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Zsuzsanna Varga-Szegedi: *Fracture Analysis*

Opening reception: Thursday, May 4, 2017, 6-8 pm

On view until May 19 (visitors are welcome by appointment)

Budapest Art Factory, Project Space



Budapest Art Factory (BAF) is pleased to announce the season opening event of 2017. During the month of April, the Hungarian-American multimedia artist Zsuzsanna Varga-Szegedi created art in the guest atelier of the studio complex. Her one-month residency culminates in a solo exhibition which opens on May 4, 2017. 6 pm. Additionally, the studios of the in-house artists – Márta Kucsora, Dóra Juhász and Sándor Szász – are open to the public.

Zsuzsanna Varga-Szegedi presents her work she accumulated during the eight-month Hungarian research she undertook for her studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her oeuvre is built upon the concept of absence and investigates the reason why the modern and contemporary equivalent of the obsolete terminology: 'fenséges' (sublime) is missing from the contemporary Hungarian discourse. Moreover, she examines the borderline where the corresponding western and American idea of sublime has undergone a renewal, and if there is a prospect to re-contextualize the Hungarian definition. Are there already existing works in contemporary art? If so, what are the unfolding tendencies? Why could the absence of this outdated word be relevant in the sphere of contemporary art today?

The reflection of Zsuzsanna's research manifests itself through the exhibited material at Budapest Art Factory, as an enlarged sketch. The imprints of her travels are conveyed via the mediums of photography, painting and video installations, recording how the conception of 'fenséges' (sublime) is graspable in the everyday, in the current socio-and cultural political, economic climate. The Sublime concept signifies an intangible aesthetic quality that exists beyond language, which is due to a high degree intensity of experience. Its perception and depiction relies on the collaboration of intellect and emotion, which is a signifier of this phenomena.

The core of Zsuzsanna's analysis is how the fragmented internal and external environment affect the individual. By employing technological tools and taking advantage of their limitations, she depicts how we see the world through the digital gaze and what novel constructions emerge from the process of redefinition.

Zsuzsanna Varga-Szegedi (born: 1976, Kaposvár) lives and works in Boston while completing her studies in Chicago. As a multimedia artist she conducts in-depth research in the media of video installation, photography and painting. Following her Budapest residency, she continues her work as the guest artist of MODEM - Centre for Modern and Contemporary Arts in Debrecen next month.