

Elena Grudzinskaitė. Mono-tik

The exhibition is presented by Vilnius Graphic Art Centre

28 October 2023 – 15 November 2023 in Grafik i Väst, Gothenburg

Elena Grudzinskaitė's exhibition *Mono-tik* at the Gothenburg Grafik i Väst gallery represents contemporary Lithuanian graphic art and celebrates the longstanding collaboration between Lithuanian and Swedish graphic art institutions and artists, which began back in the period of the restoration of Lithuania's independence. Since the year 1990, exhibitions of Lithuanian and Swedish graphic art, various educational events, and lectures were hosted by both countries. Over the more than 30 years of collaboration, both countries' art institutions and artists played an important role. The exhibition by Elena Grudzinskaitė in Gothenburg is contributing to the strengthening and further continuation of cultural cooperation as well.

The works presented in the exhibition – the kinetic object *Mono-tik* and the photopolymer engraving series *Cutouts* – are an inquiry into the notion of routine monotonous landscape. They explore the broadest, fundamental sense of landscape, and ponder how fragments of fleeting situations and their consequences, quite distant from the habitual understanding of landscape, can effectively become it.

In *Mono-tik*, the source of images is a one-year period from the author's own life. She spontaneously took photographs of the surrounding scenery every day, constantly filling the photo gallery of her smartphone, and eventually generated an expanded visual landscape based solely on the content of this gallery, capturing it in time and space. The artist used each photograph taken during the year (starting with January 1st), cutting out 1 percent of the image and arranging these fragments into a seamless collage. The fragmentation of each photograph was done manually, thus deliberately selecting the most outstanding instantaneous situations from the images and merging them into a single abstract collection. A nearly 40-metre long canvas was generated from the 10,000 captured images and mounted on a kinetic mechanism rolling out 5 millimetres of it from the scroll every few seconds. In this way, the viewer can experience a calendar of visual instants from different stages of one year over one display day.

The photopolymer engraving series *Cutouts* is based on the material of the *Mono-tik* object. Here, the author employs the pre-generated fragment collage, extracts random visual situations from it, and arranges them into transformed reality compositions.

Both works presented in the exhibition are expressions of the artist's need to comprehend her own environment and states of mind, to be in one almost static routine point, and a synthesised apparition of the immediate surroundings; an expanded landscape absorbing the flow of time, events, and happenings.

Elena Grudzinskaitė (b. 1987) graduated with an MA in Graphic Art from Vilnius Academy of Arts in 2012, and has been teaching at the VAA Department of Graphic Art from 2015. She has held 8 solo exhibition since 2010, and actively participates in local and international exhibitions and symposia of graphic and interdisciplinary art, in addition to initiating graphic art outreach projects and curating exhibitions. Elena lives and works in

Vilnius. Her preferred techniques include drypoint, photopolymer, and photographic etching. In her artistic practice, the artist analyses individuals' relationship with their surrounding, the liminality and fragility of the parameters of space and time, the human impact on the environment, as well as the levitation of the notion of landscape between culture and nature, reality and fiction. Elena's works often assume the shape of a transformed, synthesised landscape.

Organised by
Vilnius Graphic Art Centre, Grafik i Väst

Project curator
Jurga Minčiauskienė

Project is financed by
Lithuanian Culture Institute
Lithuanian Council for Culture
Vilnius Academy of Arts

Partners
Attaché for Culture of the Republic of Lithuania in Sweden, Finland and Denmark
Lithuanian Artists' Association