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E-MOTIONS

The idea of leaving the familiar environment makes us shudder. Either excitement or perhaps fear. To tame this visceral curiosity Westerners have invented the phenomenon of tourism. While in the past Europeans only moved for economic reasons – it is true that some wanted to be adventurous – traveling day today has become a ritual that is repeated year after year, that allows us to escape for some time from the prison of our minds. Carefree we undertake the journey, knowing that within established back home.

Exotic countries in which we conceive as holiday destination – the luxury of traveling around the world is unquestionable - Western tourists turn their attention almost exclusively on the nature and local culture intact, meanwhile, these countries offer only poverty and few prospects for its populations. In particular, this occurs in Africa, where, motivated by ignorance, refugees chose a path full of obstacles also very likely, they will come full circle.

The artist Pedro Déniz (Santa Brígida. Gran Canaria, 1964) has gained prestige thanks to the social commitment of his works. After spending several years in Morocco, Déniz has returned to its roots and now lives in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. His career is characterized by its diversity: performance, photography and instalations with marked execution are recurring effects in his works.

In an installation named The trip of empty bottles, Déniz welcomes those who have achieved his native island aboard a rickety boat. It's not like before, when the stranger was warmly welcomed and invited to sit at the family table. At the time, welcoming the weary traveler was obvious and, in exchange, the host also benefited: listening to the exciting adventures of the guest.

Today, love of neighbor is barely in our agenda. Only a few have interest in listening to the adventures of the poor traveler. As differences are accentuated in the world increasingly, the number of migrants grows substantially, therefore, that the individual is lost in anonymity. Let's keep our ears open to the stories of others. Maybe so we'll discover that we all share the same dreams and desires.

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