

ON OUR RADAR

Valerio Rocco Orlando

Getting schooled in Havana

VALERIO ROCCO ORLANDO is intrigued by the ways in which individuals view their place in the community. He uses a variety of media, including film, sound, and photography, to examine a simple question: How do we belong? In 2010, he hung flyers in cafés, bars, and other venues, calling for couples to be interviewed for a video piece. The result, *Lover's Discourse*, is a collection of narratives that explores life inside a relationship and the community as a whole. Despite the intimate territory, Orlando presents the interviews with a veneer of scientific research.

The artist's most recent project, *What Education for Mars?*, will be on view May 11 through June 11 in the 11th Havana Biennial, which also includes works by Ilya and Emilia Kabakov, Gabriel Orozco, Rafael Ortiz, and Kara Walker. To create the piece, Orlando conducted a workshop with high school

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An Italian student in a production still from *What Education for Mars?*, 2011.

students in Cuba, which he then used to analyze the country's education system and compare it to his experience in Italy. The work examines the spread of knowledge and power structures and asks what alternative models for education systems might look like.

An earlier version of the project, executed last year in Rome, is featured in the latest book in Ugly Duckling Press's *Emergency Index* series.

"There is no difference between art and education. Both are integral parts of the same creative process of growth," says Orlando, who insists that his research has an optimistic outlook. "What I'm asking for is to think about a way to build a better school system, starting from the quality of our relationships." —OG

