

ON
CRITICAL TOURISM,
SITE-SPECIFICITY
&
POST-ROMANTIC
CONDITION

INTER-FORMAT SYMPOSIUM

NIDA ART
COLONY

LT

Welcome to the non-stop event shifting from performance to lecture to artists' game to critical sauna to performative discussion to artists guided site/sight/seeing to discursive dinner to role play to interactive buffet to screening to imaginary cartography to workshop to tea ritual to slow reading to sound performance to knowledge sharing to multilingual readings to guided orientation to conceptual sentiments.

INTER-FORMAT

The Inter-format Symposium raises academic issues and shares artistic questions through a playful and experimental format. The symposium's* goal is to gather artists, curators, researchers and practitioners and reinvent the format of presenting and sharing art, knowledge and experience. One of the key features of contemporary culture is the changing role of the artist, who sometimes assumes the role of a researcher and curator, and vice versa. Where are the borders of these roles? How could a serious researcher and theorist do a performance, and how could a playful artist do serious research and theorize?

SITE-SPECIFICITY (Nida)

A natural-cultural green-cube, far away from the hectic art centres but deeply involved with artistic production, Nida is a promising place to meet and think about critical tourism. Situated in the Curonian Spit and National Park (listed among UNESCO World Heritage Site), Nida hosted a historical artistic colony since XIX century and is today a major touristic destination for (post)romantic retreat.

MAY 16-19
2013

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SHORT PROGRAMME

(detail descriptions and participants bios are in the separate brochure)

MAY 16

(Thursday)

Experiencing and
Tasting of the Place:
Nida in the Curonian
Spit

⌄ **13.00–14.30**
Performative lecture-walk through the Curonian Spit in the relation to Maldives with artists Hanna Husberg (FIN), Laura McLean (AUS), and Kalliopi Tshipni-Kolaza (GR) - the Contingent Movements Archive (for Maldives Pavilion at 55th Venice Biennale)

[...] **15.00–18.00**
Open studios of Nida Art Colony residents with or without guided tour / Brett Sroka (USA), Anna Clawson and Nicole Ward (UK (N. IRL)), Adrien Siberchicot (FR), Gilles Furtwängler (CH), Veronica Bruce (USA)

[...] **17.00–18.00**
Opening / Guided tour / presentation of the site-specific works realized by residents and students (Vytautas Michelkevičius and Barnaby Drabble workshops) / Liesje de Laet (BE) "Stock footage - sojourning with objects and subjects", local residents (a-i-r) and students

📄 **18.00–18.45**
Welcome lecture by geography professor Ramūnas Povilanskas (LT) / Barrier Spits As Liminal Spaces Of Creativity

🍷 **19.00–20.45**
"The Taste of Nida Art Colony" by Marika Troili (SE) och David Larsson (SE) / A conceptual DINNER introducing a proposal for the "local" cuisine of Nida Art Colony – an international place in constant flux

⌄ **21.00–22.00**
Adrien Siberchicot (FR) - Nida a-i-r / Green Flash Project (A walk and situation with drinks on the Great Dune Parnidis)

[...] **From 22.00**
Yulia Startsev (CAN/RU) / Guided tour on the general topic of memory hallucination (Nida Death Match LAN Party)

MAY 17 (Friday)

Seaside and Alpine
Tourism: Nida (LT) <>
Sierre (CH)

🍷 **9.00–10.00**
Touristic Breakfast at the Colony

10.00–10.15
Introduction to the session "Nida and Critical Tourism" / Vytautas Michelkevičius

📄 **10.15–10.45**
Lina Dikšaitė (LT, National Park of Curonian Spit) / The Cultural Landscape of the Curonian Spit

📄 **10.45–11.15**
Jurij Dobriakov (LT) / Touring the Zero Town: The (Im)Possible Homecoming

11.15–11.30
Questions and answers moderated by Vytautas Michelkevičius

🍷 **11.30–12.00**
Coffee & chats break

📄 **12.00–12.45**
Wilko Graf von Hardenberg (CH) / Invented Nature. An Environmental Historiography of Critical Tourism

12.45–13.00
Questions and answers

🍷 **13.00–15.00**
LUNCH at the local restaurant Don Vito (7 min walk)

15.00–15.15
Introduction to the session "On Sierre and Critical Tourism" / Federica Martini

📄 **15.15–16.00**
Sibylle Omlin (CH) / On Hosting and Seducing: The Use of Alpine Images for Touristic Purposes

[...] **16.00–16.30**
Florian Kutzli (CH) / Alpine transhumance – flocks and tourists (video essay, artist' talk)

🍷 **16.30–17.00**
Coffee break with Questions and answers moderated by Federica Martini

[...] **17.00–17.30**
Juozas Laivys (LT) / Sharing experiences from being a resident in Sierre (CH)

§ **17.30–18.00**
Markus Soukup & Sam Skinner (UK) / In Visible Cities [Act I >> Leave to Remain] A video performance followed by live online discussion

18.00–18.30
Free time - fresh air of the resort town Nida

§ **18.30–19.00**
Gilles Furtwängler (CH) / Performance by Nida a-i-r

🍷 **19.00–21.00**
DINNER at the Colony

[...] **21.00–21.30**
Error Collective (EE) / On Hospitality: Error Master Suite Franchise Project

