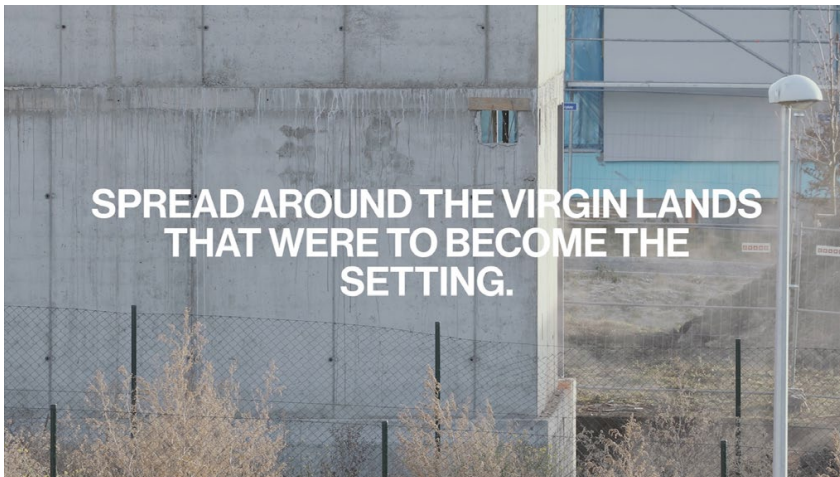


FOTOGRAF FESTIVAL 6.10.-18.10. 2020 #10

UNEVEN GROUND



At Eye Level

This year the Fotograf Festival in Prague is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Stephanie Kiwitt, Tereza Rudolf and Anna Voswinckel are co-curating the 2020 edition of the festival under the title *Uneven Ground*.

Prague
9 Sep, 2020

Initiated in 2011 by the artist Markéta Kinterová and the photographer Pavel Baňka, the Fotograf Festival in Prague is the most important photography festival in the Czech Republic that features both contemporary photography and other media. Each edition of the festival is developed by external curators. Cooperation with local contemporary art institutions generates awareness for the event in the city and the festival is part of a broader network, contributing to the international discourse around the visual arts.

The more networked and globalized the world becomes, the more pronounced the call for national boundaries and for the construction of personal identity through the exclusion of others. The current pandemic has once again demonstrated how the mechanisms of national isolation work. At the same time social distancing measures conflict with the human need for physical proximity.

Credits:

Tina Bara: Konstellationen (Constellations), 1991
Martin Netočný: They: The Slavs, 2019

In light of these developments Stephanie Kiwitt, Tereza Rudolf and Anna Voswinckel seek to explore manners of perceiving and encountering the Other primarily through works of photography and video – two media that suggest closeness and distance and that can generate alienation. With the festival titled *Uneven Ground* the curators facilitate different types of encounters: between artists of different generations, from different places and of different genders; between artist and model and artist and photographic object; between the self and the Other; between familiar and unfamiliar realms of experience.

With eight group exhibitions the festival examines in very different manners artistic approaches to personal encounter and the overstepping of boundaries, the creation of a self-image and confrontation with the Other. Particular focus is placed on works in which the artist's own body is used as an artistic medium to survey the boundaries between the self and the Other or to engage in self-reflection through external images. Some works show the reaction of an artist to historical works, while others explore the potential of social documentary to grasp the life of others. In the process they examine the social realm and its potential to permit unequal parties to coexist side by side.

The exhibitions bring together a wide range of documentary methods with subjective and conceptual strategies that make use of photographic media in different manners, including installation and performance.

Works by the American film-maker Shelly Silver and the Czech video artist Alžběta Bačiková are featured in multiple exhibitions. The Austrian photographer Sophie Thun will be presenting two new works alongside the pioneering feminine artist Birgit Jürgenssen. Contemporary photographers from the German context such as Andrzej Steinbach, Heji Shin and Kristin Loschert will be included. Works by the East German artists Gundula Schulze Eldowy, Gabriele Stötzer and Tina Bara will also be shown. Names that in the current Czech art scene seem to have been forgotten – such as Jolana Havelková, Zdeněk Lhoták, Pavel Hečko and Miloš Šejn – can be rediscovered.

Uneven Ground will begin with the exhibition *social body, fluid order – fluid body, social order* at the Fotograf Gallery. Seven further group exhibitions will open until 13 October. The festival will feature a programme of lectures, artist talks, film screenings and performances.

Opening:
Tuesday, 6. October 2020, 18 pm
Fotograf Gallery, Jungmannova 7, Prague 1
Further information,
also for download, under:
www.fotografestival.cz

For more information on the exhibitions,
accompanying program and dates, see:
www.fotografestival.cz
www.fotografgallery.cz
www.fotografmagazine.cz
PR Kit Folder

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