

EXHIBITION

19.05.2019 – 14.07.2019

Jelena Jureša – Aphasia

Opening 18.05.2019 / 18:00 - 21:00



Jelena Jureša, *Aphasia*, 2019. Courtesy of the Artist.

As a medical term, aphasia refers to the inability to speak or to find the right words. Jelena Jureša's new film installation *Aphasia* consists of three chapters, each focusing on the collective silence surrounding crime and the compartmentalisation of historical events, and tracing the line between Belgian colonialism, Austrian anti-Semitism and the wars in Yugoslavia.

With *Aphasia*, Jureša not only digs for the roots and preconditions for a state sponsored violence, but also for the reasons why such collective crimes keep being repeated. The film zooms in on objectivisation and dehumanisation processes, among other themes, while at the same time shedding light on the roles played by photography and film.

The media are not shown as mere silent witnesses to a twisted worldview, but as active instruments in preparing and executing different crimes against humanity.

However, *Aphasia* aims to show their positive force as well. When law and politics fail to bring justice and facilitate collective healing, these same media (photography, film, television) can break the silence, and art may lead the way to justice.

Aphasia is a work of art about racism and intolerance, exposing the banality and triviality of evil. The film challenges us to look (literally) more attentively and to question our own individual and collective position. *Aphasia* is a call, not for punishment or outrage about the crimes committed during colonial times, the Holocaust or the atrocities in Bosnia during the Yugoslavian wars. Rather, it is a call to break the collective silence, and to actually look at the blind spots that seem to have become a fundamental part of our European identity.

Aphasia begins where everything else ends – precisely because the artistic imagination can offer different perspectives, solace and justice.

Aphasia is produced by Argos, Centre for Art and Media. Co-produced by Kunstencentrum Nona (Mechelen) in the context of Contour Biennial 9, KASK School of Arts/HOGENT, ZKM - Zagreb Youth Theatre With the support of the Flanders Audiovisual Fund (VAF). The work will also be on display in Mechelen during the 3rd phase of Contour 9 Coltan as Cotton (18 – 20 October 2019).

Within the framework of this production and exhibition, a book with the same title will be published, comprising texts by Branka Benčić, Berber Bevernage and Eline Mestdagh, Jelena Jureša, Barbara Matejčić, Asa Mendelsohn, Rolf Quaghebeur.

EXHIBITION

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There all is order and beauty

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Joëlle de la Casinière, *Again on the Seas*, 2015. Courtesy of the Artist.

For the third and last exhibition of the series exploring the dialectic between photographic and moving images in the works of the Argos collection, we look at streets, hinterland and landscapes. Like the oldest surviving camera photograph *View from the Window at Le Gras* (1826-1827) by Nicéphore Niépce (1765 – 1833), the works in the exhibition open perspectives on the urban and rural surroundings. Specific spots are sometimes limits or places for a new beginning. They tell us about everyday journeys along now much-changed neighbourhood or they are unknown region to be discovered. At times some places look trivial, other times astonishing beautiful. They can have an iconic and unanimously recognizable aspect or we have lost the memory of their appearance in a certain moment in time. Beyond candid dichotomies, the relation between natural and artificial territories is much more complex than it looks like. In this way the exhibition shows how we contemplate nature and connect to landscapes, but it also engages to consider how a specific environment shapes our behaviour and imagination. It's a journey through space and time, a drift along the blurred line between practice and poetry.

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS:

Thomas Bernardet, Elina Brotherus, Alina Cristea, Joëlle de La Casinière, Pieter Geenen, Philippe Herbet, Esther Johnson, Jacques Louis Nyst, Alain Paiement, Sébastien Reuzé, Meggy Rustamova, Satoru Toma, Philippe Van Damme, Jan Vromman.

This exhibition is a collaboration with Contretype, Centre pour la photographie contemporaine (4 a, Cité Fontainas, 1060, Bruxelles).

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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**JELENA JUREŠA – APHASIA
&
THERE ALL IS ORDER AND BEAUTY**

Argos, Centre for Art and Media

Werfstraat 13 Rue du Chantier – 1000 Brussels
02/ 229.00.03, www.argosarts.org, info@argosarts.org
Wednesday - Sunday 11:00 – 18:00
Entrance fee: €6/4

PRESS PREVIEW

Friday 17.05.2019 – 11:00.

Please confirm your presence to Ive Stevenheydens via ive@argosarts.org or
02/ 229.00.03.

IMAGES

<http://press.argosarts.org>

Please mention the copyright and the name of the photographer (credits should
be placed underneath the published photo's)

MORE INFORMATION?

Questions about the exhibitions, interview requests or other inquiries?
Contact Ive Stevenheydens – ive@argosarts.org