

MĀRTIŅŠ RATNIKS

Land

12.9.2009 - 2.10.2009

kim? Contemporary Art Centre, Riga

The inspiration for “Land” arose when the artist came across the archive of images captured by the *Terra* spacecraft on the Internet about a year ago. In 2000 *Terra*, one out of several research satellites in the NASA project *Earth Observing System*, began collecting what will ultimately become a new, 15-year global data set on which to base scientific investigations about this complex planet. It does not cause any difficulty to the 21 century people who are used to *Google Earth* to recognize Earth in some of the images captured by the spacecraft while other pictures resemble the vortex of speckles of light in the legendary Stanley Kubrick’s “2001: A Space Odyssey” more than images of Earth’s surface. This makes one ponder the unfamiliarity of the seemingly familiar. However, these images have only served as an impulse and material to the work, the meaning of it is open to interpretation as nearly everything in art and science is.

Mārtiņš Ratniks (1975) graduated from Department of Visual Communication at the Art Academy of Latvia. He is a member of “E-LAB”, electronic art and media centre, and new media culture centre “RIXC”. Since 1998, a member of art-group F5 (Famous Five). Together with the F5 group Ratniks has participated in a number of noteworthy international exhibitions, e.g. the 25th São Paulo Art Biennale (Brazil, 2002), the 51st Venice Biennale (Italy, 2005) etc. Since 2009 he has been lecturing at the Art Academy of Latvia, Department of Visual Communication.

For his exhibition “Land” at Kim? / VKN gallery (2009) Mārtiņš Ratniks has been nominated for Purvītis award for distinguished performance in arts in 2009 and 2010.

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