



# ITALIAN LIMES

**APRIL 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Italian Limes*, a research project and an interactive installation on the movable borders across the Alps, is part of the exhibition *Reset Modernity!*, curated by the philosopher Bruno Latour and AIME Team at ZKM, Karlsruhe.

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*GLOBALE: Reset Modernity!*  
ZKM—Zentrum für Kunst und Medientechnologie, Karlsruhe  
April 16<sup>th</sup>—August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016

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**[www.italianlimes.net](http://www.italianlimes.net)**

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# ***Italian Limes* is part of *Reset Modernity!*, curated by Bruno Latour at ZKM, Karlsruhe.**

April 16<sup>th</sup>—August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016

**Folder is pleased to announce that *Italian Limes* has been included in the exhibition *Reset Modernity!* at ZKM, Karlsruhe. For the occasion, a new online platform is being released today.**

*Italian Limes* is an ongoing research project and an interactive installation that explores the most remote Alpine regions, where national borders drift due to global warming and shrinking glaciers.

*Italian Limes* (where *limes* is the Latin word for 'borders') is a project initiated and curated by **Folder**, originally commissioned as part of *Fundamentals*, the 14th International Architecture Exhibition, la Biennale di Venezia, where it was awarded with a special mention by the International jury. The project focuses on the effects of **climate change** on shrinking glaciers and the consequent shifts of the watershed that defines the **national borders** of Italy, Austria, Switzerland and France. Investigating the fragile balance of the Alpine ecosystem, *Italian Limes* shows how natural frontiers are subject to the complexity of continuous ecological processes, depending on the technologies and norms we use to represent it.

Invited to be part of the **new exhibition *Reset Modernity!***, curated by the philosopher Bruno Latour in collaboration with AIME Team, the designers behind *Italian Limes* planned **a new phase of the project**, along with a new expedition on the glaciers of the Ötztal Alps, after the initial survey conducted in 2014.

On April 2nd, 2016 the *Italian Limes* team successfully installed a series of autonomous devices on the melting ice sheet at the foot of Mt. Similaun, 3,300m above sea level. The new measurement units will help to track the change in the tridimensional geometry of the glacier throughout Spring and Summer 2016.

The expedition was undertaken with representatives from the **Comitato Glaciologico Italiano**, the **OGS—National Institute of Oceanography and of Experimental Geophysics**, and the **Department of Physics and Earth Sciences of the University of Parma**, who provided scientific coordination for the project. Further data was collected on the site during the expedition, and a geophysical survey of the glacier was performed. Along with providing the source of data for the installation at ZKM, Karlsruhe, that opened on April 16th, these measures will help to better understand climate change dynamics on the Alps.

The sensors are open-source surveying tools that have been conceived specifically for the project. They have been designed under the scientific guidance of professor Valter Maggi (University of Milano-Bicocca), and professor Aldino Bondesan (University of Padua). Prior to the installation, the devices were tested at -30°C inside the facilities of EuroCold laboratories at University of Milano-Bicocca. *Italian Limes* is made possible thanks to the network technologies and connectivity provided by **TIM**.

Since 2014, *Italian Limes* has aimed to monitor the shifts in the Austrian-Italian watershed on the Alps as **an inquiry into the relation of borders and their representation**. International borders have become one of the most reported topics on public media. In Europe, a network of apparently dormant 19th-century frontiers woke up from the dream of a borderless continent and materialised into a 21st-century psychosis of police checks, barbed wire fences, migrant encampments, proxy sovereignties and displaced jurisdictions. Almost completely exiled into the map, borders have claimed back their mark on the territory, wielded by governments as the ultimate defense for the continuance of the nation state.



