



CHERIE SAMPSON: PUUT PUNALLE, MAAT SINELLE

29.11.2013–19.01.2014 MEDIApoint

Curator: Pia Hovi-Assad

Lecture: Thursday 21.11.2013 at 16.00 Fulbright Center, Hakaniemenranta 6, Helsinki
Cherie Sampson: "Puut Punalle, Maat Sinelle: Performance art in the Finnish Landscape from 1998-2011", enrolment: sonja.kuosmanen@fulbright.fi free admission

Artist talk and tour: Wednesday 27.11.2013 at 18.00, Pori Art Museum, free admission

Media conference: Thursday 28.11.2013 at 11.00, Pori Art Museum

Exhibition opening: Friday 29.11.2013 at 18.00, Pori Art Museum

"Many years ago in the arctic regions of Finland I initiated the making of subtle movement-based pieces for the video camera in which I inserted my naked body into remote boreal landscapes. . Working in an intensely slow movement vocabulary, I place my body within 'found' landscapes as an extension of them and an embodiment of temporality and cyclical change in nature."
Cherie Sampson

Cherie Sampson is an artist working in environmental performance, installation and video art, creating projects in wilderness and rural settings. Historical, cultural and elemental layers of the site are integral to the working concepts and materials, where she often integrates her body in the landscape in performances for the camera and live audiences. While evocative of the slow pacing of Japanese Butoh dance and informed by visual arts investigations into the nude and abstraction as well as minimalist aesthetics, the video performances have ultimately emerged as tactile, emotional and spiritual responses to the immediate environments in which they are made. The camera is turned on the Artist, not so much in self-reflexive portraiture or theatrical illusion, but rather as reference to an archetypal body that is at once an integral part of nature and distinguishable from it in its finite humanness.

The exhibition "*Puut Punalle, Maat Sinelle*" showcases works that Cherie Sampson has realized in Finland since 1998. *Mettä vuoti kuivat kuuset* {From the Dried Out Fir Leaked Honey} (2012-13), *Through the Moss-Stuffed Chinks Heard Voices* (2012), *Tuhkasta* {From the Ashes} (2011) and *Suojasää* {Season of the Thaw} (1998) has been made in National Forest in Koli, Finland, an area with great natural beauty, which hundreds of years ago was worshiped by pagans. Many of Sampson's video performances draw inspiration from the Finnish epic *Kalevala*, and they include audio poems and songs from *Kalevala*, which has a specific metre that is not known in any other language than Finnish. Cherie Sampson depicts the worlds of the physical and the ephemeral, the mythic and the human in a universal way. The arctic nature is the source of inspiration in the *Lapland* series with Sami place names like *Poron Hauta* {Grave of a Reindeer} and *Rautatunturi* {Iron Mountain}.

Cherie Sampson began to use analog video in 1991. The changes in technology have inevitably impacted the creation and presentation of the video works over time, but she have consistently adhered to little or no manipulation of the timing in the works and very selective editing of imagery transiting with subtle dissolves. Recent works have utilized masking and mirroring in post-production as a means to explore the play of singularity and multiplicity, yet representation of the integrity of the performances in real time and the aesthetic of the environments in which they take place remain at the core of her video art.

Cherie Sampson (b. Superior, Wisconsin, 1963) received her MFA in Intermedia and Video Art from the University of Iowa, 1997. Sampson has exhibited nationally and internationally in live performances, art-in-nature symposia, video screenings and installations. Fellowships and grants include a Change Foundation grant (NY), two Fulbright Awards (1998, 2011), Finlandia Foundation Trust grants (1999, 2005, 2011), Finnish Cultural Foundation Grant (2011) and multiple University of Missouri Research grants. Cherie Sampson resides in the US. <http://www.cheriesampson.net/>

Additional information:

Pori Art Museum, exhibition curator Pia Hovi-Assad, tel. +358-(0)44-7011089 pia.hovi-assad@pori.fi