



The stone king

HD Video 2.35:1 - English Audio
Stereo - 8'15"

A video by Valentina Sciarra

With Miná Minov

Voice: RaJa ElMad

Editing: Rayna Teneva

Original Music: RaJa ElMad, Iliyana Georgieva

Camera: Svetlin Marinov, Valentina Sciarra

Sound: Simeon Hristov

Production assistants: Elena Anatchkova, Blagica Zdravkovska

Projected from December 4th, 2018 to January 6th, 2019

opening: December 4th, 18h00
at National Museum of Natural History, Sofia

curator: Zoya Petrova
with the support of Gaudenz B. Ruf Award, the Fridge - Sofia,
National Museum of Natural History, Sofia

Free entrance on the first floor of the National Museum of Natural History
thanks to Institut Français de Bulgarie during the screening.

The video was created at the naturalistic site “Strupanitsa” rock phenomenon, the largest ancient landslide (rockfall type) in Bulgaria, where, with the kind support of Gaudenz B. Ruf Award, was realized the work of land art “The Path of the Oscillating Stones” by Valentina Sciarra that will be officially open for public in spring 2019.

“Strupanitsa” is a large-scale landslide (rockfall type) with area of 13.2 hectares, located on the right bank of Iskar river, about one kilometre from the railway station of Karlukovo village, in the region of Lukovit. Here the river is steeped in the thick limestone that forms rock with steep vertical walls. The limestone is yellowish to white in colour, full of black or dark brown flint kernels. The rocks are almost horizontal, crossed by cracks in various directions that give them an even more incredible look. These rocks completely deserve the name “Strupanitsa” (heaping) because it is actually a large fall of rock blocks, most of which are in the form of cubes or parallelepipeds with dimensions exceeding 15 cubic meters.

The featured text in the video, narrated by the voice of Raja ElMad was taken from the last (unfinished) book by Italo Calvino, “Under the Jaguar sun”, dedicated to the five human senses. In Calvino’s story about the sense of hearing, the protagonist is a nameless king.

The king, holed up in his castle-prison, cannot move from fear of losing his throne. All that remains is to get in touch with the world through a single organ, the ear. The king, captive of his passions, which are essentially those of power, motionless on his throne, will learn to recognize all possible sounds that, if invariably repeated, will guarantee his stability. The noise of the city reaches him almost imperceptibly, until one day he hears a young woman singing. He is attracted to that voice, he would like to answer, but he cannot, his voice is gone.

Unfortunately, the song of the woman will be lost among the thousand city noises that will engulf every possibility of contact with the rest of the world.

In a society in which the man’s greatest difficulty is to properly perceive the surrounding world, in an age in which the individual feels increasingly weakened, disoriented, fragmented, the only thing that can deliver man from his fears is to follow the “own voice”, the soul voice.

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The path of the oscillating stones

Land art work at Strupanitsa rockfall, Lukovit
opening spring 2019

Short description: The land art work is a walking path in-between the rocks of Strupanitsa, the largest ancient landslide (rockfall type) in Bulgaria. The main concept of the land art work is to rediscover the natural path that leads us to the center of the rocky phenomenon, almost like a timeless journey into awareness and comparison with ourselves. The rocks shapes suggest to us where to go, and following their impressive forms we will find the right exit.

Notes: The walk takes about 30 minutes.