforestation process along geometric incised lines [fig. 6–7].

Rather than importing new vegetation for this urban garden and forest, we collaborated with the existing ecologies that already occupied the site—the grasses, trees, flowers, and weeds that have arisen spontaneously in the decades after the closing of the factory. By creating a series of perforations and cuts in the existing concrete, we were helping the seeds of these species to take root, and continuing to transform these spaces over the coming decades [fig. 8].

fig. 5

1 *Metropoliz Future Forest* was created in collaboration with Firat Erdim, Kim Karlsrud, and Daniel Phillips in 2015. *Metropoliz Future Forest* was made possible by a project grant from the American Academy in Rome (AAR), the Museo dell'Altro e dell'Altrove di Metropoliz (MAAM), and dedicated volunteers, including Mac Casey, María Robles, Dave McKenzie, Paula Matthusen, Roger Camero, Stefania Tutino, and Adam Kuby from the AAR community, and Leslie Johnson, Lukasz Kowalczyk, and students from the College of Architecture at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

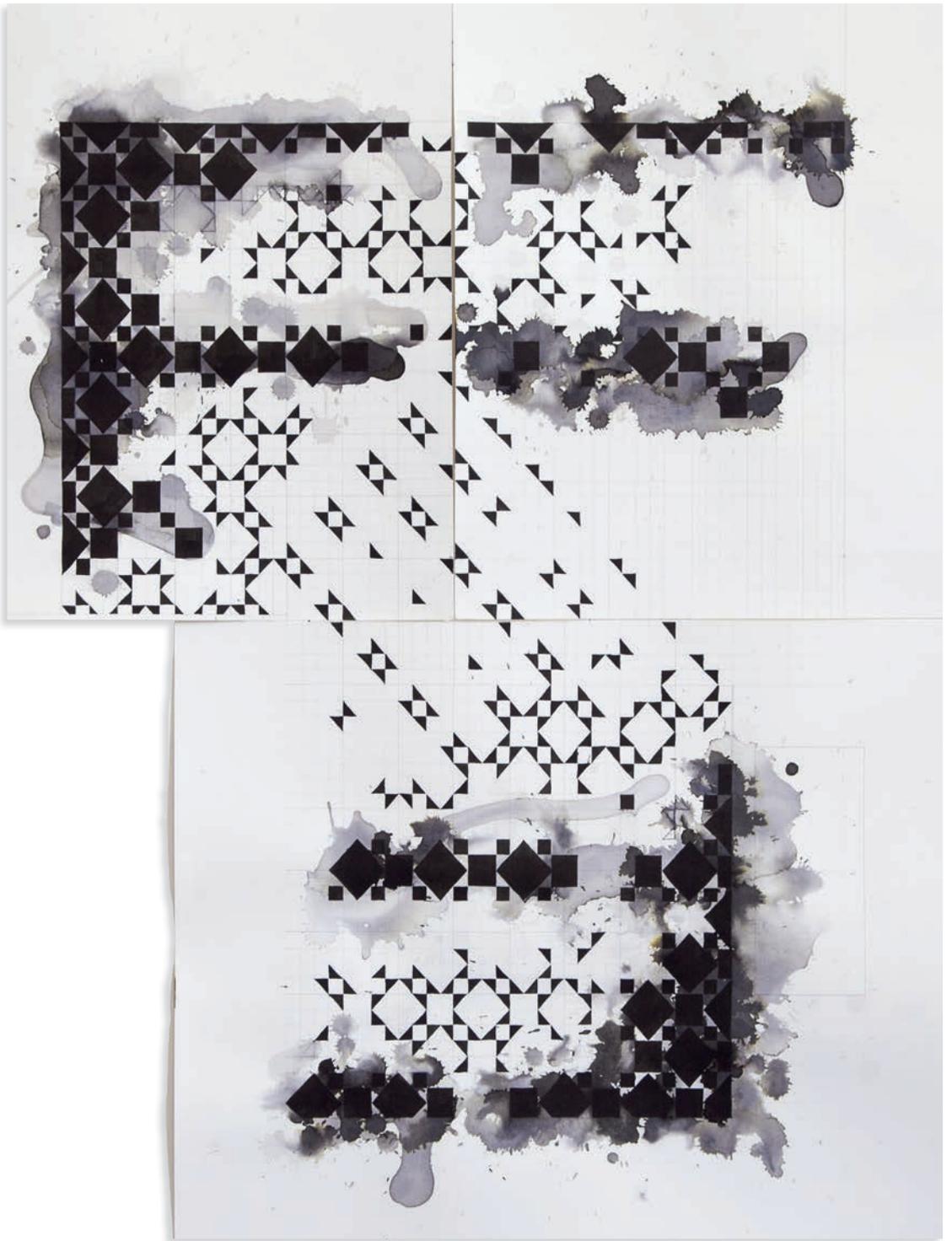




fig. 6



fig. 7

6 Fırat Erdim, Kim Karlsrud, Daniel Phillips and Olivia Valentine, *Metropoliz Future Forest*, 2015, Rome. On-site drawing process.

7 Fırat Erdim, Kim Karlsrud, Daniel Phillips and Olivia Valentine, *Metropoliz Future Forest*, 2015, Rome.

8 Fırat Erdim, Kim Karlsrud, Daniel Phillips and Olivia Valentine, *Metropoliz Future Forest*, 2016, Rome. Evidence of growth, one year after completion.



fig. 8

