

# HOŠEK CONTEMPORARY

— EST. 2016 —

ALEXANDRU RAEVSCHI - @LIVING\_WELL\_ IT'S MUCH APPRECIATED

OPENING: FRIDAY 26TH OCTOBER 2018 AT 7 PM

Curator: Linda Toivio

As the last exhibition of 2018, the gallery is presenting *@living\_well\_it's much appreciated*, an audiovisual installation by **Alexandru Raevschi**, consisting of video projections and a sound-based interview. One of the videos, *Gray Ability*, is highlighting how economic, political and social structures which once were thought stable within Germany, are now starting to crumble. The second video is a collection of interviews conducted by the artist in Norway, surveying the levels of patriotism and tolerance.

Originally from Moldova, Raevschi is revealing parts of his family archives, insinuating that what is personal is also inevitably political, as the two cannot be separated. By bringing private elements into our attention, the artist is urging to think of the level of individual responsibility we each have in regards to future generations. Thus, in *Gray Ability* he is not proposing to forge a way out of the formed situation, but instead encouraging to seek adequate solutions for the present. Only by analysing what was yesterday, can we change what will be tomorrow.

On the video shot in Norway, all the interviewees are asked the same question: Who is unnecessary in your country? This blunt interrogation implies that some people are more important than others, because they can contribute something, while others are useless non-members of society. Often this contribution is measured in financial terms or perceived productivity. While creating a divide between those who give and those who allegedly take or the seemingly righteous taxpayers and the greedy social benefit profiteers, it also awakens hostile feelings towards migrants. Fueled by far-right and nationalist propaganda, people are now ranked into categories of necessary and unnecessary citizens. In Moldova, around the collapse of the USSR, this was felt by certain ethnic groups who were suddenly thrown on the wrong side of an imaginary border and classed as undesirable or redundant in their homeland.

On a scale from one to ten, what is **your** ranking?

Far from being a uniquely Moldavian experience, the same construction is widespread, whether due to an armed conflict, natural catastrophe or political instability. One of the basic human desires is to feel needed, to have a purpose, as this gives us a sense of belonging. When we don't belong, when we are not part of something, it confronts us to some primal questions about our core identity: Who am I and where is my home?

## About the artist

Alexandru Raevschi was born in 1979 in Chisinau, Moldova, where he received a Master's degree from Ion Creangă Pedagogical State University in Fine and Decorative Arts and a Master's from the Academy of Public Administration under the President of Moldova in Economic Sciences. He was awarded a third Master's in Fine Arts from the Bergen Academy of Art and Design in Norway. He is a PhD student at the Aalto University's School of Arts, Design and Architecture in Helsinki, Finland. His artistic work explores questions of social life and interaction with the political system, using artistic action, painting, sound and audiovisual installation. Through his situational and contextual projects, he creates forms of intervention in both public and exhibition spaces, as well as acts of translation and archiving. Raevschi's current research projects focus on the politics of invisibility, a search for the national identity of individual social groups and the reactions to changes under the influence of the contemporary paradigm's mental features. His work has been presented on three continents in cities such as Bergen, Berlin, Bucharest, Rio de Janeiro, Tokyo, Vienna and Warsaw, as well as during the biennales in Havana, Moscow, Tallinn and the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai. He lives and works in Marburg.

<http://alexandruraevschi.com>

Text © Linda Toivio

**PETR HOŠEK**  
**MOTOR SHIP HEIMATLAND**  
**CLOSE TO STRALAUER ALLEE II**  
**IO 245 BERLIN**  
**+49 1525 7486496**  
**INFO@HOSEKCONTEMPORARY.COM**  
**WWW.HOSEKCONTEMPORARY.COM**