

Foto Week DC Washington 2009



What Lies Beneath

Nature and Urban Landscape in EU Photography

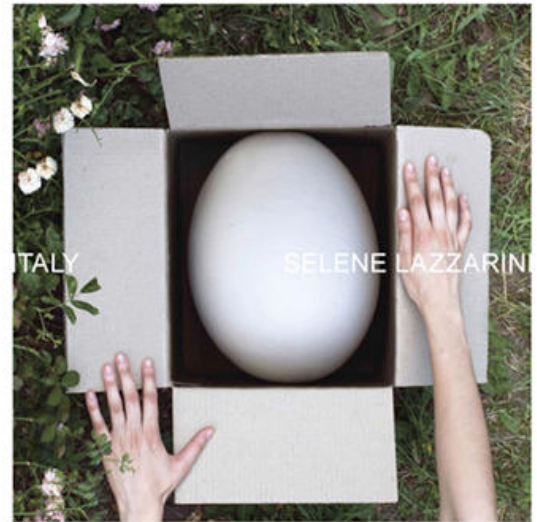
curated by JUDITH TURNER-YAMAMOTO

"Now, in this moment, this crisis, with the world may be going to pieces--to photograph a landscape!" documentary photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson quipped in the 1950s. Many of today's photographers, however, influenced by our current dis-ease with nature, feel quite differently about the genre.

The photographs in *What Lies Beneath: Nature and Urban Landscape in EU Photography*, a concise survey of contemporary developments in landscape explored through the lens of 20 EU photographers, could not have been made a century ago, or even a generation ago by Cartier-Bresson's peers. After more than a century and a half of photography, we cannot look at pictures of the natural and built world with the same astonishment as did nineteenth-century viewers. For photographers, the present challenge lies in making photographs that address the myths of landscape and our place in it in ways that make sense out of contemporary experience.

While many of these photographers draw on the landscape traditions of the past, their responses are informed by an awareness of our precarious relationship to nature, to the environment. Holding up a mirror to our world these images ask, "What are you doing with our land?" The answers they reflect--wary, respectful, hopeful--are as varied and complex as our intimate coexistence with nature.





I approached the term landscape in the larger sense, looking not only at the direct observation of nature but our interrelationship: how our presence and our built environments intersect and impact the natural world. Four major themes emerged as I began looking at European photographers focused on landscape. I found those focused on social and environmental impact on the environment. Others saw landscape as an anchoring reference point, a medium for exploring personal identity. There were artists who looked at landscape as a study in formal elements of space, shape and color. Others assumed a conceptual reserve, extending the conceit of landscape to create their own in the studio or to discover its references in anesthetized manmade environments. But underlying and uniting these works is a concern with ideas influenced by an understanding of nature as a sustaining resource, a physical record of human actions, and a grand persistent mystery.

The selected images ask us to take a second look, whether at the familiar or the sublime. They resonate with references to a human presence that is felt if not seen. Space is not only described but mysteriously enlivened, evoking emotional rather than rational responses to become meditations on place. These photographs are invitations to discover the unexpected and the sometimes incongruous in how we live now.

Judith Turner-Yamamoto

What Lies Beneath: Nature and Urban Landscape in EU Photography

7 November - 22 November 2009

presented by

FotoWeek DC

hosted by

Embassy of Sweden
Washington DC

20 EU Member States Embassies:

Austria
Belgium
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
Germany
Greece
Ireland
Italy
Latvia
Netherlands
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
United Kingdom

Inaugurated in October 2006, House of Sweden, distinguished by its unique wood-patterned glass facade, has assumed its place as a spectacular new Georgetown Waterfront landmark. Home to the Embassy of Sweden, the building also features a center for the Nordic business community, the Embassy of Iceland, an event center, and corporate apartments.