Detail of one of the 26 measurement units installed on the Similaun glacier on April 2nd, 2016 (photo: Delfino Sisto Legnani)

**Reset Modernity!** aims to “recalibrate the most obscure principle of projection allowing us to map out the world, namely Modernity.” (from the statement of intent by Bruno Latour and AIME Team). Alongside *Italian Limes*, the exhibition features the works of internationally renowned artists Tacita Dean, Pierra Huyghe, Andrés Jacque, Thomas Struth, Sarah Sze, Territorial Agency, Jeff Wall among others. The **immersive interactive installation** designed for the show provides a **real-time representation of the shifts in the border**, and displays a selection of original and unreleased documents from the archives of Istituto Geografico Militare. The centrepiece of the installation is an automated drawing machine—controlled by an Arduino board and programmed with Processing—that translates the coordinates received from the sensors into a constantly-updated, on-demand cartography of the border between Italy and Austria.

**A beta version of the online platform ([www.italianlimes.net](http://www.italianlimes.net)) is being released today**, with complete documentation of the two-year research, along with interactive visualisations, a rich photographic gallery of the two expeditions conducted in 2014 and 2016 and unreleased cartographic materials. The website will serve as a publishing platform throughout the duration of the exhibition, with constant updates based on the live data from the sensors, essays from the scientists involved in the project, and insights into the history and evolution of border studies.

Folder is also working on a major **publication** based on the *Italian Limes* project, which will investigate the politics of surveying and mapping in relation to environmental and planetary transformations. Further details will be announced in the coming months.



