

I want to talk about the project "Memoria", which is about Alain Colas.

Alain Colas was a navigator from Burgundy, in France. He discovered navigation while teaching in Australia, and he participated in important sea crossings. It is during his last crossing that he disappeared in 1978.

In 1989, I was the director of the museums of my department. The project was developed with the Regional Direction of Cultural Affairs (DRAC).

They asked for the artist Thomas Shütte. He was an artist who was creating imaginary characters inspired from mortuary visions from antiquity, very expressive characters.

The idea was to put the bust of Alain Colas made in bronze in the middle of the Yonne river that flows through his natal city. The water would go up and down according to the high or low tides, so the head of the navigator would be more or less visible at different moments of the day.

This project was too heavy and too difficult emotionally for the family and the close friends of Alain Colas, so the project did not happen and was replaced by a project more simple that we were not a part of.

It was a wonderful idea, but it never became true. The success of this failure is in the idea itself, in the model that was created, because this idea can still be implementable later for something else. The idea is strong, it stays, it will be there now, and the happy part of this project lies in what our imagination can bring.

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