

PRESS RELEASE

MURATCENTOVENTIDUE ARTECONTEMPORANEA

Polar Lands

Georgie Friedman, Kristina Kvalvik, Kristina Paustian

Muratcentoventidue Artecontemporanea is pleased to present *Polar Lands*, a group exhibition featuring works by Georgie Friedman, Kristina Kvalvik, Kristina Paustian.

The artists reflect on the dramatic topical issues such as the protection of the last natural areas not yet exploited by man, the impending danger of global warming, awareness of the issues of environmental sustainability and climate change, the dialectic between nature and civilization.

Georgie Friedman is currently based in Boston, MA and has lived, worked and exhibited nationally and internationally. She has been commissioned to create site-specific video-based public art pieces and has exhibited in national and international venues.

She is an interdisciplinary artist whose projects include large-scale video installations, single and multi-channel videos and several photographic series. She is interested in our psychological and societal relationships to mild and severe natural phenomena. She investigates a wide range of powerful atmospheric and oceanic conditions, and is fascinated by the power of these natural elements in relationship to human fragility. She utilizes photography, video, sound, installation, engineering and the physics of light, all in order to create new experiences for viewers.

In *Rising Tide*, the water from the Antarctic Sound digitally rises above Antarctica's icy mountains. The video progresses through three landscapes with decreasing snowpacks. The water slowly rises, turning valleys into bays, mountains into islands, and the Antarctic Sound into open ocean.

Kristina Kvalvik is a Norwegian artist based in Oslo, Norway. She studied film and fine art in Norway, Sweden and Canada, and completed her MFA at Malmö Art Academy (SE) in 2008. Her work deals with matters relating to surveillance, the inexplicable and the threatening. She examines the limitations of sight and our ability to interpret what we see. Kvalvik has exhibited her work internationally.

In the video installation *Uplands*, three different, transient landscape images are juxtaposed with each other to form an imaginary, ever-shifting terrain. The project explores the Arctic landscape and envisages a future dystopian universe. The tundra itself is a completely flat area without trees, and the footprints you make will endure for centuries. Little can survive in this highland, where distance, scale, and perspective dissolve. What is life like in this immensity, and who can live there?

In this rhythmic video installation, where we see traces of human existence, we perceive a mysticism and poetry. The soundtrack by *Pål H. Lillevold* combines fictive landscape noises with an intermittently melodic undertone. The soundscape is heavy and hypnotic, like feeling your heart beating while inhaling and exhaling. The pictures seem almost corporeal: you catch a glimpse of faces in the mountainside; nature gets a personality. And when these pictures begin to vibrate, viewers get the sense that something is about to happen.

Born 1985 in Omsk in Russia, **Kristina Paustian** currently lives and works in Berlin. In 2003 she moved to Germany to study at the University of the Arts in Berlin. She worked as DoP and editor for several video artists before starting out as an artist herself. Today Paustian's artistic practice covers video, film and installation. In her work she tries to find and preserve a particular human constant into cinematographic forms. This constant (if there is any) goes far beyond language barriers, geographical borders, social concepts or political structures.

Towards the Zero Point deals with strategies of the human civilization progress: conquest and appropriation. The idea was to look back to the history and to find an example: the conquest of the North Pole – an area, which is highly appreciated by the countries and which seems to disappear soon from the maps. The visitors are invited to make a 3D trip and to set their flag at the geographical zero point (90°), provided they will arrive there.

The work was developed for the Media Art Festival in Rome during a residency at the *Fondazione Mondo Digitale*. With the friendly support by the *Goethe Institute* Rome.

Venue

Muratcentoventidue-Artecontemporanea

Via G. Murat 122/b – Bari

Opening

Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 7.30 pm

Period

May 4 – June 20 , 2019

Opening hours

Monday ,Tuesday and Wednesday only by appointment

From Thursday to Saturday 5.30 - 8.30 pm

Info

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<http://www.muratcentoventidue.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/MuratcentoventidueArtecontemporanea>

https://www.instagram.com/muratcentoventidue_bari

CV

Georgie Friedman (b. 1974) currently resides in Boston, MA and has lived, worked and exhibited throughout the U.S. She received her Masters of Fine Arts in 2008 from the School of the Museum of Fine

Arts, Boston and Tufts University, and her Bachelors of Art in 1996 from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Her current projects include several photographic series and experiential video installations that highlight our physical relationship to interior/exterior elements and uncontrollable natural forces.

Friedman has been commissioned to create site-specific video-based public art pieces and has exhibited in national and international venues including: Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (MA), Geneva International Film Festival (Switzerland), The Cleveland Museum of Art (OH), City Hall Park, Burlington (VT), Peabody Essex Museum (MA), Union College (NY), deCordova Sculpture Park & Museum (MA), City Hall, Boston (MA), and The Armory Center for the Arts (CA). She has been awarded a number of grants and fellowships including: Artist Traveling Fellowship to Antarctica (2017); Artist-in-Residence with The City of Boston, Boston AIR (2016); Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist Fellowship in Sculpture/Installation (2013); five Public Media Art Commissions for Art on the Marquee (Boston Cyberarts/Massachusetts Convention Center Authority, 2012-2015). She teaches a variety of video and time-based art classes at several institutions, including Boston College and Massachusetts College of Art.

web site <http://www.georgiefriedman.com>

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Kvalvik has exhibited her work internationally including Malmö Konsthall, Malmö, Sweden, Göteborg International Biennial for Contemporary Art, Konsthuset, Stockholm, Overgaden Institute for Contemporary Art; Copenhagen, LOOP Film Festival; Barcelona, Center for Contemporary Art; Glasgow, GalleriBOX; Akureyri, Galeria Miroslav Kraljevic; Zagreb, Kunsthalle Exnergasse; Vienna, Parkingallery; Tehran, Västerås Konstmuseum, Høstutstillingen Kuntnernes Hus; Oslo, Center for photography; Stockholm, BABEL Gallery; Trondheim and The Vigeland Museum; Oslo, Muratcentoventidue Artecontemporanea Bari.

web site <http://www.kristinakvalvik.com>

Kristina Paustian (*1985 in Omsk, RU, lives in Berlin) examines cultural anthropological and socio-political topics in her works, also the topics of utopia and dystopia, and the fringe between science and occultism. Her films are characterized by a strong visual signature and her video works are often executed in sequence shots. For her first documentary "ZAPLYV – Swimmers" (2015, 77 min.) she received the ARTE documentary film award for the best film and in 2017 she was part of the Berlinale Talents program. She is co-founder and active member of the Media Art Association (mkv) for the promotion of contemporary art with new media dedicated to the development of experimental narrative and exhibition formats. Kristina's work has been exhibited at Les Rencontres Internationales, Arsenal Berlin, Visions du Réel, MAXXI Museo di Roma, Torino International Film Festival, Athen Biennale, Odessa Biennale, Tashkent Biennale, Russian Museum in Moscow, etc.