

models and (e)motion

Ars Baltica exhibition of photographic art at the Hanse–Office, Brussels

opening: 15th November 2004, 6 p.m., followed by a reception

duration: 11/15 – 12/03/2004

artists: Miklos Gaál (Finland), Wolfgang Plöger (Germany),

Gatis Rozenfelds & Pureculture (Latvia)

curator: Dorothee Bienert, Berlin

Three young artists from the Baltic Sea Region will present their work at the exhibition **models and (e)motion**. They all participated in the 3rd Ars Baltica Triennial of Photographic Art What is important? in 2003/2004 and use photography as an instrument to interrupt time, to select segments of reality, and to trigger the observer's emotions.

Miklos Gaál (*1972) views the world as a toy model full of tiny details. By exposing only parts of the picture sharply and leaving others blurred, he directs the spectator's attention, simultaneously irritating and fascinating him. His picture puzzles, which he takes without any form of digital manipulation, leave space for various stories.

Wolfgang Plöger's (*1971) photo–installations play with the viewer's perception as well. Using the light of a slide projector, he integrates objects in motion, whose shadows subsequently become part of the picture. The immovable seems to transmute into moving pictures: Plöger challenges the frontiers between photography and film, standstill and movement, reality and imagination.

The basis for the work of **Gatis Rozenfelds** (*1977) and the Latvian group **Pureculture** (Simona Veilande, *1979 & Emils Rode, *1974) are sociological studies. Together they developed a project dealing with pensioner's fashion in Riga. They portrayed elderly people who, due to their economic situation in an Eastern European country, are still dressed in clothes they have been wearing for the last 20 years. Nevertheless, they present their clothes proudly in positions like models, and at the same time the clothes tell stories about their owners' lives.

The exhibition will be opened by **Ute Erdsiek–Rave**, Minister of Education, Science, Research and Culture of Schleswig–Holstein, and **Rolandas Kvietkauskas**, chairman of the Ars Baltica organisation committee. The curator **Dorothee Bienert** will give an introduction to the exhibition.

In the year of EU expansion, the Hanse–Office is presenting an exhibition of photographic art symbolising the long and successful path of cultural cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region. Established across political borders as a cultural network East and West of the Baltic Sea in 1989, today Ars Baltica is a trademark of quality. It mirrors the various cultural activities around the Baltic Sea, for instance the Triennial of Photographic Art in 2003/2004, now being realised for the third time (exhibition until 21st November at Pori Art Museum, Finland).

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