

NORTH BY NORTHEAST. THE DECONSTRUCTION OF THE PAVILION

Kaspars Podnieks, Krišs Salmanis

The Riga version of The Pavilion of Latvia at the 55th International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia

Exhibition architect – Austris Mailītis

kim? Contemporary Art Centre

March 29 – April 25, 2014

What is left here once the feast is over?

The pavilion's introductory exhibition in New York in March, 2013 was like a prelude for a one-act opera. The exposition in Venice from June till November, 2013 – the performance itself; one visitor even wrote – *I was astonished and thought it was a real coup de théâtre*. Returning from guest performances, the pavilion exhibition in Riga has something to do with deconstruction – the decorations are being taken out and a new version of the constantly changeable – choreographed once more.

The exposition in Riga is formed taking into consideration the specifics of the space, the photographs of Kaspars Podnieks' series *Rommelis' Dairy (Rommeļa pienotava)* that are displayed along with the video pieces and the installation by Krišs Salmanis – a motorized animation of the “moving tree” exhibited in the Venice Biennale. The exhibition in Riga is conceived in collaboration with architect Austris Mailītis.

The Pavilion of Latvia at the 55th International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia – was organized by kim? Contemporary Art Centre in collaboration with the New York art space *Art in General*. New art work, created especially for the Arsenale of Venice, were exhibited in the exposition *North by Northeast* – large-scale photographs and videos by Kaspars Podnieks with the peasants of Drusti portrayed on the background of their farms, and the installation by Krišs Salmanis – rhythmically swaying tree. Unfolding the relationship between the artist and the real and constantly changing, man-made world, including the imaginary boundaries of Europe and it's centres, the artists focused on highlighting matters of identity, uncertainty and intermediaries.

The Pavilion of Latvia at the 55th International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia – closed with a satisfying number of 222 620 visitors during it's six months of the Biennale (31.05. – 24.11.2013).

Within the project kim? has published a catalogue of the Pavilion of Latvia *North by Northeast*. Contributing authors: Anne Barlow, Courtenay Finn, Solvita Krese, Sigurds Rusmanis, Nils Sakss and Alise Tifentale. The catalogue is available on display and for purchase during the exhibition.

In order to introduce the regions of Latvia with the exposition, the exhibition of The Pavilion of Latvia in the 55th International Art Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia – *North by Northeast* will take place within the program of The Cesis Art Festival in the town of Cesis from July 11 until August 3, 2014.

Kaspars Podnieks (born 1980) has been taking part in exhibitions since 1998. His work includes photography and video, installations and environment objects. Recent joint-exhibitions: *Generation of the Place: Image, Memory and Fictions in Baltics* (2012) in Kaunas, Lithuania; *Preview Berlin* (2011) in Berlin, Germany; *Life in the Forest* (2011) in Bialystok, Poland. Solo shows: *Communicating Vessels* (2011) and *Unusual Place* (2010) at kim? Contemporary Art Centre in Riga, Latvia. Kaspars Podnieks is an active participant in the social and political activities in his birthplace, the village of Drusti, since 2005.

Krišs Salmanis (born 1977) works in the fields of photography, video, installations, animation and graphics and has taken place in international exhibitions since 1996. Recent solo shows: *Light* (2012) CAC in Vilnius, Lithuania; *The Fragility of Trust* (2012) gallery Alma in Riga, Latvia; *The Earth may be spinning around the Sun, but the World is turning around me* (2011) Raum linksrechts in Hamburg, Germany; *Moving Landscape* (2011) Galerie für Gegenwartkunst in Bremen, Germany.

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Opening hours:
Mon: closed
Tue.: 12:00 – 20:00
Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun: 12.00 – 18.00

3.00 EUR
Students, senior citizens: 1.50 EUR
Free on Tuesdays