

# HOŠEK CONTEMPORARY

— EST. 2016 —

## BORGHILDUR INDRIDA - SPACELAB - INTO THE UNKNOWN

Opening reception: 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021, 7 - 10 pm

Exhibition period: 5<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Curated by Gloria Aino Grzywatz and Peggy Schoenegge (peer to space)

The exhibition *SPACELAB - Into the Unknown* represents the starting point of the artistic project *Artist on the Moon*. Reflecting our role as humans within the solar system, Borghildur Indrida plans to be the first artist to fly to the moon, realizing an artistic performance in space.

The moon has always been an object of international interest. Since the 1950s, various countries have raced to land missiles and crews in order to be the first to gather information about the distant luminary. Major nations such as the United States, the former Soviet Union or China succeeded and explored small areas of the moon. As a symbol of conquest, they raised flags and removed moon rocks, asserting territorial claims.

These claims of power illustrate imperialist structures, which Borghildur Indrida explores and questions. Flying to the moon herself, the artist rejects nationalized interplanetary relations reminiscent of a colonial past. As an act of national disempowerment, she looks for a way of restitution by bringing back the moon stones to where they belong. In this process, patriarchal patterns within space exploration also become visible, which she deconstructs in equal measure. Borghildur Indrida occupies the supposedly male domain as a female artist and reinterprets it as an artistic space, breaking up structures of power.

*SPACELAB - Into the Unknown* creates a laboratory situation, which allows a comprehensive scientific consideration of Borghildur Indrida's project. In a site-specific installation at the ship hold of Hošek Contemporary, visitors are immersed into the artistic discourse. The artist confronts us with fundamental questions of systems of power and ownership interests. What claims are being made in relation to unmanned territories? What hierarchies and systems emerge? How can women assert themselves within patriarchal structures? In the artist's peaceful gesture of restitution, the complexity and insanity of nationalized power relations clarify and remind us of our position in the solar system. With the gaze toward and the journey to the moon, the focus of our being is directed to the essential - an equalized, respectful and participatory society without exploitation.

Text © Gloria Aino Grzywatz and Peggy Schoenegge (peer to space)

### About the artist

Borghildur is an artist born in Reykjavík, 1987, who grew up partly in Berlin. She studied at the Reykjavík School of Visual Arts: visual art, painting, drawing and analogue photography. She received her Bachelor degree from Listaháskóli Íslands (LHÍ; Icelandic Academy of the Arts). Thereafter, Borghildur worked as a performer in well-known performance expos such as Schaubühne and Volksbühne in Berlin. She obtained her Masters at Universitat der Künste Berlin (UdK; Berlin University of the Arts) in architecture. Her artistic practice involves the dimension of directing, dealing with architecture and performance through sound, colour, light, and atmosphere. Within this framework, she always works site-specifically in order to implement the discourses effectively. Her topics combine research on gender, social structures and power roles through the expression towards cinematic elements. Since a young age, Borghildur worked in collaboration with various artists, curators and directors mainly in Europe such as at Studio Olafur Eliasson. Borghildur is known for her performance expo *Demoncrazy - Drosophila* on the program of the Icelandic Art Festival depicting powerful young women in front of past paintings of men in power positions of public institutions - a recurring topic she is constantly investigating and commenting on. Borghildur developed exhibition series such as HAH Editions and the Terminal Exhibitions with the newly formed Terminal X operated from Berlin.

### About Hošek Contemporary

Established in 2016, Hošek Contemporary is a gallery, performance space and art residency located on a historical boat in Mitte, Berlin. The focus is primarily on performing arts, site-specific installations and experimental sound works. The gallery hosts weekly improvised music sets, providing musicians an opportunity to showcase their sound skills to a Berlin audience.

### About MS Heimatland

Built in 1910 in Fürstenberg an der Oder, MS Heimatland was initially operating under the name Ida and used for transporting coal to Charlottenburg. After the Second World War, the 58-meter long cargo ship was renamed Heimatland, meaning 'homeland'. Until the 90s, the ship was sailing on Elbe and Havel, moving sand and chippings. It served for artistic and cultural purposes for the first time in 2002, when German sculptor Christiane Möbus chose it for her *Nackte Tatsache Tatsache* project. Finally in March 2018, Heimatland became the main exhibition space and artist residency of Hošek Contemporary. The boat is permanently anchored in the historic port of Berlin.

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