



**Epiphany –
Frontiers of Solitude
Sep 8 – Oct 22, 2016**

**Layla Curtis
Paul Chaney**

JSD (Jedinečné svatopěstitelské družstvo)

Michal Kindernay

Elvar Már Kjartasson

Josef Koudelka

Julia Martin

Pavel Mrkus

Vladimír Turner

Steina Vasulka

Robert Vlasák

Martin Zet

Curators:

Dagmar Šubrtová

Miloš Vojtěchovský

OPENING

7/9 2016 at 5 pm

Ústí nad Labem

House of Arts

8/9–21/10 2016

Open

TUE – SAT

10 am – 6 pm

Free entry every

Wednesday

Epiphany – Frontiers of Solitude

An exhibition and symposium created within the framework of the international transdisciplinary project Frontiers of Solitude.

Aside from its biblical, gnostic, or metaphysical meaning, the term epiphany also raises issues concerning the relationship between humans and nature and the boundaries of thought, belief and epistemology. Where does the sacred lead and where does the profane begin? Where does the revealed come from, and what does it consist of? The idea of revelation and its embodiment affects our relationship with the sacred, as well as our neighbors, and also our sense of belonging to a physical world, which we are increasingly remaking in our image. What kind of image is it? We will need to reevaluate our technological approach to the environment, which we understand reflexively as an inexhaustible deposit, a source of energy, as a free reservoir for exclusively human use.

A criticism of “disenchantment,” of the alienation of humankind from the biological world, is found in different areas of contemporary science, the humanities, religion, philosophy, economics and art. It is becoming evident that this is a dangerous and complex cluster of values, interests and assumptions, providing the elites with access to unimaginable wealth, and sacrificing the rest of the biosphere, edging us nearer to the environmental extreme of physical survival.

The project Frontiers of Solitude develops this discourse. The exhibition and the accompanying program serve as an attempt to outline the relationships among the cultural, economic, and ethical issues of the environmental challenges we currently face. In 2015, Frontiers of Solitude launched three separate expeditions to ecologically threatened areas of Europe. In addition, the project has offered a series of exhibitions, meetings, workshops and symposia. The expedition “Into the Abyss of Lignite Clouds” took place in the Most lignite coal basin in the Czech Republic. The participants researched the morphology and the history of this region -- a landscape that has been heavily transformed to a depth of several hundred meters by industrial exploitation. The toxic Black Triangle, which is roughly defined as the carbon-rich area between Sokolov, Litvínov, Bad Brambach and Katowice, has softened its boundaries somewhat since 1989 and, on the whole, has grown.

The exhibition presents several works that were produced by artists participating in the first stage of the project (Elvar Már Kjartanson, Pavel Mrkus, Robert Vlasák, Martin Zet, Vladimír Turner, Julia Martin). In this extended form, the project focus shifts to both local and global contexts through a selection of works by several artists, whose approach resonates with issues that the project raises: Steina Vasulka [IS], Layla Curtis [UK], Paul Chanye [UK] and Michal Kindernay. These works are enriched by a few contextual interventions and artifacts, such as a selection of apocalyptic documentary photography from the series of Ore Mountains landscapes by Josef Koudelka (Black Triangle, 1990-94), as well as a stage-design-like intervention by JSD - Peerless Brotherhood of the Holy Nurture collective. The exhibition outlines the cross-connections among various social, psychological, mythical, economic and cultural landscapes. The works reflect the process of a larger-scale globalization and touch not just upon the perspectives of geology, meteorology, energy and ethics, but also try to penetrate into the lower depths of the demonology of the 21st-century landscape.

An accompanying program and an interdisciplinary symposium Krajina v pozoru will be dedicated to the problems of art and the Anthropocene, and is scheduled for October 19, 2016.

Curators: Dagmar Šubrtová, Miloš Vojtěchovský (Školská 28 Gallery), Michal Koleček (DUUL). **Project co-curators:** Julia Martin (Skafffell Center for Visual Arts), Ivar Smedstad (Atelier Nord), Michal Kindernay (Školská 28 Gallery). **Organized by** Faculty of Art and Design Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem.

Partners: Školská 28 Gallery, Agosto Foundation

Both the exhibition and the symposium are part of the Frontiers of Solitude project, which is supported by a grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through the EEA Grants (Program CZ06 Cultural Heritage and DUUL Contemporary Art). The project is a joint initiative of the Školská 28 Gallery (Deai/setkáni), the Atelier Nord and the Skafffell Center for Visual Arts in Iceland.

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Project which has been supported by a grant from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway through EE Grants.

