
presentation

As it was already mentioned in *scopio's* Editorial, this edition of *scopio aboveground territory* is introducing a new subject matter to *addendum*: the artist photobook. This means that, along with the photographic projects resulting from contests, courses and workshops coordinated by our research group CCRE, we will also be inviting authors to publish a photography project in photobook format.

Thus, in this *addendum* to *scopio aboveground territory*, we have selected for publishing "madeira", the visual narrative of Tiago Casanova, who was awarded the BES Revelation Award for Emerging Photography – 2012. He was also one of the artists chosen to take part in the Project "Visual narratives: European borderlines"¹, which consisted in a documentary exploration of the four countries that represent the geographical borders of Europe – Latvia, Turkey, Iceland and Portugal.

"madeira" is a superior photography project, combining documentary and artistic universe, and focusing on the territory of Madeira, the Portuguese archipelago where Tiago Casanova was born. This fascinating work shows how the constructed challenges the natural on dual mode, since the transformation of the territory simultaneously inflicts large scars on the landscape and is also made part of it. In this way, we are answering to the photobook profile and the Territory issues at the same time. Therefore, "madeira" is not only

¹ europeanborderlines.net/participants/tiago-casanova

a photography project that fits the theme of the artist photobook of *addendum*, but it is also a work that answers to some significant issues related to the main theme of *scopio aboveground territory*. This is achieved by communicating a new feeling and a new understanding, in its own right, of the diversity of built forms that we can find in the landscape of that archipelago and of how these are the result of social, economic and political systems and values that define new forms of occupation of that territory.

With this new subject matter, our aim is to explore the possibility of creating in the near future a new series of *scopio* ARTIST BOOKS, which would be the output of our research project CITYZINES. This project was initiated in our second edition of the International Seminar "On the Surface: Public Space and Architectural Images in Debate", which took place in FAUP .

The Project CITYZINES is a cultural and documentation research program focused on alternative publications, best known as fanzines or bookzines, related to Photography, Architecture, Design, Film and Urban Culture. The project intends to position itself as a significant area of research and dissemination in these fields and to widely promote the publishing world of these alternative publications, as well as to encourage creative, critical commentary and discussion in the Portuguese fanzines.

² www.nasuperficie.ccre-online.com

CITYZINES and *scopio* are particularly interested in the publication of innovative photobooks, since we believe that these objects are a medium capable of communicating rich multi-layered and complex contemporary issues related to different fields described in the previous paragraph, and of reaching a wider audience.

We are very much interested in Documentary and Conceptual Narratives related to and explored through any form of photography medium. The Documentary Narratives will cover contemporary photography narratives that try to communicate the reality of today's world regarding different events, people, issues and cultures. It includes works that may somehow be close to photojournalism. The Conceptual Narratives will include contemporary photography narratives with a strong artistic component - documentary fiction. Conceptual Narratives are based upon ideas and emotions in which the imaginary plays a significant role. These works should inspire our imagination and they are set free from the need to portray reality with complete "documentary objectivity". In short, we are interested in publishing photography projects capable of telling significant stories about our many ways of living in contemporary age.

The photobook is a really complex art form capable of combining different media and, like Gerry Badger's says on Reading a Photobook, as Colin Pantall has pointed out, "(...) reading a photobook is a mix of watching a film and reading a book, that it combines appreciation of individual pictures with following the story that is being told, negotiating not only a trail of facts, but also a labyrinth of signs and symbols."

Our goal is to reveal the potential of the photobook as a mature medium capable of communicating different perspectives and of combining diverse art expressions to convey, in a unique way, the rich multi-layered contemporary issues related to Architecture, City Spaces and the Territory where people live and work.

We want to publish photography projects combining documentary and artistic universe in such a way that they may create synergies and allow for an innovative re-examination of many aspects of our rich and complex places, as well as of how we appropriate them and live in our contemporary world. Additionally, we want those works to explore the specificity of the photographic medium and to use it to communicate a new understanding and feeling in its own right, so that a new significance and poetics is given to the world.

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