

FRONTIERS OF SOLITUDE

Exhibition: February 5 – March 4, 2016 at Školská 28 Gallery, Fotograf Gallery and Ex Post
(opening on February 4, 2016 from 6 pm at Školská 28 Gallery and Fotograf Gallery)

Symposium: February 5–6, 2016 at the French Institute in Prague

Exhibiting artists: Finnur Arnar Arnarson (IS), Karlotta Blöndal (IS), Gunhild Enger (NO), Þórunn Eymundardóttir (IS), Monika Fryčová (CZ/IS), Tommy Høvik (NO), Elvar Már Kjartansson (IS), Alena Kotzmannová (CZ), Iselin Lindstad Hauge (NO), Julia Martin (DE/ IS), Vladimír Merta (CZ), Pavel Mrkus (CZ), Greg Pope (NO), Kristín Rúnarsdóttir (IS), Ivar Smedstad (NO), Vladimír Turner (CZ), Robert Vlasák (CZ), Diana Winklerová (CZ), Martin Zet (CZ).

The exhibition will present works by Czech, Icelandic and Norwegian artists, directly or indirectly inspired by what the group experienced during a series of three interdisciplinary expeditions to the subarctic regions of Norway, the brown coal basin in northern Bohemia, and the highlands and seashores of Iceland. The challenges of fostering collaboration among artists working together for the first time served also as an artistic and social experiment into the customs of countries that are geographically, artistically and culturally rather remote from each other. As a consequence, the exhibition reveals a broad spectrum of individual attitudes, interpretations, strategies and responses related to the specifics of three types of landscape. In a deeper sense, the works produced reveal shared concerns, and also express the need to reconcile these findings with existing perceptions. The exhibition is part of the international *Frontiers of Solitude* project, which focuses on current transformations of the landscape and the close connections between our post-industrial civilization and nature, and fosters collaboration and an exchange of experiences between individual artists, researchers and initiatives across Europe. The exhibition will be accompanied by a comprehensive Czech-English catalogue.

The theme of the exhibition will be further elaborated by the interdisciplinary *Frontiers of Solitude* symposium, co-organised and hosted by the French Institute in Prague. It will offer a comparison of opinions, experiences, and points of view of artists, curators, and other invited guests on the themes of the Anthropocene, landscape and art. It will search for relationships between the cultural, political, and economic aspects of our understanding, and present denotations of words such as *Earth, countryside, landscape, and land*, including the topography of transitional zones, with an eye on both establishing and crossing over boundaries and limitations. The participating artists, art critics, architects, environmentalists, sociologist, philisophers and scientists have different cultural and professional backgrounds, but they all share a sincere, long-term interest in the impact of human activity on the landscape and Earth's ecosystems.

How can we express and capture in human—rather than statistical—terms, both the visible and invisible transformations that the landscape undergoes, both locally and globally, with regard to the entire biosphere and climate? Does contemporary art make it possible to orient ourselves within this unstable and ever-changing territory? Do frequent art projects, festivals, and interdisciplinary conferences on the theme of Anthropocene offer viable approaches, possibilities or solutions?

Lecturers: Guy van Belle (BE/ CZ), Dustin Breitling (US), Vít Bohdal (CZ), Peter Cusack (GB), Petr Gibas (CZ), András Heszky (HU), Stanislav Komárek (CZ), Alena Kotzmannová (CZ), Julia Martin (DE/ IS), Pavel Mrkus (CZ), Ivo Přikryl (CZ), Ivar Smedstad (NO), Matěj Spurný (CZ), Tereza Stöckelová (CZ), Martin Škabraha (CZ), Martin Říha (CZ), The Laboratory of Insurrectionary Imagination (Isabelle Frémeaux /FR/ and John Jordan /GB/)

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 Contemporary Art). The project is a joint initiative of the Školská 28 Gallery (Deai/setkání), the Atelier Nord and the Skaffell Center for Visual Arts in Iceland.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Head Curator: Dagmar Šubrtová (Školská 28 Gallery). Exhibition co-curators: Julia Martin (Skafffell Center for Visual Arts), Ivar Smedstad (Atelier Nord), Dana Recmanová (Školská 28 Gallery), Michal Kindernay (Školská 28 Gallery). Concept: Miloš Vojtěchovský (Školská 28 Gallery)

Partners: Agosto Foundation, Ex Post, Fotograf Gallery, French Institute in Prague, Hungarian Institute Prague

Media partners: Artmap, A2, jlbjlt, kulturissimo.cz, Scandinavian House

Contact for press: Dagmar Šubrtová, info@frontiers-of-solitude.org

For more information visit <http://frontiers-of-solitude.org/> or <http://skolska28.cz/>

Školská 28 Gallery
Školská 28, Praha 1
www.skolska28.cz
Tue 1—7 pm 13:00 – 19:00
Wed – Fri 1—6 pm

Fotograf Gallery
Školská 28, Praha 1
www.fotografgallery.cz
Tue—Thu 1—7 pm
Fri 1—6 pm
Sat 11 am – 6 pm

Ex Post
Příčná 1, Praha 1
<http://www.expost.space/>
Tue—Fri 1—6pm

French Institute in Prague
Štěpánská 644/35
<http://www.ifp.cz>