

SUGARY PHOTOGRAPHS WITH TRICKS, POSES AND EFFECTS

19.03. – 04.04.2010

ANTWERP

A Festival on Photography



INTRODUCTION

*I hate nothing more than sugary photographs with tricks, poses and effects. So allow me to be honest and tell the truth about our age and its people.
(August Sander, 1876–1964)*

In the above quotation, Sander was venting his irritation at what he saw as the dominant style of photography in the early part of the 20th century. Sander critiqued that photographers seemed too concerned with pursuing the same artistic strategies as painters (such as heavy reliance on landscape imagery and Rembrandtesque lighting) rather than working with the unique features of the modern medium of photography. For Sander, subjects photographed in this manner were misleadingly transformed from their actual reality: the young farm boy became a prince and the servant girl a court lady. As a response Sander endeavoured to work with the specific characteristics of photography. Without the intervention of special effects or equipment such as filters or retouching, he sought to create images that emphasised his belief in the capacity of photography to relay truth, through documentation.

Though photography has arguably expanded its field from documenting subjects to perhaps more abstract, conceptual and altogether more subjective manifestations, the above thoughts on the nature of the medium serve as an appropriate departure point for a festival concerned with its contemporary uses.

An artistic climate in which technological progression has forced photography to enter a (relatively) new phase of its development, namely the digital, the medium itself is faced with the possibility to re-evaluate its means and modes of production. Through self-critique and self-reflection it is possible for photography to do this. What is the medium-specific character of photography? Why do artists choose this medium and what forms of meaning can photography produce in a contemporary art context?

'Sugary Photographs with Tricks, Poses and Effects' will attempt to raise and explore some of these questions through the bringing together of over 50 international artists and artworks across eight different locations and through the facilitation of debate surrounding contemporary photography and its uses and contexts.

EXHIBITIONS

01 FotoMuseum

BOOKS

'Books' is an exhibition about the relationship between the image and the book. The intention is to interpret the term 'book' in a wider sense and to define (and perhaps re-define) ways of representing the reproducible medium of photography. Editions from festival artists will be presented at the museums 'Platform 01' and 'Leeszaal' - two spaces located next to the FotoMuseum library. In part, the library will also be connected to the exhibition with an interventional project using aspects of the library itself.

The Cologne based bookshop 'Schaden' will join in during the first weekend of the festival, presenting a selection of stock from the shop as well as hosting the book launch on Sunday.

Artists: Paulien Barbas, Beierle + Keijser, Ralf Grosseck, Corinne Vionnet, Fernfeld, Jan Rymenants & Kristien Bosmans, Mariken Wessels, Ruth Van Beek & Basje Boer
www.schaden.com

Book launch – 21.03.10, SUN 1pm-2pm

Opening – 19.03.10, FRI 5pm-7pm

Exhibition Platform 01 – 20.03-28.03.10, TUE-SUN 10am-6pm

MIRALITE_EVOLUTION II

Artist: Colin Penno

Opening – 19.03.10, FRI 5pm-7pm

Exhibition Stairway – 20.03-28.03.10, TUE-SUN 10am-6pm

PHOTOGRAPHERS IN CONFLICT

The festival for photojournalism Visa pour l'Image in Perpignan (Southern France), has established itself as a solid framework for an annual gathering of the photojournalism industry. Controversial in its presentation of, and in its reflection on, photojournalism, the festival determined the environment in which Galic and Gredig in 2006 examined the group of the concerned photojournalists. In the aftermath of Abu Ghraib and the Tsunami, a cross-section of 32 photographers was invited in situ by the two artists into a Spartan, black painted studio, in order to capture their still portraits and video interviews. By isolating the photojournalists and placing them in front of their camera, Galic and Gredig reverse the asymmetrical power relationship between photographer and subject, and explore the self-perception of the photographers.

Artists: Goran Galic / Gian-Reto Gredig

Opening – 19.03.10, FRI 5pm-7pm

Exhibition Galerie – 20.03-21.03.10, FRI-SUN 10am-6pm

02 SECONDroom

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In his work Abe Reichtershot points out interesting connections between objects, photographs and situations. He changes the hierarchic position of objects, alters them, and re-considers their (artistic) value. He investigates a way to document, present and re-document in a exhibition. He disorganizes expectations and attaches new meanings to the photographed object by changing scales, placing objects in surprising contexts and exploring the material of a photo-print. Photography and film are being used to decrypt and develop a new visual language. By small alterations Abe Reichtershot questions the construction of an image, the illusion of space in a flat image, and the materiality of a photograph and the photographed subject.

Artist: Abe Reichtershot

Opening – 19.03.10, FRI 7pm

Exhibition – 20.03-04.04.10, WED-SUN 2pm-7pm

03 DepotDam

THE STAIRCASE KNOCKED THE HOUSE OVER

Taken from a French nursery rhyme* the title of this exhibition implies a form of destruction from within. However, this doesn't mean that the artists in this show break down in a negative sense of the term. They rather build up, from inside to out by creating a new frame, defiant towards yet defined by the former. Their method is one of a playful abandon intended to reinterpret the definition of 'space'. By intervening either in, on or outside of the image they all mark their territory to compose a new configuration of local reality that is neither a true nor false representation of the original. When the boundaries of one arena collapse there is potential for a higher form to emerge constructed from its constituent parts.

