

# HOŠEK CONTEMPORARY

— EST. 2016 —

## PHANTASM - LUKE CONROY AND ANNE FEHRES

Opening reception: 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019, 7pm - 10pm

Exhibition period: 30<sup>th</sup> May - 1<sup>st</sup> June

Exploring the notions of 'nature' and 'the natural', *Phantasm* is a video art project presenting various surreal scenes. The installation consists of various video projections in the main exhibition space of Hošek Contemporary, an old cargo boat floating on the River Spree.

In *Phantasm* the audience is invited to consider the complex relationships that we as humans have with the concept of 'nature'. In this relationship nature is often perceived as wild and unpredictable, something to escape from and have mastery over. At the same time however, it is also framed as an idyllic and nourishing place that we need to 'get back in touch with'.

Further complexity around the idea of 'nature' is added once labels such as 'natural' or 'unnatural' are applied to people, ideas, actions and inventions. What is left is a concept of 'nature' that is full of contradiction and confusion, where the lines between what is considered 'natural' and 'unnatural' or the human world and the natural world are constantly blurred. This confused state acts as the starting point for the artists in *Phantasm*.

In this project, Luke and Anne have brought together original footage sourced from Europe, Asia and Australia, as well as found footage and 3D objects. All these elements come together to form an abstract narrative spanning science, technology and culture. This narrative has been constructed through research into the curious ways that humans interact with and consider nature. Some of the ideas presented reflect the recent developments in human cloning, the 'cloud seeding' technology which allows artificially influencing the weather, the health and beauty industry's pressure to look and eat 'natural' as well as our manipulation of animals to serve as food, friends, religious icons, entertainment and space explorers. When these layers, alongside various others, are considered in comparison to one another it highlights the confusion, complexity and contradiction at the heart of 'nature'.

### About the artists

Anne Fehres (1988, The Hague, The Netherlands) is a filmmaker and visual artist who graduated from the Royal Academy in Ghent, Belgium. Her practice is concerned with social subjects and the relationship between the psychological and physical nature of people.

Luke Conroy (1990, Tasmania, Australia) is a visual artist, teacher and sociologist with a degree from the University of Tasmania in Australia. Broadly, both his sociology research projects and visual art practice are centred on an exploration of place and the routines and memories held there.

Together Luke and Anne specialise in multidisciplinary visual art projects. Their works utilise photography, video and social research to create a variety of pieces which have a central focus on people, stories and places. In 2019, Luke and Anne are working together on a variety of projects and they will participate in five art residencies in Germany, Finland, Russia, Denmark and Iceland.

## About Hošek Contemporary

Established in 2016 by Petr Hošek, Hošek Contemporary is a gallery and art residency located on a historical cargo ship next to Fischerinsel in Mitte, Berlin. The gallery focuses primarily on site-specific installations, performing arts and experimental sound works. During the spring and summer months, the gallery is hosting weekly improvised and experimental music installations, with local and international artists.

## About MS Heimatland

Built in 1910 in Fürstenberg an der Oder, MS Heimatland was operating under the name Ida and initially used for transporting coal to Charlottenburg. After the Second World War, the 58-meter long cargo ship was renamed Heimatland, meaning "homeland". Still in 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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