The Mountain Speaks to the Sea - Tekla Aslanishvili

The Mountain Speaks to the Sea is the first solo exhibition in the Netherlands of Georgian filmmaker and artist Tekla Aslanishvili.
The Mountain Speaks to the Sea is de eerste solotentoonstelling van de Georgische filmmaker en kunstenaar Tekla Aslanishvili in Nederland.

Hosted by: Onomatopee

Project Information (EN)

Disrupting Connectivity

Aslanishvili's experimental documentary films Scenes from Trial and Error (2020) and A State in a State (2022) blend intimate stories and geopolitical narratives in the Caucasus and Caspian regions with macro-infrastructural transformations. The films go against the grain in their reading of the grand promises of connectivity, challenging the dominant vision of the new Silk Road. While disclosing the intricate geopolitical networks and the extractive operation behind the making of infrastructure, they observe the social fabric woven along the transit routes, excavating their potential for building lasting, transnational kinship among the people who live and work around them. Through a dynamic moving-image landscape designed by architect Natalia Nebieridze, the exhibition presents Aslanishvili's new cinematic project The Mountain Speaks to the Sea (2024), that reassembles fragmented (hi)stories of restructuring labor and life around the realm of global energy politics.

Social and Geological Landscapes

The experimental two-channel documentary follows the rivers of the South Caucasus, tracing their paths from the mountains to the Black Sea, mapping the material and social infrastructures surrounding them through the shifting seasons. The focus culminates in the joint EU-Georgia initiative to construct the world's longest high-voltage power grid under the Black Sea, aimed at reducing the EU's dependency on Russia for global data and energy transmission. By intertwining personal and distant histories with myths and future orientations, the film examines how energy infrastructures are reforming not only the social and geological landscapes but also the making and unmaking of state borders and the practices of statecraft. Partnerships: The project is supported by the Italian Council program (2024) promoted by the Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity of the Italian Ministry of Culture, Critical Media Lab HGK Basel FHNW, University of Arts Berlin, Graduate School UdK Berlin, Kommission für künstlerische und wissenschaftliche Vorhaben (KKWV) Berlin, E.A. Shared Space Tbilisi, Cultuur Eindhoven and Mondriaan Fund.

About Tekla Aslanishvili

Tekla Aslanishvili is an artist, filmmaker, and essayist based between Berlin and Tbilisi. Aslanishvili completed her studies at the Tbilisi State Academy of Arts in 2009 and holds a Master of Arts from the Berlin University of the Arts in Experimental Film and New Media department. Her work has been screened and exhibited internationally at Berlinische Galerie; SculptureCenter, New York; Taipei Biennial 2023; MCAD - Museum of Contemporary Art and Design, Manila; Wiels, Brussels; Eye Filmmuseum, Amsterdam; Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt; Transmediale 2023, Berlin; Loop Festival / Museu Tàpies, Barcelona; NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore; Neue Berliner Kunstverein; 14th Baltic Triennial; Tbilisi Architecture Biennial; Short Film Festival Oberhausen; Kunsthalle Münster. She is a 2019 Digital Earth fellow, a nominee for the Ars-Viva Art Prize 2021, and a recipient of the Han Nefkens Foundation – Fundació Antoni Tàpies Video Art Production Award 2020. Currently, Aslanishvili is a postgraduate fellow at the Berlin Centre for Advanced Studies in Arts and Sciences (BAS) at the Berlin University of the Arts.

Projectinformatie (NL)

Disrupting Connectivity

Aslanishvili’s experimentele documentaires Scenes from Trial and Error*(2020) en A State in a State (2022) verweven intieme verhalen en geopolitieke narratieven uit de Kaukasus- en Kaspische regio’s met macro-infrastructurele transformaties. De films keren zich tegen de grote beloften van connectiviteit en dagen het dominante beeld van de nieuwe Zijderoute uit. Ze onthullen de complexe geopolitieke netwerken en de extractieve processen achter de infrastructuur, terwijl ze de sociale structuren belichten die langs de transportroutes ontstaan. De films onderzoeken de potentie van deze structuren om duurzame, transnationale banden te smeden tussen de mensen die daar leven en werken. De tentoonstelling toont Aslanishvili’s nieuwe filmische project The Mountain Speaks to the Sea (2024) in een dynamisch videolandschap ontworpen door architect Natalia Nebieridze. Deze experimentele tweekanaals documentaire reconstrueert gefragmenteerde verhalen over arbeid en leven, tegen de achtergrond van mondiale energievraagstukken.

Social and Geological Landscapes

De film volgt de rivieren van de Zuidelijke Kaukasus, van de bergen tot aan de Zwarte Zee, en brengt de materiële en sociale infrastructuren in kaart door de wisselende seizoenen heen. Het project culmineert in het gezamenlijke EU-Georgië-initiatief om ’s werelds langste hoogspanningsnetwerk onder de Zwarte Zee te bouwen, met als doel de EU minder afhankelijk te maken van Rusland voor data- en energietransmissie. Door persoonlijke en verre geschiedenissen te verweven met mythen en toekomstperspectieven, onderzoekt de film hoe energie-infrastructuren niet alleen de sociale en geologische landschappen hervormen, maar ook de opbouw en afbraak van staatsgrenzen en staatsstructuren. Partnerships: Het project wordt ondersteund door het Italian Council-programma (2024), gepromoot door de Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity of the Italian Ministry of Culture, Critical Media Lab HGK Basel FHNW, University of Arts Berlin, Graduate School UdK Berlin, Kommission für künstlerische und wissenschaftliche Vorhaben (KKWV) Berlin, E.A. Shared Space Tbilisi, Cultuur Eindhoven en Mondriaan Fonds.

Over Tekla Aslanishvili

Tekla Aslanishvili is een kunstenaar, filmmaker en essayist, gevestigd tussen Berlijn en Tbilisi. In 2009 voltooide ze haar studie aan de Tbilisi State Academy of Arts en behaalde een Master of Arts aan de Universität der Künste in Berlijn in de richting Experimentele Film en Nieuwe Media. Haar werk is internationaal vertoond en tentoongesteld in onder andere: Berlinische Galerie; SculptureCenter, New York; Taipei Biënnale 2023; MCAD - Museum of Contemporary Art and Design, Manila; Wiels, Brussel; Eye Filmmuseum, Amsterdam; Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt; Transmediale 2023, Berlijn; Loop Festival / Museu Tàpies, Barcelona; NTU Centre for Contemporary Art, Singapore; Neue Berliner Kunstverein; 14e Baltische Triënnale; Tbilisi Architecture Biënnale; Kortfilmfestival Oberhausen; Kunsthalle Münster. Ze was in 2019 Digital Earth fellow, genomineerd voor de Ars-Viva Kunstprijs 2021, en ontving de Han Nefkens Foundation – Fundació Antoni Tàpies Video Art Production Award in 2020. Momenteel is Aslanishvili postdoctoraal fellow aan het Berlin Centre for Advanced Studies in Arts and Sciences (BAS) aan de Universität der Künste in Berlijn.

Image List

Filename	Caption	Credit
themountain-general-banner_1726758611.jpg	The Mountain Speaks to the Sea	Visual by Studio Kai Udema

The images above are included in the ZIP under `/images`.