



BODIES, BORDERS, CROSSINGS

06.14.2011

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO ART FROM FINLAND

BODIES, BORDERS, CROSSINGS

JUNE 24 – JULY 31, 2011

BUILDING 110, LOWER LEVEL
GOVERNORS ISLAND, NEW YORK

THE EXHIBITION EXAMINES CORPOREALITY AND CONTROL, BORDERS AND BORDER CROSSINGS CONCEPTUALIZED IN THE WORKS OF 10 CONTEMPORARY FINNISH PHOTOGRAPHERS AND VIDEO ARTISTS.

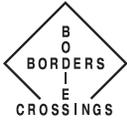
MUCH OF CONTEMPORARY LIFE IS GLOBALLY ABOUT MOVEMENT AND MIGRATION. COUNTLESS BODIES, AND OBJECTS ALIKE, CONSTANTLY CROSS VARIOUS BORDERS. SOME OF THESE BORDERS ARE LIKE LINES ON WATER, CROSSED ALMOST UNNOTICED, WHILE OTHERS ARE TIGHTLY GUARDED AND EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO PASS. BORDERS BOTH BRING CULTURES TOGETHER AND SEPARATE THEM FROM EACH OTHER. THE HUMAN BODY ITSELF MAY ALSO BE THOUGHT OF AS AN AREA SURROUNDED BY A BORDER—EVEN THOUGH A PERMEABLE ONE—FORMED BY THE SKIN AND BODILY OUTLINES. THESE OUTLINES ARE ALSO SUBJECTED TO “BORDER CONTROL” IN TERMS OF NORMS AND IDEALS. THE AIM OF THE EXHIBITION CURATORS LEENA-MAIJA ROSSI AND KARI SOINIO HAS BEEN TO FIND BOTH CULTURAL INTERFACES AND EYE-OPENING CULTURAL DIFFERENCES IN TERMS OF THINKING ABOUT

BORDERS AND THINKING ABOUT THE BODY.

ALL 10 ARTISTS IN BODIES, BORDERS, CROSSINGS; JAAKKO HEIKKILÄ, RAAKEL KUUKKA, RIIKKA KUOPPALA, ELENA NÄSÄNEN, MARJA PIRILÄ, MINNA RAINIO AND MARK ROBERTS, HANNELE RANTALA, CATARINA RYÖPPY, AND MINNA SUONIEMI, USE LENS-BASED MEDIA IN THEIR WORK. ALL OF THEM EITHER ARE, OR HAVE BEEN, BASED IN FINLAND, BUT HAVE ALSO EITHER WORKED OR EXHIBITED THEIR WORK ABROAD. THE ARTISTS APPROACH THE THEME FROM VARIOUS PERSPECTIVES. SOME INVESTIGATE THE MEANING OF RULES AND INDIVIDUALITY IN TERMS OF SOCIAL CONTROL, SOME PROBLEMATIZE WHITENESS AS A GIVEN, AND AS AN “INVISIBLE” RACIALITY IN THE NORTH AND SOME INTERROGATE THE NOTION OF “FREE” GLOBALIZED MOVEMENT OF GENDERED BODIES, AND SCRUTINIZE THE FORCED MOVING AROUND, EVEN TRAFFICKING OF HUMAN BEINGS.

THE EXHIBITION AIMS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONTEMPORARY DEBATE CONCERNING THE SIMULTANEOUS DISAPPEARANCE OF SOME BORDERS AND ENFORCEMENT AND POLICING OF OTHERS. THESE BODIES, BORDERS AND CROSSINGS HAVE AT LEAST MOMENTARILY OR FLEETINGLY BEEN THERE, IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA—NO MATTER HOW CONSTRUCTED, PERFORMED OR RE-CREATED THE SITUATIONS OF FILMING OR PHOTOGRAPHING HAVE BEEN.

BODIES, BORDERS CROSSINGS IS ORGANIZED BY THE FINNISH CULTURAL INSTITUTE IN NEW YORK. OF THE TWO CURATORS LEENA-MAIJA ROSSI CURRENTLY



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WORKS AS PROFESSOR OF GENDER STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI, FINLAND. SHE HAS CURATED AND CO-CURATED SEVERAL EXHIBITIONS, INCLUDING (UN)NATURALLY FOR KIASMA MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, HELSINKI. KARI SOINIO IS AN ARTIST AND A PHOTOGRAPHER. HE HAS BEEN ONE OF THE ORGANIZERS OF THE ANNUAL ART FAIR OF THE UNION OF ARTIST PHOTOGRAPHERS IN FINLAND AND THE ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION MUU, AND HE IS ALSO CO-CURATOR FOR THE HELSINKI PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL HPF12.

AFTER THE INITIAL SHOW IN NEW YORK, THE EXHIBITION WILL TOUR IN NORTH AMERICA, FRANCE, AND FINLAND. THE TOUR IS ORGANIZED IN COLLABORATION WITH INSTITUT FINLANDAIS, PARIS, FRANCE, AND SUPPORTED BY ALFRED KORDELIN FOUNDATION, THE FINNISH CULTURAL FOUNDATION, KONE FOUNDATION, AND DAVID AND NANCY SPEER PROFESSORSHIP IN FINNISH STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA.

THE EXHIBITION VENUE IS LOCATED ON THE FORMER MILITARY BASE OF GOVERNORS ISLAND, IN THE HEART OF NEW YORK HARBOR. THE EXHIBITION IS PART OF THE ISLAND'S VISUAL ARTS SEASON 2011.

*THE EXHIBITION WILL BE SHOWN AT:
BUILDING 110, LOWER LEVEL
GOVERNORS ISLAND
NEW YORK*

*JUNE 24 – JULY 31, 2011
FRIDAYS 11AM – 4PM
SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS 11AM – 6PM
MONDAY JULY 4TH 11AM – 6PM*

*FOR DIRECTIONS AND FERRY SCHEDULES, GO TO:
WWW.GOVISLAND.COM*

*FOR MORE INFORMATION AND PRESS IMAGES,
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