

Krakow, 28 March 2014

PRESS RELEASE

Krakow Photomonth 2014 is coming. The 12th edition of one of the world's most important photography events will take place from 15 May to 15 June.

The curator of this year's Krakow Photomonth, which bears the title *Re:Search*, is independent researcher, artist and publisher Aaron Schuman. The festival's Main Programme, focusing on the relationship between photography and knowledge, features exhibitions of renowned exponents of Polish and global photography, in many cases showcased for the first time in Poland. The Krakow Photomonth 2014 programme is crammed full of many workshops, meetings and film projections. The festival is organised by the Foundation for Visual Arts.

"This year's Krakow Photomonth is different from previous ones," says Agnieszka Olszewska, since December 2013 festival director. "The festival's Main Programme was put together by an external curator who we invited to work with us – Aaron Schuman – and will be made up of nine exhibitions by remarkable artists of the middle generation. Photomonth's 12th edition analyses the possibilities and limitations of discovering the world around us through photography. We will be presenting photographs which confirm that this is possible and those which cleverly question the belief that everything that looks scientific must be true. In the Experimental Section we will show an original – especially for a photography festival – project realised with the help of unconventional artists. On top of this there will be the ShowOFF Section and many accompanying events. During this year's visit to Krakow you should prepare yourselves for many unusual discoveries, both in the exhibitions and elsewhere."

The quest for knowledge

Krakow Photomonth 2014's Main Programme probes the important and close relationship between photography and knowledge. It analyses various ways in which photography is entangled in the service of knowledge (or lack of it), and the process of searching for facts and meanings through photography. The 12th edition is also an attempt to uncover the roles played by photography as well as a celebration of its various values as a high-potential independent form of research, investigation or criticism. Nine exhibitions make up the festival's Main Programme, including the Experimental Section in Bunkier Sztuki Gallery, which aims to explore the potential of photography as a medium that goes beyond the sense of sight, and:

- Trevor Paglen's project *The Last Pictures* (Starmach Gallery), created and developed in collaboration with NASA. Together with invited experts, the artist selected 100 photographs, putting together an often humorous set originally intended to describe the world in photographs.
- Taryn Simon's *The Picture Collection* (MOCAP), which uses the complex cataloguing system of the New York Public Library collection to explore the apparently neutral topic of ordering knowledge about the world.
- David Campany's visual essay *Walker Evans. The Magazine Work* (also at MOCAP), compiled from carefully selected works of one of the 20th century's most important photographers, Walker Evans.
- Poland's first presentation of the works of Clare Strand (*Further Reading*, Szolayski House, Branch of the National Museum in Krakow), which analyses the need for pictures referring to scientific convention to be acknowledged as real.
- the exhibition *The Forensic Aesthetics* (Pauza Gallery), presenting the research of Thomas Keenan and Eyal Weizman, members of the *Forensic Architecture* research group, which takes as its starting point the belief that photography leads to the truth.

– the exhibition *Radiation*, focusing on Polish artists and curated by Wojciech Nowicki, which presents the mutual influences of photographs taken for scientific and research reasons and artistic photography (Manggha Museum of Japanese Art and Technology).
– Aaron Schuman's story about following the trail of his own memories, archive photographs and objects from the collection of Krakow's Ethnographic Museum (*FOLK. A Personal Ethnography*, Ethnographic Museum);
– Jason Fulford's *Hotel Oracle*. To date, Fulford has displayed his work in hotels and buses. The part of the project to be presented in Krakow is a puzzle for the festival audience and an invitation to search for hidden meaning.

Experimental Section – photography as a sensual medium

In the Experimental Section, the organisers take a chance on new ways of generating contents and presenting them at the festival. After the interactive exhibition displayed at Bunkier Sztuki in 2012, the second version (2013) took the form of a printed magazine. The third form of the Experimental Section will return to the exhibition format, featuring the works of artists including Igor Omulecki, Janek Simon, Łukasz Jastrubczak, Józef Robakowski, Stanisław Nitosiński, Jerzy Wroński, Andrzej Pawłowski, Marcel Kaczmarek, Dominik Lejman and Jiří Šigut.

