

## **Constructed Geometries**

*space / time / memory*

Artist: Aurora Király

30<sup>th</sup> March – 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2017

History repeats itself. History is interpreted. Gradually, the individual memories emerge from the central historical discourse – they reshape it, they nuance it. The past becomes the present in various ways, but memory is its instrument. Memory operates at an individual level, at a collective level. It creates repetitions and conflicts, ellipses and spaces on top of which other memories are built.

At the beginning of her career, Aurora Király used black and white photography as an artistic medium through which she was exploring a tactile reality, made out of textures and light, within a profoundly intimate and personal space. The photographs from the *Melancholia* series (1998 – 2000) capture the then-present moment of a passing emotional state of mind, a photo-journal of sorts. However, memory intervenes as a verb, not as a noun. *Memory takes work* (Andreas Huyssen). Other spaces are created following memory as action. The series *Viewfinder* (2014 – 2016) and *Viewfinder Mock-up* (2016 – 2017) are built from the same themes, objects and photographs that Aurora Király had created in the previous years, during the 1990s and the 2000s, in order to materialize the past-present process.

Time splits as the photographs taken during the early years of the artist become horizon lines of fictitious realities, open to interpretations and fragile. Aurora Király builds spaces around them through slits and double folds using drawings and cardboard materials. By exhibiting them, the simulacrum created by strata of interpretative readings becomes a common space, a search that is shared with that otherwise elusive *Other*. The tactility of the photographs makes the imagery transform, grow out of its frame and reconfigure for another sensorial experience, building bridges in time.

This possible and shifting inter-connectivity is inversed in the collages of *News Remix* (2017). The point of origin is the relative present for this series. It is encompassed in the Dadaist-inspired collage, made out of words found in the contemporary international and Romanian media. Yet the present takes time. Aurora Király surveys the discursive common space in leaps in order to capture a collective consciousness which refracts and reflects through individual experiences – a private public space. The collages, just as the *Viewfinder* series, become objects, layered capsules of time and space, which configure different geometries and visual experiences onto to the past.

Aurora Király faces a continuous reconciliation between an ever-changing past and an ineffable present. The bridge between them, the architecture of what she builds is made out of a commonly shared want to seize the moment and the simultaneous instinct to live in the next one. Her photographic journal is bound to grow, develop further and leave traces in drawings, folds and cardboard, cut and pasted pieces of news, of histories she might have lived and of other spaces where we might have met.

Text by Cristina Stoenescu

Partner: Catleya Wines

**Aurora Király** approaches the contemporary visual arts from various perspectives - as an artist, a curator, a cultural manager. She graduated from the National University of Arts, Bucharest in 1994 and she obtained her MA in Cultural Management *EcumEst* in 1998. She has been teaching at the Department of Photography and Dynamic Image at the National University of Arts, Bucharest since 2007. This experience made her re-evaluate her artistic activity from the 1990s and the 2000s and generated new projects. Her most recent works question the sources that an artist may explore for choosing a subject and the modality through which the said artist approaches context / recent history / art history.

**Selected solo shows:** *Reality check*, Calina Gallery, Timișoara (2016); *Cut & Paste Histories*, Alert studio, Bucharest (2015); *Duet*, Galeria din cetate, Târgu Mureș (2003); *Feminine Archeology*, The International Centre for Contemporary Art, Bucharest (2000); *Melancholia*, The Cultural Centre Sindan, Cluj (2000); *Untitled*, The International Centre for Contemporary Art, Bucharest (1999).

**Selected group exhibitions:** *Fără pensule*, Atelier030202 Bucharest (2016); *Fostul viitor*, Arcub-Hanul Gabroveni, Bucharest (2016) ; *Istoria noastră despre alții. Un oraș văzut prin patru lentile*, within *INAG#10*, Scena9, Buchares (2016); *Brain Tatoos – A Map of Obsessions*, The Romanian Cultural Institute Lisabona (2016); *Tatuaje pe creier – O hartă a obsesiilor*, Victoria Art Center (2016); *Fete cu idei [Băieți și picture]*, Lateral ArtSpace, Cluj (2016); *WHAT ABOUT Y[OUR] MEMORY*, The National Museum for Contemporary Art, Bucharest (2014); *Contemporary Art Ruhr*, Essen, Germany (2014); *RDV roumaine – l'espace En Cours*, Paris, France (2002); *The Dream of My Life*, National Art Gallery, Sofia, Bulgaria (2001); *In Full Dress*, Brukenthal Museum, Sibiu, Romania (2000); *The Shadow*, The Hungarian Photography Museum, Kecskemet, Hungary (1997); *Una Finestra sull'Est*, Galeria San Filippo Neri, Torino, Italy (1996).