**Les Deux-Sèvres*, Paul Eluard (in: *Poésie involontaire et poésie intentionnelle*, 1942)

Artists: Paulien Barbas, Lara Dhondt, Sabrina Jung, Anouk Kruithof, Wim Wauman, Joachim Weischer

Opening – 19.03.10, FRI 7pm

Exhibition – 20.03-04.04.10, WED-SUN 2pm-7pm

04 NICC

THROUGH APPARATUS

Traditionally, it is assumed that photography is a process of image production; a means to an end. However, in an expanded sense, the critical potential of photography can also exist within the processes and apparatus that produce the image. The camera that takes the picture, the projector that displays the result and the labour that produces the print are just as photographic as the image itself. As these apparatuses are inextricably part of the process of photography, they are also fundamentally part of that which we deem photographic.

The works in this exhibition will maintain a focused demonstration that photography, as a process, is not just a mode of image production but a critical tool with the ability to contain artistic inquiry within and around its technological and conceptual apparatus.

Artists: Tomas Boiy, Michael Heym, Oscar Hugal, G. Leddington, Christoph Meier, Colin Penno, David Price and Ian Corbett, Adriana Salazar-Arroyo, Philip Ullrich, Matthias Wollgast

Co-curator: G. Leddington

Opening party – 19.03.10, FRI 7pm-1am

Exhibition – 20.03-04.04.10, WED-SUN 2pm-7pm

Artist Talks – 01.04.10, THU 8pm

05 Novylon

POTEMKIN VILLAGE

'Potemkin village' refers to the fake settlements erected at the direction of Russian minister Grigory Potyomkin to fool Empress Catherine II during her prospective visit to Crimea (Ukraine) in 1787. The term has come to stand for any construction designed to stage reality for ideological or other ends. The artists in this group exhibition examine the idea of reality as a composition, as something that is staged, whether it is by conscious design or by the human gaze. At the same time, they reflect about the idea of the photographic image as a composition or construction of reality and the photographic nature of reality itself.

Artists: Bert Danckaert, Alwin Lay, Georg Parthen, Ryan Rivadeneira, Anu Vahtra, Yaniv Waissa

Opening - 19.03.10, FRI 7pm

Exhibition – 20.03-04.04.10, WED-FRI 2pm-7pm

06 Van Geertstraat 81

PICTORALE MOLTO MALE

The curatorial concept presented in this exhibition concentrates on certain aspects of the festivals overall questions. Its concern is with the borders of photography. What criteria define a picture? What particular qualities give us the perception of a photograph and when do we give up on calling something a picture? 'Picturale molto male' takes a space related and site-specific approach to these themes. Its artists are interested in the relation between the idea and the materiality of photography. Their artworks not only deal with the physicality of pictures in space but also with space in a broader sense of the term; especially toward the one in which they are presented.

Artists: Johannes Bendzulla, Axel Braun, Frauke Dannert, Moritz Fiedler, Sebastian Freytag, Oscar Hugal, Christine Moldrickx, Christian Odzuck, Matthias Wollgast

Co-curator: Matthias Wollgast

Opening – 19.03.10, FRI 7pm

Exhibition – 20.03-01.04.10, WED-SUN 2pm-7pm

07 Atelier Solarshop

STILLS AND THINGS

'Stills' plays with the variety of possible ensembles that we identify and accept as a authentic, evident situation. Something that seems to make sense in its limits of time and context.

"Things" looks for the undeniable magic inherited in all things. The useless effort to define them, to capture their essence.

Artist: Bernd Kleinheisterkamp

Opening – 19.03.10, FRI 7pm

Exhibition – 20.03-04.04.10, WED-SUN 2pm-7pm

08 Ra space

INSTALLATION THE BOOKSTORE & 30 MIN LOOP

Artist: Fong Ponto

ENCLOSED CONTENT CHATTING AWAY IN THE COLOUR INVISIBILITY

Artist: Anouk Kruithof

Opening – 19.03.10, FRI 7pm

Exhibition – 20.03-04.04.10, WED-SAT 11am-8pm, SUN 11am-6pm

* Madam Fortuna

THE 1 MILLION \$ PICTURE

Have you ever seen a 1 Million dollar picture? Have you wondered what it might look like? Have you always wanted to make one yourself? What would happen if you made such a picture? What then? Fame, fortune and everything that goes with it? Or, would it return you back to step one? Would it make you doubt what you already forgot you doubted?

Ohad Ben Shimon will create such a picture in his visit to the festival. The picture and Ohad's unique method of contemplating about image production will be presented live to the public at Madam Fortuna, followed by a party to celebrate the presentation of the picture.

