



BaidÀ

Taus Makhacheva

19th September – 03rd November 2018

Private view 19th September, 6-8pm

narrative projects is pleased to present BaidÀ¹ a second solo exhibition by Taus Makhacheva at the gallery. The exhibition developed from research the artist conducted when visiting different fishermen living in the Starii Terek village in Dagestan and working in the Caspian Sea, and her later investigations into fine art restoration and preservation techniques. When having conversations with the fishermen, Makhacheva noticed a recurrent motif in their stories: the risk of being lost at sea and never being found. The work is a comment on the precarity of human life and the struggle to survive against overwhelming economic and natural forces. The artist looked at these stories through a prism of her own experience of the art world, which resulted in *Baida*² (2017), a video/performance work scripted by performance-maker Tim Etchells and commissioned by the 57th Venice Biennale.

¹ Russian slang for a not entirely believable, nonsense story.

² A fishing vessel, a self-made wooden boat with one or several outboard motors. Since the 1990s, it has spread to the northern Caspian for poaching sturgeon.

Makhacheva's acute sensitivity to what surrounds her is one of the distinct qualities of her practice. Curator Snejana Krasteva described her artistic method:

'Listening, as Simon Weil once wrote, is the best gift one can make. Whether it is listening to empty, hungry stomachs, to the stories of friends and strangers, to one's preoccupations as a female, an artist or the strangely reassuring sounds of tapping and scratching, Makhacheva elevates it to an almost separate form of art. And whilst her alter ego Super Taus is a woman with abnormal physical strength constantly busy solving, helping and outdoing, the artist's approach involves an endurance of a different kind, one that combines an infinite curiosity towards reality, private and shared, with an awareness of its bespoke finitude. Perhaps this is why Super Taus never wears a watch. This "tiny, furious bit of something hanging onto your wrist" is more a working metaphor for Taus Makhacheva's investigations into the spiral of obligations, inflictions, fears and obsessions we are facing in the complex identity formation process'.

About the Artist

Taus Makhacheva (b 1983, Moscow) graduated with BA Fine Art from Goldsmiths in 2007 and a MFA from the Royal College of Art in 2013. Her work was included in the Liverpool Biennial, Manifesta 12 and Riga Biennial in 2018, Venice Biennial in 2017, Shanghai Biennial in 2016, Moscow Biennial in both 2015 and 2011; Kyiv Biennial in 2015 and Sharjah Biennial in 2013. Makhacheva has also won the 'Young Artist' award from the Kandinsky Prize, 'Project of the Year', 2016, 'The Future of Europe' Prize from the Museum of Contemporary Art, Leipzig, 2014 and the 'New Generation: Innovation' Prize in Contemporary Art in 2012. She lives and works in Moscow, Russia.

Image: Taus Makhacheva, *Baida*, 2017. First research trip, sturgeon heads from ukha (fish soup). Dinner with fishermen, July 2016.

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