Jakub Woynarowski, exhibition curator, says, "The exhibition at Bunkier Sztuki will feature works exploring the nature of photographs often seen as being distant from the 'proper' type. The *Echoes* project developed for the Krakow Photomonth Experimental Section is an attempt to test the potential of photography as a sensual medium that goes beyond sight and engages the other fields of human perception (touch, sound, smell, heat, spatial experience)."

ShowOFF Section

The ShowOFF Section, aimed at young artists from Poland and Eastern Europe at the outset of their careers, is always popular among audiences. This is often the artists' first chance of professional work on an individual exhibition and to present their output to an international festival audience numbering in the thousands.

This part of the Krakow Photomonth programme will comprise eight exhibitions of young visual artists selected from entries to an open competition, including a record number from abroad. The jury, made up of Nicolas Groszpiere, Gunia Nowik and Patrick Komorowski, Ewa Tatar, and Agata Ubysz, was looking for new phenomena in contemporary photography. They choose eight winners (individual or creative teams) this year: Daniela Dostálová, Lucian Bran, the Zbiór Pusty / Empty Set collective (Paweł Błęcki, Wiktoria Bukowy, Maciej Stachowiak), Diana Lelonek and Marek Kucharski, Przemek Branas, Irenka Kalicka, Monika Krzyńówek and Dominika Gęsicka.

The winners are currently working with the curators on the final form of their exhibitions and on how and where the work will be presented.

Accompanying Events: 9th Portfolio Review: meetings, workshops and discussions

The events accompanying the exhibitions at Photomonth 2014 are an integral part of the festival's Main Programme. Throughout the month, workshops, film projections, and meetings with artists will take place. These will include the Masters Series meetings begun in 2013 – an excellent opportunity to get to know the work of interesting artists, take part in discussions, exchange experiences, and perhaps even learn the secrets of the best sessions. Traditionally – for the ninth time this year – the Portfolio Review will be part of the Accompanying Events programme. This unique opportunity to meet and get valuable tips from experts often

produces spectacular results, including decisions to work together in exhibitions and publications – it's well worth it!

"The 12th edition of Krakow Photomonth marks a new chapter both for the event itself and for the Foundation for Visual Arts. The previous festival director Tomek Gutkowski, who also sits on the Festival Board, and I, along with Wojtek Nowcki and Paweł Szypulski, are actively creating a development strategy for Krakow Photomonth for the coming years. The new features in the festival format – Agnieszka Olszewska's role, the participation of an external curator, Aaron Schuman, and the collaboration with Pilar Rojo, who has taken over after years of excellent work by Edgar Bąk to design the Photomonth 2014 visual identification – these are exciting changes for us," says Karol Hordziej, President of the Foundation for Visual Arts and the festival's artistic director between 2005 and 2013.

More information about the Krakow Photomonth 2014 exhibitions and events to come soon.

Krakow Photomonth 2014

Re:

Search

15 May–15 June 2014

Curator: Aaron Schuman

Find out more at:

photomonth.com

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THE ORGANISER OF THE KRAKOW PHOTOMONTH FESTIVAL is the Foundation for Visual Arts.

Established in 2001, the Foundation is one of Poland's most active NGOs working in promotion of the visual arts. It specialises in photography, and its mission is looking for new definitions for photography in the context of contemporary art, history and sociology. The flagship event organised by the Foundation is Krakow Photomonth, a leading European photography festival. Between 2007 and 2011, the Foundation worked with the Krakow branch of the Association of Polish Photographic Artists to operate the ZPAF i S-Ka gallery, a space for experiment and promotion of interesting artists of the young generation. The Foundation is also a publisher: its catalogue contains both albums and books on photographic theory. It works with dozens of cultural institutions in Poland and abroad and participates in international cooperation networks and the most important photography events around the world.

Foundation for Visual Arts

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