

CIDADE FRONTEIRIÇA:
TALLINN - LISBOA
BORDER CITY:
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PRESS RELEASE

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The Instituto Camões and Tallinn Art Hall Foundation announce proudly that an excellent dual exhibition of works by Estonian and Portuguese artists – titled “Border City: Tallinn – Lisbon” with the subtitles “Arrival” and “Departure” – will open at the Instituto Camões on Thursday, 16th February at 18 o'clock . Seventeen artists from each country are participating, the majority of which are jewellery artists.

The exhibition is open until 23rd of March 2012.

Artists from Tallinn:

Katrin Amos, Piret Hirv, Katarina Kotselainen, Tiina Käesel, Urve Küttner, Leonhard Lapin, Laurensius, Kristiina Laurits, Eve Margus-Villems, Kadri Mälk, Maarja Niinemägi, Villu Plink, Jaanus Samma, Rait Siska / Risto Tali, Ketli Tiitsar, Tanel Veenre.

Artists from Lisbon:

Ana Albuquerque, Madalena Avellar, Miguel Branco, Sónia Brum, Miriam Castro, Rui Chafes, Paula Crespo, Catarina Dias, Cristina Filipe / C. B. Aragão, Hugo Madureira, João Martins, Teresa Milheiro, Marília Maria Mira, Typhaine Le Monnier, Inês Nunes, Tereza Seabra.

Instituto Camões, Avenida da Liberdade, 270 Lisboa
(near Marquês de Pombal)
16.02.2012 - 23.03.2012
9:30a.m. to 1:30p.m. - 2:30p.m. to 6:30p.m.

Cover photo credits (see high resolution image attached):
Paula Crespo, Contentor II, 2011. Photo by Tanel Veenre.

Curator and editor of the catalogue: Harry Liivrand.
Assistants: Kadri Mälk, Eero Kangor (from Estonia), Cristina Filipe, Paula Crespo (from Portugal)
Catalogue has texts by Harry Liivrand, Kadri Mälk; Rui Afonso Santos, Cristina Filipe
Catalogue design: Jaanus Samma
Exhibition design: dasduasuma atelier

Thanks:

Estonian Artists´ Association, Estonian Cultural Endowment, Galeria Reverso, Tallinn Art Hall
Under the high patronage of the Estonian Embassy in Lisbon

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Salt is the material that motivated and pervades the exhibition. Through salt, as the mineral that symbolises the commercial ties between the two cities during the Hanseatic period, and the keywords of "arrival" and "departure", this project conceptualises the phenomenon of two historical border cities and the state of arrival and departure mostly metaphorically and associatively, by appealing to the viewers' imagination.

The exhibition titled "Border City: Tallinn – Lisbon", which was very successfully first on display at the Tallinn Art Hall Gallery and at the Tallinn City Gallery in September 2011, is the first joint project between Estonian and Portuguese jewellery artists. The exhibition gives a design-based meaning to the identity of two capitals that have symbolised the borders of Old Europe. The idea for the exhibition was born after the curator made a trip to Lisbon and became conscious of the historical connections between Tallinn and Lisbon.

In the geographic dimension, Tallinn and Lisbon define totally different and, in the context of mental attitudes, even contradictory peripheral cultural spaces. However, the status of a border city that is open to the sea and the location's context as a fateful end terminal are the points of departure that have motivated this project. Both cities are met by the sea; there is no other possibility – one must turn back or sail away, to cross the border ... or to be inspired.

Historically Tallinn and Lisbon have been connected by salt, which was one of medieval Tallinn's most important import articles. A large part of the city's wealth and prosperity was based on the trading of salt, thus one could say that Tallinn was built on salt. The salt was imported primarily from Portugal's historic Setubal region. The white salt from this area was also called Lisbon salt and was transported in open ships. In this way, Lisbon salt arrived in the Estonian Hanseatic City of Tallinn. This ancient salty connection has inspired some of the artists participating in this exhibition.

Borders unite and divide. Psychologically, crossing a border is always related to fear, time and context. Border cities are related to possibilities and impossibilities, to departing and returning, to anticipation and desperation. Intensive port cities, which produce meaning, are fertile ground for the development thousands of seaside stories that the locals protect like holy secrets. These stories form the subconscious of border cities, which are simultaneously paradoxical and magical. The chaotic, proto-dynamic material that accumulates in border cities is transformed into something cultural.

Based on the concept, the exhibition in Tallinn is occurring simultaneously in two galleries – in one the sub-topic is Arrival and in the other Departure. Seventeen artists from each city are participating. They have combined salt and gold, silver and raw diamonds, sheet iron and salt crystals, salt and fabric... the materials include also canvas, acrylic, gold leaf, photo, and bronze. They perceive the magical power of jewellery, the meaning encoded in object art, the mystical impact of materials, and the greatness of symbolism. Coming to a border city gives them additional power and self-confidence. They also have an excellent mastery of the fantastic feeling of being on border.

Harry Liivrand