[...] **21.30–ongoing**
Not at all touristic sauna for discussions (Error Collective)

MAY 18

(Saturday)

Artists / Curators /
Researchers as Tourists

🍷 **9.00–10.00**
Collective Breakfast at the Colony

10.00–10.15
Introductions to the session

📄 **10.15–10.45**
Sebastian Cichocki (PL) / Nothing is new, neither nothing is old. A lecture on the site-as-an-exhibition experience

📄 **10.45–11.15**
Paul Domela (UK) / Come fly with me

11.15–11.30
Questions and answers

🍷 **11.30–11.45**
Coffee break

📄 **11.45–12.15**
Aldis Gedutis (LT) / At the Grave of Santa Claus: Sketches of Thanatourism

[...] **12.15–12.45**
Laura Kenins (LV/CAN) / Post-Soviet Tourism as Nostalgia Tourism and Slum Tourism

[...] **12.45–13.15**
Bill Aitchison (UK) / The Tour of All Tours

13.15–13.30
Discussion

🍷 **13.30–15.00**
LUNCH at the Colony

15.00–15.30
Short presentations / lectures on the workshops

⌄ **15.30–18.00**
Parallel Workshops - choose one:
[...] 1. Jurij Dobriakov (LT) - Custom-made topographies

2. Frauke Materlik (NO/DE) - Notions of landscapes - Between mental awareness and physical sensation

3. Veda Popovic (RO) - The Wretched in the Sand

4. Performative lecture-walk through the Curonian Spit in the relation to Maldives with artists Hanna Husberg (FIN), Laura McLean (AUS), and Kalliopi Tshipni-Kolaza (GR) - the Contingent Movements Archive (for Maldives Pavilion at 55th Venice Biennale)

§ **18.30–19.00**
Petra Koehle / Nicolas Vermot (CH) / Albert's Guesthouse: performance (participatory reading and BBQ) with intervention into dinner

🍷 **19.00–20.00**
DINNER at the Colony

⌄ **20.30–23.00**
Reading short stories by Thomas Mann in your own language in Thomas Mann's house (30 min walk, optional) / Open Museum Night in Nida

- 📄 Lecture-talk
- § Performance
- [...] Something in between
- ⌄ Activity Outside
- 🍷 Eating and/or drinking

KEY-WORDS and KEY-TOPICS

- > The artist as tourist
- > Artistic and curatorial practices in remote contexts as hospitality
- > Critical tourism and re-mapping culturescapes
- > Museification of landscape and local histories
- > Touristic gaze and the construction of places
- > Sightseeing as artistic research
- > Nostalgia tourism in post-colonial contexts
- > Localism vs. standardized identities
- > Staged authenticity and interpreting tradition
- > Post-romantic experiences of the picturesque
- > Dis-placing artistic practices in rural / alpine artistic colonies and residencies
- > Networked retreat for cultural production

CONCEPT

In a time where heritage, sustainability and ecology increasingly cross the path of tourism, artists working in remote contexts and tourists visiting those places often share the observation of similar cultural objects: iconic landscape sites, vernacular culture and authentic artefacts, invented traditions and nostalgia.

One effect of this condition, as Miwon Kwon highlights in the essay "The Wrong Place", is that the increasing mobility of the art system has led to romanticising the image of the cultural worker.

The symposium aims at bringing into question correspondences between artistic practices and critical tourism in a trans-disciplinary context. In contemporary artistic practices, do displacements take the form of a romantic expedition or are they based on hospitality and exchange? And what happens during the stay? What kind of connection/network of competence can be developed in a situation of post-romantic retreat? How to avoid and/or critically read the exoticism that potentially arises from these sites? How to deal with these two new genres of colonies – artistic and touristic ones – that are both conceptually and physically re-shaping the landscape?

The inter-format Symposium is a part of the cooperation project "On Hosting and Displacing" which shares experiences between two institutions - Nida Art Colony of Vilnius Academy of Arts (Nida, Lithuania) and Ecole Cantonale d'Art du Valais (ECAV, Sierre, Switzerland). Both are located in remote areas and explore alternative models of cultural production, based on a combination of artistic residencies, active exhibition centres and artistic educational programs.

Curators

Federica Martini (CH)
& Vytautas Michelkevičius (LT)

TEAM of the symposium

Curators: Federica Martini (CH) & Vytautas Michelkevičius (LT);
Curatorial assistant: Sacha Waldron;
Producer: Linas Ramanauskas;
Adviser: Rasa Anzaničiūtė;
Project assistant: Daina Pupkevičiūtė;
Designer: Laura Grigaliūnaitė.

TEAM of the Cooperation project:

NAC: Rasa Antanavičiūtė, Vytautas Michelkevičius;
ECAV: Petra Koehle, Federica Martini, Sibylle Omlin;
with the participation of Benoît Antille (CH),
Jurij Dobriakov (LT), Barnaby Drabble (CH).

www.nidacolony.lt
www.ecav.ch

CO-ORGANIZERS:



VILNIUS
ACADEMY
OF ARTS

NIDA
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COLONY

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école cantonale d'art du valais
schule für gestaltung wallis

PARTNERS / SPONSORS

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