

PICTURE LANGUAGES

PHOTOGRAPHIC ART FROM GEORGIA

**Andro Eradze, Natela Grigalashvili, Lado Lomitashvili, Dina Oganova, Koka Ramishvili,
Mariam Sitchinava, Daro Sulakauri, Guram Tsibakhashvili, Beso Uznadze
Historical Insight: Dimitri Ermakov, Nino Jorjadze, Alexander Roinashvili**

Exhibition period: **September 22 – November 18, 2018**

Opening: **Friday, September 21, 7 pm**

Press Tour: **Friday, September 21, 11 am**

Frankfurt am Main, September 21, 2018 – What inspires today's photographers in Georgia? Where are the roots? How do the photographic artists reflect upon their own identity? The exhibition **PICTURE LANGUAGES. PHOTOGRAPHIC ART FROM GEORGIA** (22.09.–18.11.2018) provides answers and viewpoints presenting twelve important photographic »voices« of Georgia's relatively unknown scene. Their works, mainly created since the end of the Soviet Union, show current trends and developments: Documentary images of Georgia's struggle for independence, forms of portraiture, studies of tradition and symbolic places can be seen.

One main aspect of the exhibition are the works of young photographers born in the late 1980s and early 1990s. They consistently work in coming to terms with the identity of their generation and the experimental handling of the medium of photography. In addition the exhibit provides insight into Georgia's history of photography: with reproductions of the early artists Dimitri Ermakov and Alexander Roinashvili and the first female war photographer Nino Jorjadze. Through this, the exhibition imparts impressions from the history and from modern life in Georgia – and as well various artistic positions of its contemporary photography.

Guram Tsibakhashvili can be viewed as a photographic chronicler of soviet and post-soviet life in Tbilisi and other regions in Georgia. His images poetically reveal a society on the brink of survival and political ambiguity. **Natela Grigalashvili** documents the hardships as well as the simple joys of everyday life in Tagveti, her childhood-village. Her black and white photographs act also as memories of her time growing up. **Beso Uznadze's** series of portraits of Georgians living in Tbilisi and London started before the 2008 Russian and Georgian conflict; the faces disclose the tension of the times. The rich hues of these portraits is further developed in his nude series »*Delusion*«: Working with digital techniques he brings an airy feel of Cubism into his photography.

In a photo-journalistic essay **Daro Sulakauri** exposes the precarious existence of the aged infrastructure and the manganese industry's environmental impact in the once booming mountain mining town Chiatura. **Dina Oganova** and **Mariam Sitchinava**, both born in the late 1980s consistently work in portraiture of their generation and coming to term with identity, using photo books and social media. **Andro Eradze** and **Lado Lomitashvili** inspect how society reacts to communal space using conceptual artistic tactics including film and installation. **Koka Ramishvili** scrutinises nature and possibilities of the photographic process: through different media he pushes the viewer to think about what is visible or hidden in the everyday world.

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This comprehensive exhibition, curated by Celina Lunsford, Artistic Director of the Fotografie Forum Frankfurt, is a cooperation with Creative Georgia, Georgian National Book Center and Frankfurter Buchmesse, on the occasion of Georgia as the Guest of Honour at the Frankfurter Buchmesse 2018, with the generous support of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia.

PICTURE LANGUAGES. PHOTOGRAPHIC ART FROM GEORGIA is accompanied by a catalogue (in German and English). Special events such as lectures, discussions and workshops with leading Georgian photographers, curators and experts are planned.

In cooperation with:



FOTOGRAFIE FORUM FRANKFURT

The Fotografie Forum Frankfurt (FFF) is one of the leading centres of photography in Europe. As an exhibition space, institution and event forum the FFF deals with all aspects of photography. Since its founding in 1984 it has presented more than 250 exhibitions with historic and contemporary artists. Additionally, the program of the FFF comprises of regular workshops, talks and discussions with internationally renowned photographers, artists and experts. Further information available at www.fff Frankfurt.org

Fotografie Forum Frankfurt wird gefördert durch Förderkreis Fotografie Forum Frankfurt e.V., Stadt Frankfurt am Main und Olympus Deutschland GmbH.

