

## **CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS**

### **MFL 2016**

#### **Malakta Foto Lab**

**with Darn Thorn & Patricia Rodas**

**30<sup>th</sup> June – 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2016**

**Art Factory Malakta**

**Malax, Finland**

#### **MALAKTA FOTO LAB (MFL)**

The Foto Lab is an international gathering for photographers and artists at the Art Factory Malakta. The MFL gives participants the opportunity to practically and in-depth explore the field of photography through collaborative experimentation and creation in an open and inspiring atmosphere. The focus of the lab is experimentation, creativity and new ways of working. Participants work collaboratively, experimenting with photography in a hands-on way.

Over the course of four days photographic artists Darn Thorn (IRE) and Patricia Rodas (FI) will lead a number of tests that consider a contemporary approach to the genre of landscape in photography. The lab will focus in particular on the use of traditional film based photography. The lab will be held in the end of June to take advantage of the unique Nordic light and "midnight sun" in Finland.

#### **MFL 2016**

The theme for 2016 lab is landscape and representation. The focus of Foto Lab will be to consider how the unique light offered by the "midnight sun" can be used for creative purposes. After considering the conceptual and technical implications of working with film cameras in this landscape, each participant will be encouraged to explore how this theme can be used as a communicative device in their own creative practice.

The lab will be divided into following components: lecture style presentations; working in the landscape; darkroom processing; basic digital post-production; group feedback sessions. Theoretical sessions and practical test include: investigating themes of landscape and the sublime; memory and social identity in connection with landscape; how to select best film and equipment; interpreting the landscape with the camera and using available and/or introduced light; in-depth dark-room and basic digital-post production work; sharing, viewing and discussion in groups. The aim of the lab is for photographic artists to both develop their technical abilities with film-based photography and refine conceptual ideas in relation to the genre of landscape and its place in contemporary art. Works created will be shown at a public event at Malakta at the end of the lab.

Darn Thorn from Sligo, Ireland, holds a MA in Fine Art from Monash University, Australia. He has exhibited in Australia, China, Ireland, The Netherlands, Norway & the UK. His work is primarily concerned with landscape and contemporary issues surrounding the theme of the Sublime. He uses traditional film

based photography as a major component in his art practice. A studio holder at Spike Island, UK (2010-13), he recently participated in the Bristol Biennial (2012) and EXPOSURE at the FORMAT International Photography Festival, Derby, UK, (2013). Recent residencies include Struts Gallery, New Brunswick, Canada (2015). Recent exhibitions include Arcadia in Grey at Sirius Art Centre in Cobh, Ireland (2015). He is currently lives in Cork, Ireland where he holds a studio at Backwater Artists Group. He has lectured in Photography at the University of Melbourne and currently teaches photography at The Darkroom, Dublin, Ireland.

Patricia Rodas, from Ostrobothnia, Finland, works as a photographer and photographic artist. Her company specialises in art, books and portraits. In recent years Rodas' work has focused on her own experiences of domestic violence. In August 2016 she will have an exhibition with the same theme at the Varikko gallery in Seinäjoki. In connection with the exhibition her new book "My Personal Violence with photos and poems" will be published.

**WHO:** Photographers and artists with basic understanding of photography using manual settings

**WHEN:** Thursday 30.6.2016 16:00 – Sunday 3.7.2016 16:00

**WHERE:** Art Factory MALAKTA, Malax, 25km South of Vaasa

**COSTS:** Fee 150€ / Material costs: 50€  
Accommodation 15€ per night  
In cosy shared accommodation in the residency spaces of Art Factory MALAKTA

**FOOD:** Meals are not included however hospitality-style kitchens are available for use by participants

**TO APPLY:**

Please include:

- Your name, address, telephone number, e-mail address and website (if available)
- A letter of interest outlining why you would like to participate (1/2 page max)
- Your bio (½ a page max) or CV (2 pages max)
- A link to online folio of your artistic work

**APPLICATION DEADLINE**

**22.4.2016**

Send applications to: [annika@malakta.fi](mailto:annika@malakta.fi)

All applicants will be notified no later than 29.4.2016

Participants are asked to bring their own equipment including: Camera, Tripod and a Laptop with Photo Editing Software (preferably Photoshop). Film and chemicals for the tests will be provided by Art Factory Malakta. Participants are asked to attend the whole laboratory. The working language will be English. Additional information: Art Factory MALAKTA, coordinator Annika Sillander: [annika@malakta.fi](mailto:annika@malakta.fi) or +358451894450

The Foto Lab is realized by Art Factory MALAKTA and POVA (Ostrobothnian Photography centre) with the support of Svenska kulturfonden.

Art Factory MALAKTA is a cultural centre set in an old dairy near Vaasa in Western Finland.

[www.malakta.fi](http://www.malakta.fi)