



CHRYSTEL LEBAS



SOFIJASILVIA

CONVERSATIONS ON NATURE

Exhibition available for tour 2012-13
Curated by Liz Wells

Through the photographic investigation of two Croatian national parks – Chrystel Lebas and SofijaSilvia invite us to reflect on the interaction of humans, animals and the botanical. What do we learn about the histories of these specific places, about human ideals, and about forestry & horticultural vision from examining the shaping of these landscapes and the remains of buildings from former eras? Investigation of complex environments such as managed parks, wherein tensions in the integration and interaction of natural and cultural phenomena are variously manifest, takes time. Both artists returned frequently to specific sites, at different times of year, waiting, observing, listening and documenting that which occurs.

As a contemporary register of natural phenomena the exhibition invites us to reflect on attitudes to nature and on approaches to the conservation and management of rural areas often paradoxically represented as pastoral preserves for walking and climbing whilst simultaneously organised as spaces for hunting and fishing, killing pursuits that seemingly contradict the idealisation of animals and of traditional agricultural scenarios such as vineyards and olive groves that motivates the protection of wilderness areas as national parks. In their 'Conversations on Nature' SofijaSilvia and Chrystel Lebas also reference traditional painting styles, constructing poetic tableaux.

In articulating the inter-relation of photography and land management the exhibition will interest those concerned with contemporary landscape photography, with parks and woodlands conservation, with wildlife, botany and animal husbandry, and with the interaction of people and place in rural areas. Having been developed in a Croatian context it is also likely to interest those involved with Balkan and Slavic regions.

The exhibition opened at the Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Rijeka, June-August 2011 and is now available to other venues.

Above SofijaSilvia, Silent Islands, Brijuni - Imaginary Landscape no.02 - Fog, 2009, C-type, 80 x 120 cm

Below Chrystel lebas, Presence - Untitled n.30 - Risnjak - Kupa 2010, C-Type, 84 x 200 cm

EXHIBITION DETAILS

Chrystel Lebas

Chrystel Lebas was born in France and graduated from the Royal College of Art, London (1997). Her exhibitions include: 'Chrystel Lebas, Etudes Bel-Val', Musee de la Chasse et de la Nature, Paris (2010); 'Between Dog and Wolf' at Witzhausen Gallery New York & Amsterdam (2010), Nichido Contemporary Art, Tokyo (2003); 'Blue Hour', The Photographers' Gallery, London (2006), 'Twilight: Photography in The Magic Hour', V&A Museum, London (2006). Monographs: *L'espace temps- Time in Space* (2003) and *Between Dog and Wolf* (2006).

She is currently Adjunct Assistant Professor at Richmond, the American International University, London, and Associate Lecturer, University of the Arts, London.

SofijaSilvia

SofijaSilvia (Silvia Potočki Smiljanić) was born in Pula, Croatia. She studied at FAMU – The Film and TV School of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, and in 2007 graduated from the MA Fine Art course at the Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design London. Her work has been published internationally in the *Camera Austria International* magazine, *Czech Fotograf*, Slovenian *Fotografija* and Croatian *Čovjek i prostor*, *Kultura* and *Oris*. In 2011, HRT (Croatian National Television) filmed two documentaries about her work *Photography in Croatia - SofijaSilvia* and *Sophie's World*.

Liz Wells

Curator

Liz Wells writes and lectures on photographic practices. She is the author of *Land Matters: Landscape Photography, Culture and Identity*, I B Tauris, 2011. Her exhibitions as curator include 'Landscapes of Exploration, British Art from Antarctica' (forthcoming, Plymouth 2012) and 'Facing East, Contemporary Landscape Photography from Baltic Areas' (UK tour 2004-07). Her publications as editor include *The Photography Reader*, 2003, and *Photography: A Critical Introduction*, 2009, 4th ed.; she co-edits *Photographies*, Routledge journals.

Liz is Professor in Photographic Culture at the University of Plymouth, UK, and convenes the research group for Land/Water and the Visual Arts.

www.landwaterresearch.co.uk

Exhibition Inventory

Crystel Lebas

Presence, C-types, 7 @ 84 x 200 cm; 2 @ 180 x 260 cm;
Histoires Naturelle, C-types, 39 x 49 cm (series of 27, minimum 11 to be shown);
Nature Morte - Scenette, 'Untitled 6', 2009, C-type 81 x 100cm;
Presence, C-types, 4 @ 84 x 200cm;
Presence, C-types, wall installation, 11 pictures, sizes vary;
Presence - Kupa - October - 2009 - HD video projection, 36'37';
Presence - Kupa - August - 2010, HD video projection, 41'09';
Tracking Nature - Dedin - Risnjak - 2009, HD video projection, 53'05.

SofijaSilvia

Silent Islands, Brijuni, C-types, 1 @ 106 x 160 cm; 1 @ 93 x 140cm; 10 @ 80 x 120 cm; 6 @ 38,5 x 58 cm; 5 @ 30,5 x 46 cm;
11 @ 13 x 20cm;
Silent Islands, Brijuni, gelatine silver prints, 1 @ 38,5 x 58 cm;
20 @ 30,5 x 46 cm;
Silent Islands, Brijuni - What is Your Name?, projection, 06'09';
Silent Islands, Brijuni - At the Crossing, sound installation, loop;
Silent Islands, Brijuni - Crossing, projection, loop.

Enquiries: conversations_on_nature@hotmail.com
Fees, costs and scale of exhibition are negotiable.

