

PLATEAU RESIDUE

Apertures in the Landscape

25 November–17 December 2022

artKIT

Apertures in the Landscape is the latest project by the artistic tandem PLATEAU RESIDUE, composed of Eva Pavlič Seifert and Aljaž Celarc. The artists use various visual tools to explore the formations of new ecological realities that are emerging as a consequence of the socio-political, economic, and technological shifts of the last centuries. In their engaged interdisciplinary practice, they deal with the multifaceted and reciprocal relationship between human and nature, drawing attention to human's collective and individual responsibility towards it and, ultimately, to our common future.

With this new project, adapted to the architecturally unique space of the artKIT exhibition space, the artists question the significance of the material remains of past eras, the obscure technologies of the past and the process of returning nature to areas that have been altered by humans in the past through technology. The project illuminates two interconnected historical milestones: the Rapallo border and the invention of the photophone.

The two large-format black-and-white photographs at the center of the installation show the area of the former Rapallo border, which, after the signing of the Rapallo Peace Treaty in 1920, delimited the territories of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes and the Kingdom of Italy, cutting the Primorska region off from the parent country. Italian troops placed boundary stones on the border and built shelters, observation posts, barracks, and other fortifications along the border. By now, most of these abandoned buildings, full of various military technology, are overgrown by vegetation. One of the bunkers in the photo also housed a photophone communication device, which was in use more than a hundred years ago. It was the first wireless information technology and the direct predecessor of today's fiber optics. It was invented by A.G. Bell in 1880, 17 years before Marconi invented the radio. The photophone consists of a receiver and a transmitter that converts sound waves into light signals, which are received by a light-sensitive cell and converted back into sound waves.

The atmospheric photographic-light-sound installation provides a unique sensory experience and introduces the visitor to the obscure technical heritage of the defensive structures in the abandoned and overgrown area of the Rapallo border. The visitor enters the darkened room carrying special photophonic lamps that emit light and sound waves, which are then transformed into an audio narrative with the help of photo-transistor loudspeakers embedded in the photographs.

BIOGRAPHY

Website



PLATEAURESIDUE is an imaginary identity of award-winning duo Aljaž Celarc (b. 1989, BA in Geography [Faculty of Arts, SI] & MA in Photography [AKV St. Joost, NL]) and Eva Pavlič Seifert (b. 1989, BA in Art History [Faculty of Arts, SI] & MA in Visual Culture [Aalto University, FI]). They work with landscape ecology and new media to research new ways of raising public awareness. They always give voice to project participants, natural forms such as rocks, air, organisms, and other clusters of substances, which they reorganize into new unusual forms and new media systems. The baseline of their artistic production are immersive video installations. The tandem lives and works in Slovene village of Novi Kot, in the forest hinterland of Goteniška gora and Snežnik. Solo exhibitions: KiBela, space for art, the Flora Gallery in Dubrovnik, the Museum of Contemporary Art (+MSUM) in Ljubljana, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Novi Sad, and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Rijeka, Miklova hiša Gallery, Kino Šiška, Božidar Jakec Gallery in Kostanjevica na Krki, Vžigalica Gallery, Monitor Gallery in Izmir, IMPAKT Festival, the City Museum in Ljubljana, Švicarija and Kunstraum Kreuzberge/Bethanien in Berlin. They were artists in residence at Švicarija (MGLC) and at the V2 Insitut for Unstable Media in Rotterdam. They were awarded the TESLA award.

Co-production: Cirkulacija 2 (Borut Savski and Miha Erjavec)

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artKIT, Glavni trg 14, Maribor

Opening hours: Tuesday to Friday from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.