

Mapping Lithuanian Photography: Histories and Archives

Vytautas Michelkevicius, Lina Michelkevice, Agne Narusyte
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Vytautas Michelkevicius, Lina Michelkevice, Agne Narusyte : Mapping Lithuanian Photography: Histories and Archives before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mapping Lithuanian Photography: Histories and Archives:

This is a catalogue of two exhibitions and a collection of essays on photography, history, cinema and mapping. The

event called photo/carto/historio/graphies is an artistic research project, which uses cartographic strategies to rethink the developments, ideas and stereotypes of Lithuanian photography. The essays published here discuss the re/creation of history and visual constructions of history in cinema, contemporary art and particularly photography. Everything that could not be included into the book (videos, internet comments, etc.) can be found in the project's blog 3xpozicija.lt/kartografija. The book is bilingual in English and Lithuanian. The reader will find in this volume not only theoretical and philosophical insights, but also many examples from the history of Lithuania, documentary cinema and television films, photography, contemporary and new media art. The book starts with the discussion of the curators about the project and issues it raises; the German art historian Rudolf Frieling has contributed his paper about the links between maps, media, art, archives and text and their representation in contemporary art. The historian Ruta Sermuksnyte discusses representations of the past in film and television and Vasilijus Safronovas analyses the role of power in the formation of history. The textual part of the book ends with a playful essay by the art critic Valentinas Klimasauskas who wanders between photography and reality. A very important component of the book consists of maps and schemes created by the participants of the project; also artists' works and documentation of exhibitions. The first exhibition at the Prospekto Gallery included maps and other objects, documentation of the performance and artists' works. The second exhibition at the Vilnius Photographic Gallery showed an installation by Milda Zabarauskaite and Robertas Narkus.

When reading this book, you feel like having in hands a postmodern Umberto Eco novel. You can experience not only the pleasure of snappy text, but also the joy of unfolding maps, schemes and photographs. Skirmantas Valiulis, cinema and photography critic --Lithuanian Daily Respublika, 08 02 2008

About the Author Vytautas Michelkevicius is a media theorist, activist and curator. Since 2005 he has been writing a PhD thesis about photography from the point of view of media theory at Vilnius University, Communication Faculty; he has also been teaching at the same faculty and also at the Photography and Media Department of Vilnius Academy of Fine Arts. Since 2002 he is taking part in the exhibitions and projects as an artist or curator. In 2005 together with likeminded people he founded and is still editing an internet magazine on media culture balsas.cc. He has edited the book *Mediju studijos: komunikacija, filosofija, menas / Media Studies: Communication, Philosophy, Art* (Vilnius Academy of Fine Arts Press, 2007). Currently he is interested in the immateriality in art and new media and in autumn 2007, together with Valentinas Klimasauskas, he published a one-day what if...? newspaper *Asteroido balsas / Asteroid Voice* about immateriality and speculation. Lina Michelkevicius is an art critic and translator. She studied at the Philology Faculty and A. J. Greimas Studies and Research Centre at Vilnius University. Since 2007 she has been writing a PhD thesis about social and participatory art at the Vilnius Academy of Fine Arts. She translates and writes texts about culture and is interested in linguistic tricks; in her free time she speaks Finnish and cooks experimental soups. Agnė Narusyte is an art historian, critic and curator. She completed her PhD on the aesthetics of boredom in Lithuanian photography in 2005 and now is a research fellow at Napier University, Edinburgh, UK. Since 1996 she has been constantly writing for Lithuanian cultural press, publishing papers in academic journals and various publications on Lithuanian photography. She has worked as a curator at the Lithuanian Art Museum, lectured at the Vilnius Academy of Fine Arts, edited the foreign culture page for the cultural weekly *7 mėnuo dienos* and created culture programmes for the Lithuanian National Television channel. Narusyte has edited exhibition catalogues *Saviobjektai / Selfobjects* (together with Ruta Pileckaitė and Dovilė Tumpytė, Vilnius: Contemporary Art Information Center, 2006) and *Kartos: kintanti fotografija / Generations: Changing Photography* (Alytus: Artists group *Erdvės*, 2005). Her current interests lie in photographic constructions of identity, especially in Eastern Europe.