

KUMU

Don't Worry – Be Curious! 4th Ars Baltica Triennial of Photographic Art

August 10 – September 30, 2007

Artists Petra Bauer (SE), Anna Baumgart (PL), Bodil Furu (NO), Olga Chernysheva (RU), Colonel und Khaled D. Ramadan (DK), Kaspars Goba (LV), Oliver Kochta-Kalleinen und Tellervo Kalleinen (FI), Kristina Inciuraite (LT), Sven Johne (DE), Talleiv Taro Manum (NO), Tanja Nellemann Poulsen (DK), Anu Pennanen (FI), J&K (DE/DK), Katrin Tees (EE), Alexander Vaindorf (SE), Arturas Valiauga (LT), Julita Wójcik (PL)

Curators Dorothee Bienert, Kati Kivinen, Enrico Lunghi

Kumu Art Museum is hosting the 4th Ars Baltica Triennial of Photographic Art Don't Worry – Be Curious! from August 10 until September 30, 2007. The exhibition will present photographs, videos, and installations by 20 artists from the countries bordering the Baltic Sea, works that address the problems and fears resulting from upheavals in present-day society.

Europe's social, political, and economic reality is currently marked by restructuring processes that have led to a collapse in a continuity of location, a volatility in stable social relationships, and increasing individualization, on the one hand, and growing unemployment, passivity, and disenchantment with politics, on the other. These upheavals are predominantly experienced by West European countries as a crisis of the welfare state, while in East European countries they appear to be the result of socialism's displacement by a capitalistic economic order. The sensed threat provokes similar reactions here as well as there; fear of social impoverishment, of a loss of identity, and of an uncertain future are the effects of globalization. In addition to this is the growing fear of the "foreigner" and the increasing desire to exclude the "other."

The exhibition assumes that art can offer impulses and inspire reflection on participation and the power of agency. Invited are artists whose practice is based on the exploration of their social environment. The artists deal with diverse thematic fields such as migration politics, ideas of "normality" and "differentness," the mechanisms of understanding and misunderstanding, social fears, young people's various perspectives and concepts of life; the media's influence on perception, thought, and knowledge; the relation between consumer culture and nature; or the sentimental value of the commonplace. What unites the works is a positive and often humorous prevailing mood that makes the observer want to engage in something new and scrutinize his or her own patterns of perception and thought.

Don't Worry – Be Curious! will open in Kumu Art Museum on August 10, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. The opening will be followed by a concert with Girl from Saskatoon and HGH, initiated by the artists Talleiv Taro Manum, in the Kumu entrance hall at 7:00 p.m.

The exhibition is an Ars Baltica project of Stadtgalerie Kiel under the auspices of the Prime Minister of Schleswig-Holstein and is supported by the programme Culture 2000 of the European Union, the German Federal Cultural Foundation, and institutions from the participating countries: the Danish Arts Council, the Arts Council of Finland, the Center for Contemporary Art Norway, IASPIS – International Artists' Studio Programme, Moderna Museet – International Programme, Stockholm and the Ministries of Culture in Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

Further exhibition venues Pori Art Museum, Pori (FI); Neue Gesellschaft für Bildende Kunst (NGBK), Berlin (DE); Andrejsala, Riga (LV); Casino Luxembourg, Luxembourg (LU)

Publication An exhibition catalogue is available by Revolver Books with an introduction by the curators, an interview with Zygmunt Bauman, and texts by Petra Bauer and Annika Ruth Persson, Anders Eiebakke, Boris Kagarlitsky, Simon Sheikh, Hito Steyerl, Audrone Zukauskaitė, and others.

Internet www.arsbalticatriennial.org