

Ieva Epnere

Sea of Living Memories

Organized by: *kim?* Contemporary Art Centre in collaboration with Art in General (USA)

Curated by: Zane Onckule

Opening reception: Friday, September 16th, 6–8pm

Exhibition period: September 17th – November 5th, 2016

Art in General, 145 Plymouth Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201

kim? Contemporary Art Centre in collaboration with Art in General, New York presents *Sea of Living Memories*, first institutional solo exhibition of artist Ieva Epnere in the United States. The exhibition opening coincides with the artist's two months residency at the International Studio & Curatorial Program (ISCP), New York as part of the *kim? Residency Award 2016* programme.

In Epnere's multidisciplinary practice—which includes film, photography, and sculpture—personal and private stories offer alternative pathways into larger meditations on identity, tradition, and ritual. Her new body of work, *Sea of Living Memories*, addresses the impermanent nature of identity in response to Latvia's evolving post-Soviet society. For Epnere, fiction is a valuable instrument for exploring one's sense of self, casting identification as the hybrid product of invented myth and historical narratives. The military heritage of the Baltic coast is of particular interest to her, as she investigates the struggles of former army personnel and local citizens—who came of age under a dominant Soviet regime—as they adapt to the new social realities of a contemporary system. These aspects and themes in the *Sea of Living Memories* are studied and played out in two video works. In the first, with implicating environment's, times and human conditionalities help, Epnere highlights the delicate boundaries between individual and collective memory, between the nostalgic reminiscences of the past and hopes for the future, whereas central to the second piece are the first person stories by the inhabitants of the once forbidden Baltic Sea coast zones.

In this exhibition, the installation elements serve as material reminders of the Soviet legacy, while internalized, psychological imprints of a restrictive past maintain a more ephemeral presence of equal weight and unwavering impact. Here, the geopolitical and personal collide as the familiarity of nationalist sentiments of “belonging” to the state come into contact with a globalized world. Epnere channels this dualism in the projection of desires back and forth in time, as the current generation lives double lives, navigating varying conditions and truths simultaneously, locally and elsewhere.

The exhibition's central piece - a film titled "*Potom*" ("Later" in Russian) was created in collaboration with the National Armed Forces and the Naval Force fleet. The main character is played by actor Ģirts Krūmiņš, and equally a section of the Latvian Naval Force Fleet appears throughout. The score was composed by Edgars Rubenis, and the sound editor was Ernests Ansons.

The exhibition is supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia, the State Culture Capital Foundation, and Riga City Council. The artist would like to thank the Latvian National Armed Forces, Latvian Navy fleet, VFS Films, Art Academy of Latvia Department of Textile Art, Sunsstudio and Nicolaus Schafhausen for their support.

kim? Residency Award is supported by the State Culture Capital Foundation and the patron Vita Liberte

Ieva Epnere (b. 1977) lives and works in Riga, Latvia. Recent solo shows include *Pyramiden and other stories*, Zacheta Project Room, Warsaw, Poland (2015); *A No-Man's Land, An Everyman's Land, kim?* Contemporary Art Centre, Riga and Liepāja Museum, Liepāja, Latvia (2015); *Waiting Room*, Contretype, Brussels (2015); *Galerie des Hospices*, Canet-en-Roussillon, France (2014); and *Mindscales, kim?* Contemporary Art Centre, Riga, Latvia (2013). Selected group exhibitions include *Contemporary Landscape*, Art Festival Cēsis 2016, Cēsis, Latvia (2016); *62nd International Short Film Festival Oberhausen*, Germany (2016); *Identity: Behind the Curtain of Uncertainty*, National Art Museum of Ukraine (2016); *Something eerie*, Signal – Center for Contemporary Art, Malmö, Sweden (2016); *BRUXELLES à l'infini, Photographies de la Collection Contretype*, Centre Wallonie-Bruxelles à Paris, France (2016); *SALON DER ANGST*, Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna, Austria (2013). Epnere is a Fall 2016 resident at the International Studio & Curatorial Program in New York.