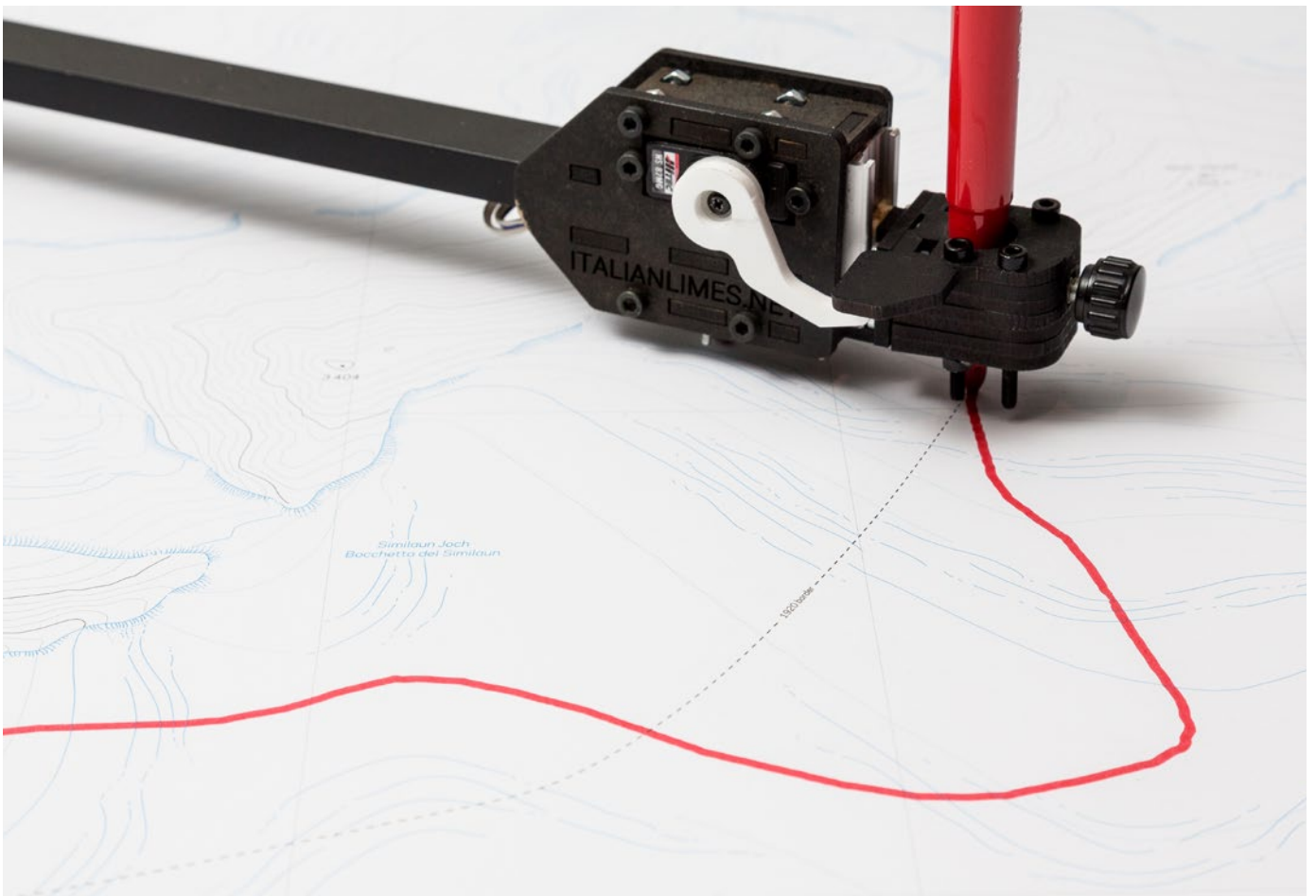
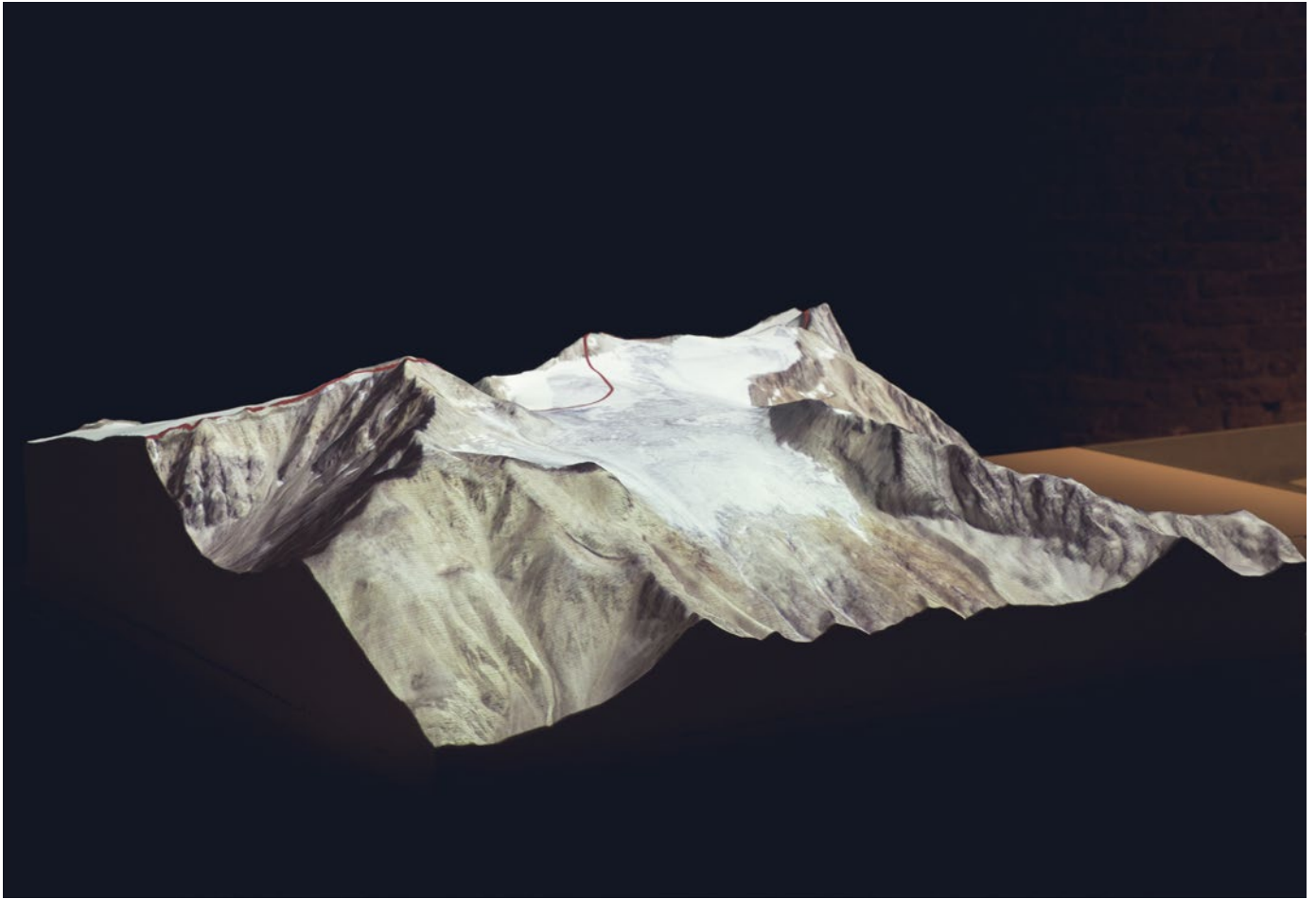






