



Landscapes of Belonging

6 March – 3 July 2022

Maschinenhaus M1 / M1 VideoSpace

Pia Ârkê, Lilibeth Cuenca Rasmussen, Ewa Einhorn & Jeuno JE Kim, Birit Haarla & Katja Haarla & Outi Pieski, Julie Edel Hardenberg, Hanni Kamaly, Lap-See Lam, Britta Marakatt-Labba, Fatima Moallim, Hans Rosenström, Sara Rönnbäck, Elsa Salonen, Magnús Sigurðarson, Erika Stöckel, Lada Suomenrinne

Curators: Kathrin Becker, Christine Nippe

The word “colonisation” is usually associated with relationships of dependency and mechanisms of oppression by the North against the global South. Decolonisation processes in northern Europe, on the other hand, play a much smaller role in public awareness, although the indigenous Sámi population in Fennoscandia—the area that is now Sweden, Norway, and Finland—and the Inuit population in Kalaallit Nunaat (Greenland), which was colonised by Denmark, still struggle for recognition and self-determination. Iceland, which was subjugated by Norway and Denmark, also fought for its independence until the middle of the 20th century.

The group exhibition *Landscapes of Belonging* at the KINDL – Centre for Contemporary Art ties in with these processes and shows works by artists from northern Europe who deal with aspects of belonging and the collective design of locality in the sense of a lived experience. How can locality be reconceived, what role does the local environment play, and who has the rights and opportunities to participate in the social and cultural design of spaces? Can locality be the basis for a social blueprint that everyone can work on together?

The participating artists deal with these fundamental questions in a variety of media, drawing from their own biographies, which often transcend national borders. The works address aspects of the history of colonialism and repression: forced Christianisation and the suppression of local systems of belief, the establishment of settled life as the norm, the measurement and control of bodies, and the prohibition of cultural practices and communities. At the same time, the artists in the exhibition develop hybrid spaces that express belonging to different cultures. The exhibition also deals with the questioning of the self and our relationship to nature as a place of spirituality.

The starting point of the exhibition is the iconic video work *Arctic Hysteria* by the artist Pia Ârkê, who died in 2007 at the age of only 48 and pioneered the examination of Danish-Greenlandic colonial history. Ârkê addressed both Western notions of “Greenland” and narratives from places from her childhood which are absent from official history books, and critically examined notions of so-called “primitive art” and “Eskimo originality”.

The exhibition is supported by the Finnish Institute in Germany and the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Berlin.

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