

Estonian Pavilion at the 57th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia

***If Only You Could See What I've Seen with Your Eyes* by Katja Novitskova**

The Center for Contemporary Arts, Estonia, is proud to present the Estonian Pavilion at the 57th International Art Exhibition – La Biennale di Venezia, with a new project from Estonian artist Katja Novitskova, *If Only You Could See What I've Seen with Your Eyes*, curated by Kati Ilves.

13 May – 26 November 2017

OPENING: 11th of May, 2017 at 4pm

PREVIEW: 10 – 12 May

The Estonian Pavilion

Palazzo Malipiero

San Samuele Square

San Marco 3199, 2nd floor

Hours: Tuesday – Sunday, 10am – 6pm

(Vaporetto stop: San Samuele)

Artist: Katja Novitskova

Curator: Kati Ilves

Commissioner: Maria Arusoo (Center for Contemporary Arts, Estonia)

Designer: Ott Metusala

www.ifonlyyoucouldseewhativeseenwithyoureyes.com

www.katjanovi.net

If Only You Could See What I've Seen with Your Eyes addresses the relationship between the domain of seeing, big data-driven industries, and ecology in times of biotic crisis.

Currently, vast aspects of human and nonhuman lives are being registered and modeled on an environmental scale. Collection and processing of data has become a tool used to map all possible surfaces, moments and spectra

on Earth and beyond – from faces to biological cell walls to dust on Mars.

This is performed by human, and increasingly, robotic agents, and is directed at people, both wild and captured creatures, and nonliving processes. Seeing has become an expanding extractive industry. In the process new visual languages, commodities and life forms are being generated reflecting back to us our often violent entanglement with the world: patterns of embryonic development in mutated lab-test worms, live-streamed flows of CO2 gas across the planet, or a group of near-extinct animals passing by a tree and noticing the tracking camera.

Katja Novitskova works from new forms of imagery taken from the realm of present day visual representation. This exhibition explores this radical new articulation of the role of the image, and how constant planetary scale mediation gains an ecological dimension.

The exhibition's title is a quote taken from a conversation in Ridley Scott's cult sci-fi film, *Blade Runner* (1982), between the replicant Roy Batty and designer Hannibal Chew—who created his eyes.

Katja Novitskova (b. 1984, Estonia) is an artist who currently lives and works in Berlin and Amsterdam. Her works have gained much international recognition, her recent solo exhibitions include Greene Naftali, New York (2016); Kunstverein Hamburg, Hamburg (2016) and she has recently exhibited in group exhibitions at Kiasma, Helsinki (2017), 9th Berlin biennale (2016), and MoMA, New York (2015). In her work Novitskova examines ecological and information systems, through an engagement with digital images on the web. In 2011, she published the influential artist book, *Post Internet Survival Guide*, and in 2016 her exhibition catalogue *Dawn Mission* was published with the Kunstverein in Hamburg.

Kati Ilves (b. 1984, Estonia) is a curator currently based in Amsterdam. Ilves has worked as the curator of contemporary art at the Kumu Art Museum, Tallinn, which is the largest of the five branches of the Art Museum of

Estonia. She has curated solo exhibitions and group shows, and put together research-based projects. Ilves holds a Master's Degree in Art History. She is the participant in the Curatorial Programme 2016–2017 at de Appel in Amsterdam.

Participating since 1997, this is the eleventh time Estonia is exhibiting at La Biennale di Venezia. The Center for Contemporary Arts, Estonia, is the official representative of the Estonian exposition. The project is supported by the Estonian Ministry of Culture, Kraupa-Tuskany Zeidler gallery, Greene Naftali gallery, and Cobalt Law Firm.

For further information, please contact:

Kaarin Kivirähk

Center for Contemporary Arts, Estonia

info@ifonlyyoucouldseewhativeseenwithyoureyes.com

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