Installation on the Similaun glacier, April 2nd, 2016 (photos: Delfino Sisto Legnani)





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# Press information and Contacts

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## Authors

*Italian Limes* is a project by **Folder** (Marco Ferrari, Elisa Pasqual, with Alessandro Busi, Aaron Gillett), **Pietro Leoni** (interaction design and engineering), **Delfino Sisto Legnani** (photography), **Angelo Semeraro** (interaction design and website development), **Alessandro Mason** (design and manufacturing), **Livia Shamir** (general coordination).

**Folder** is a design and research agency founded in 2011 by Marco Ferrari and Elisa Pasqual, and based in Milan.

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## Scientific Coordination

**Prof. Aldino Bondesan** (Comitato Glaciologico Italiano, Dipartimento di Geoscienze, Università di Padova), **Prof. Valter Maggi** (Comitato Glaciologico Italiano, EuroCold Lab, Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra, University of Milano-Bicocca).

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## Geophysical Survey

**Prof. Roberto Francese** (Dipartimento di Fisica e Scienze della Terra, Università di Parma), **Massimo Giorgi**, **Stefano Picotti** (Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e di Geofisica Sperimentale, Trieste).

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## Technical advisor on the sensors

**Claudio Indelicati**

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## Scientific Partners

**Comitato Glaciologico Italiano** ([www.glaciologia.it](http://www.glaciologia.it)), **European Cold Laboratory Facilities** (Università di Milano-Bicocca), **OGS—Istituto Nazionale di Oceanografia e Geofisica Sperimentale** ([www.ogs.trieste.it](http://www.ogs.trieste.it)).

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## Technical Partner



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## Supported by





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# Press information and Contacts

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Cartographic information

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**Istituto Geografico Militare** ([www.igmi.org](http://www.igmi.org))

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Patronage

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**Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano Alto Adige** ([www.provincia.bz.it](http://www.provincia.bz.it))

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Data processing support

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**Studio Calibro** (Matteo Azzi, Giorgio Uboldi)

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Video

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**Nicolò Cunico**

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Awards

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*Italian Limes* has been awarded a Special Mention by the Jury of the 14th International Architecture Exhibition of **la Biennale di Venezia** (2014); a Silver Medal at the **European Design Awards**, within the "Exhibition Design" category (2015). The map of the movable borders has been acquired by the **Victoria and Albert Museum** in London as part of its permanent design collection.

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Previous exhibitions

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**Fundamentals, "Monditalia"**, 14th International Architecture Exhibition, la Biennale di Venezia (June 7th — November 22nd, 2014)

**Victoria And Albert Museum** ("All of This Belongs to You")  
(April 1st — July 19th, 2015)

**South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology**  
(June 28th — September 29th, 2015)

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**Marco Ferrari** ([marco@studiofolder.it](mailto:marco@studiofolder.it) / [info@italianlimes.net](mailto:info@italianlimes.net))

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Online platform

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**[www.italianlimes.net](http://www.italianlimes.net)**