

With its big eye Fotograf Festival examines the problematics of digital world

Prague, 12 September 2017 – We are steadily concerned about loosing our shared data, we fear the manipulation by search engines and social media represent a powerful political tool rather than an open communication space. How has our behaviour changed in this virtual space beyond the fact that some of us are putting tape over webcams?

Fotograf Festival, which traditionally engages with the overlaps of photography and contemporary art, presents its seventh year and focuses on the problematics of the Internet and the transfer from analog to digital thinking. This year it will be hosted by institutions such as *Fotograf Gallery, Futura, Tranzitdisplay, Hunt Kastner, Ateliér Josefa Sudka and Galerie Rudolfinum*.

The title "Eye in the Sky" refers to an intangible eye constantly gazing at us while we move in the digital space as well as outside thereof. The infinite presence of digital space has created a parallel new world that we are only starting to understand thanks to and/or despite of the „Eye in the Sky“ as a certain type of metaphore for the phenomenon of big data, observation and surveillance.

“The border between what we were used to call reality and our inner space of the digital world is being narrowed and we are hitherto unable to grasp the ratio between negative and positive effects of this development. For some the technology represents the means of liberation, for other is is the tool of repression. Fotograf Festival offers a few clues on an imaginative map, which could be of help to navigate oneself in this problematics,” states the curator of this year’s edition Jen Kratochvil.

As one of its first events the Fotograf Festival opened an exhibition in the **Hunt Kastner** gallery. A common project by Kajsa Dahlberg and Jiří Skála, who look at the contemporary modes of production and labour, their systematization, distribution channels and how technology feeds back.

The end of September is marked by an exhibition in the Center for Contemporary Art **Futura**, where the Dutch collective **Metahaven** presents its project Truth Futurism. The following debate, which will take place in the DUP39 and officially open the festival, will raise questions of how to manipulate the contemporary virtualized reality, whose façade is hiding the most sensitive data and why it is important to let oneself be deluded by art in order to critically discern similar processes used by the advertising industry. The discussion panel will be followed by the **opening ceremony on Wednesday, 27 September** in the newly moved Fotograf Gallery and the launch of the 30th issue of the Fotograf magazine devoted to the broader theme of digital world and contemporary photography under the same title „Eye in the Sky“.

The topic of mass surveillance, global collection of personal data, and ethics of warfare by the means of remotely controlled drones characterize the work of an American artist Trevor Paglen, who opens his exhibition *How Deep Is the Ocean, How High Is the Sky* in the Fotograf Gallery at the beginning of October.

How significant and/or dangerous could the global data collection be and whether we are careful enough while dealing with our personal data on the Internet; these are the topics of discussion by Trevor Paglen together with IT specialists from the anti-virus company **Avast** and other invited artists and theoreticians. Apart from exhibitions, discussions and workshops the festival furthermore offers **film screenings in the Kino Rudolfinum**. Films like *Risk* from Laura Poitras, the director of *Citizenfour*, and the last of Werner Herzog’s films, *Lo and Behold, Reveries of the Connected World* about the impact of the Internet on our everyday life will be shown.

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DISCUSSION PANEL I:

DANIEL VAN DER VELDEN - METAHAVEN, DZINA ZHUK & NIKOLAY SPESIVTSEV – EEEFFF, JAN BROŽ & MICHAL LANDA - PARALLEL PRACTICE

27. 9. 2017, 16.00

DUP39

FESTIVAL'S OPENING CEREMONY AND LAUNCH OF THE FOTOGRAF MAGAZINE

27. 9. 2017, 19.30

Fotograf Gallery

KAJSA DAHLBERG AND JIRKA SKÁLA

9. 9. – 27. 10. 2017

Výstava: Hunt Kastner

METAHAVEN: TRUTH FUTURISM

27. 9. – 26. 11. 2017

Exhibition: Center for Contemporary Art Futura

TREVOR PAGLEN: HOW DEEP IS THE OCEAN, HOW HIGH IS THE SKY

6. 10. – 4. 11. 2017

Exhibition: Fotograf Gallery

FILM SCREENING *RISK*

16. 10. 2017, 19.00

Kino Rudolfinum, Galerie Rudolfinum

DISCUSSION PANEL II:

TREVOR PAGLEN, BORIS ONDREIČKA, VÁCLAV JANOŠČÍK, IT SPECIALISTA / AVAST

2. 11. 2017, 17.00–20.00

Avast Offices Pankrác

FILM SCREENING *LO AND BEHOLD, REVERIES OF THE CONNECTED WORLD*

3. 11. 2017

Kino Rudolfinum, Galerie Rudolfinum

For the full programme of the festival please visit our website: www.fotografestival.cz