

Video art exhibition 4 *Dialogues* on AB Dambis floating gallery NOASS

On the 14th of August 2012, gallery NOASS will celebrate the opening of video art exhibition 4 *Dialogues*, which is a collaboration project of Video Art Archive of Latvia and curator João Laia, as part of International Contemporary and Video Art Festival WATERPIECES 2012.

This exhibition draws on the idea of a conversation as a platform to explore different possibilities of understanding and perception. The show is built around the organization of works in pairs, drawing a formal analogy between its structuring and a one-on-one chat. Each pair brings forward the works' shared interests while underlining their differences, allowing for a varied group of ideas and conceptions to coexist. In this way the exhibition mimics the form of a dialogue where agreement and dissent also mingle and collide.

The dialogue form of exhibition is further expanded in relation to its grouping of different geographical and cultural areas. By pairing works from the Baltic region with pieces from the UK, USA and Southern Europe, the exhibition prolongs the idea of dialogue into the framework of a cultural exchange. 4 *Dialogues* can also be seen as a kind of a *cadavre exquis*¹ in the context of the casual chat free-form where topics are easily addressed and abandoned for different subjects. As in a dialogue or a *cadavre exquis* the possible connections depend on the will of the participants and the virtual proposals of these conversations are made actual by the interaction of the spectator with the works.

The exhibition is the first collaboration project between curators Anna Veilande Kustikova who represents the Video Art Archive of Latvia and João Laia, a writer and curator based in London, contributor of *Artcapital* and *Público* and researcher for the Gulbenkian Modern Art Centre in Lisbon. The exhibition will be accompanied by the presentation of *Now Showing: Austerity Measures*, a screening programme curated by João Laia and Andrey Shental, that investigates the notion of austerity as a creative tool for visual experimentation and social analysis.

Location: AB Dambis 2, Riga, LV-1048, Latvia.

Duration: 14th-31th of August

Open hours: Tuesday to Friday 12:00-19:00

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1 ***cadavre exquis*** (engl. *Exquisite Corpse*) – a collective game invented by the Surrealists in 1925. "game is to compose a sentence, or design, by many people without any of them considering coherence" (Abridged Dictionary of Surrealism)