fotoweekdc.org



design:
Podewitz&Communications





LATVIA

ALNIS STAKLE



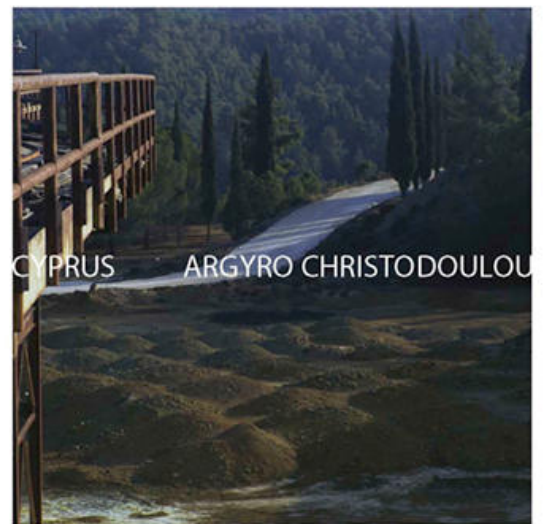
ESTONIA

ANNIKA HAAS



SPAIN

INIGO CALLES OYARBIDE



CYPRUS

ARGYRO CHRISTODOULOU



BELGIUM

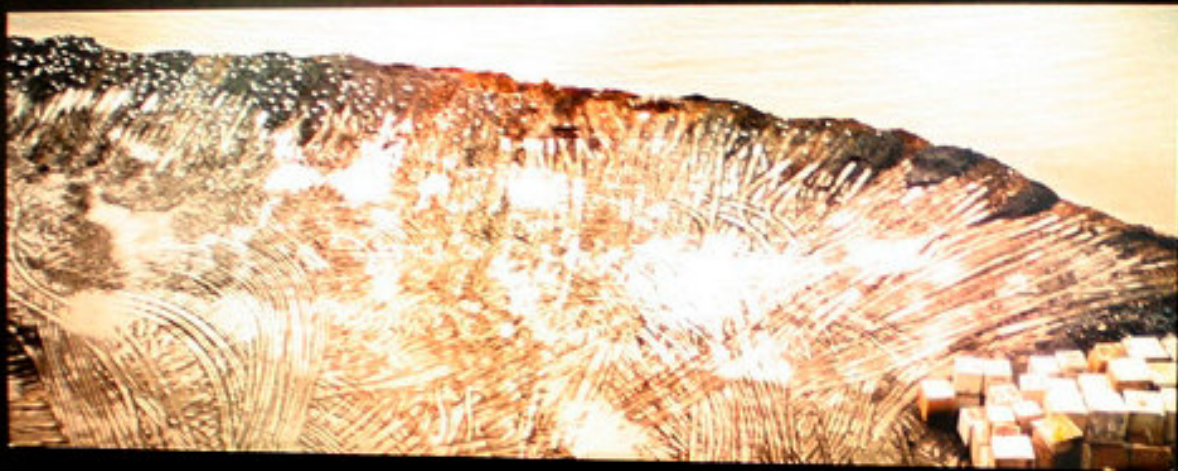
KARIN BORGHOUTS



SLOVENIA

PETER KOŠTRUN





J.M.W. Turner
Rain, Steam, and Great Railway Bridge

1844

Oil on canvas
National Gallery, London



HOUSE OF SWEDEN

FALL PROGRAM 2009 SWEDEN'S PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

OVERVIEW:

From July 1st to December 31st, it is Sweden's task to drive the EU's work and visions forward. Sweden is in the driver's seat of the world's largest integrated economy with nearly half a billion citizens until the end of 2009.

"It's going to be a very exciting six months, but the task before us is not an easy one. I'm looking forward to tackling the autumn's challenges together," says Sweden's Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt. "The most important thing is to ensure that we are able to gather the EU together to respond to the challenges that people care about and where strong European cooperation can make a difference. This is a matter of dealing with the financial crisis together and tackling the rising unemployment that is currently affecting the whole of Europe. It is also matter of doing our bit to rally the whole world to tackle climate change. These two priorities will dominate our Presidency".

All events are free, open to the public and held at House of Sweden, unless otherwise noted.



FACING THE FUTURE – SUSTAINABILITY THE SWEDISH WAY

Date:
September 1 – December 31, 2009

Imagine having the capability of updating an exhibit every morning - to be able to rearrange parts of an exhibit in many ways and to keep it constantly current. This exhibition uses a new concept where sustainable city planning and ecological lifestyles meet the Swedish passion for the outdoors and renewable energy. The new exhibit concept offers a new form of exhibition in which the contents of certain modules can be digitally altered over the internet. Other segments display new innovations, books, moving pictures, sound and photos. The modules are similar to large Lego blocks which can be put together in various ways to create seats, benches, cabinets, pillars, shelves and a shop counter.

In collaboration with: the National Property Board Sweden, Swedish Traveling Exhibitions, Sweden's Museum of National Antiquities and the Swedish Institute. Design by Samir Alj Falt.

WHAT LIES BENEATH: NATURE AND URBAN LANDSCAPE IN EU PHOTOGRAPHY

Date:
November 7 – November 22, 2009

This exhibition of works by both renowned and emerging photographers, curated by Judith Turner-Yamamoto, brings a diverse array of modern European artistic sensitivity to the Washington, DC metropolitan community. Over twenty EU photographers explored the nuances of natural and built environments. They looked beyond pictorial documentation to capture images animated by light, form and pattern that resonate with references to a human presence that is felt, if not seen. Space is not only described, but mysteriously enlivened, evoking emotional rather than rational responses, and becoming meditations on space itself. Photo by: Inigo Calles, Spain - Paisajes Rebelados. This exhibition is a harbinger of FotoWeek DC, that takes place November 7 – 14.

In collaboration with: FotoWeek DC and the Embassies of the EU Member States in Washington, DC.