Artist: Ohad Ben Shimon

SYMPOSIUM

01 FotoMuseum

21.03.10, SUN 1pm-6pm, continuous access, reception afterwards

JÖRG SASSE, Artist, Berlin

USCHI HUBER / JÖRG PAUL JANKA, Photomagazine OHIO, Düsseldorf Cologne

PHILIPP FÜRNKÄS, Curator, Düsseldorf

GORAN GALIC / GIAN-RETO GREDIG, Artists (Photographers in Conflict), Zürich

OHAD BEN SHIMON, Artist, Den Haag

Moderator: Chris Clarke

Entrance: €5, students €3, reservation: rebekka.wauters@fotografie.provant.be

ARTIST TALKS

04 NICC

01.04.10, THU 8pm

GEERT GOIRIS, Antwerpen

BERND KLEINHEISTERKAMP, Brussel

PETER MILLER, Cologne

FILMS

05 Novylon

24.03.10, WED 9pm

By showing works of the exhibiting festival artists as well as those participating solely in the film program, SP W/ T, P & E will present a two event program of screenings that will attempt to expand on some of the themes present in the festival at large. Whilst no strict theme has been imposed in a conceptually curated sense, the film program will retain close ties to the notion of a 'festival on photography' by exploring issues that are prevalent within the various discourses on and surrounding the medium.

UNTITLED PERFORMANCE COMPILATION, Ohad Ben Shimon, 2009

SEER'S CATALOGUE, Dave Griffiths, 2009

FIREFLY, Peter Miller, 2006

PRESENT ABSENCE (FLITS FILM #5) + SEARCHING FOR WHITE, Katja Mater, 2005 + 2010

971 HORSES AND ZEBRAS, Yu Araki, 2007

CELLULAR AUTOMATION, Live Set, Pondskater

05 Novylon

31.03.10, WED 9pm

EIN BILD, Harun Farocki, 1983

TRAVELLING AMAZONIA, Marine Hugonnier, 2006

SUICIDE PORTRAITS, Alwin Lay & Sascha Hermann, 2008

EVENTS

04 NICC

19.03.10, FRI 10am-1am

OPENING PARTY

DJ Dunya / S.A.M. / Ryan Rivadeneyra

* Madam Fortuna

20.03.10, SAT 9pm

THE MILLION \$ PICTURE (PARTY)

Artist: Ohad Ben Shimon (<http://www.ohadbenshimon.com>)

DJs: Marius Bubat + Coma/Kompakt + Fiedler & Müller

05 Novylon

20.03.10, SAT 4pm-6pm

THOUSAND WORDS (x4)

Chris Clarke

This work uses the format of the art-historical lecture as a means of investigating notions of non-visibility and post-dematerialisation in the practices of four artists and filmmakers. Taking place in front of a blank screen, with a projection of white light serving to 'illustrate' the non-visibility of the works under discussion, the lecture will consider individual pieces by Guy Debord, Sean Snyder, James Coleman and Victor Burgin. Each artist will be discussed in 1000 words (as in the cliched term of 'a picture being worth a thousand words').

WAITING FOR BETTER TIMES

Ryan Rivadeneyra

Waiting for Better Times is a presentation that will combine elements of performance with the new tradition of the Powerpoint lecture. Citing historical references, fictions, dreams, and elements of global popular culture, the artist will attempt to give a complete description of the city of Antwerp without having visited the city.

Public space

PERUVIAN FLUTE

Vincen Beeckman

Peruvian Flute is a nomadic presentation of artworks in and around the streets of Antwerp on a small carpet. There will be space to discuss, buy, receive and swap pictures, provided you bring your own items to trade... all set to the rhythm of Peruvian flute music.

RE:COLLECTIONS

18.03.10, THU 8pm

RE:Collections is a mobile exhibition room using the form of a white trailer to provide a framework on which artworks can be displayed. During the festival the trailer will travel to several sites in Antwerp which will then become the starting points for a variety of short interventions.

FRI	19.03	H. Conscienceplein	6pm-10pm
SAT	20.03	Centraal Station NMBS	12am-6pm
SAT	20.03	Dageraadplaats	8pm-11pm
SUN	21.03	FotoMuseum	2pm-6pm
WED	24.03	Stadspark	11am-3pm
FRI	26.03	Linkeroever	4pm-9pm
SUN	28.03	Theaterplein	1pm-7pm
THU	01.04	Botanische Tuin	12am-6pm
FRI	02.04	Leopold de Waelplaats	4pm-9pm
SUN	04.04	Nachtengalenpark	10am-5pm

LOCATIONS + MAP

- 01 FOTOMUSEUM**, Waalsekaai 47
- 02 SECOND ROOM**, Ernest van Dijckkaai 4
- 03 DEPOT DAM**, Lange Lobroekstraat 210
- 04 NICC**, Tulpstraat 79
- 05 NOVYLON**, Zendelingenstraat 38A
- 06 VAN GEERTSTRAAT 81**, Van Geertstraat 81
- 07 ATELIER SOLARSHOP**, Dambruggestraat 48
- 08 RA**, Kloosterstraat 13
- * **MADAM FORTUNA**, Sergeyselsstraat 20



WEBSITE + BLOG

www.sugaryphotographs.com
www.sugaryphotographsblog.blogspot.com

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