

Aesthetica

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SYMBIOTIC ARCHITECTURE

Buildings that incorporate nature into the blueprints pave the way forwards

PIVOTAL ILLUMINATION

Examining the ways lighting has developed over the last century

FORGING NEW PATHWAYS

Chinese trailblazers are changing the definition of successful design

THE STORY OF AESTHETICA

Reflecting upon 100 editions through a survey of groundbreaking artworks



10 to See

RECOMMENDED EXHIBITIONS THIS SEASON

Moving into the spring season, key shows and events consider the essential role that natural ecosystems play on our rapidly changing and warming planet. Elsewhere, galleries examine the development of visual culture – through the lens of post-WWII publishing and the AI age.

1 Wisdom and Nature

Christie's, Online | 6-27 April

christies.com

2021 is a momentous year for the environment. The 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties takes place this November in Glasgow – a summit to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement. The Le Ciel Foundation is built on the belief that the crisis has been caused by a systemic separation between the material and spiritual. Christie's London hosts a fundraising exhibition in aid of the foundation, with 49 artists contributing in order to protect and integrate ancestral indigenous knowledge into the ecosystems of western society.

2 Circulation(s)

Online | Until 2 May

festival-circulations.com

Since its inception in 2011, Circulation(s) Festival has showcased the work of over 382 artists and attracted over 300,000 visitors. It is a hub of creative talent from across Europe, providing a stepping-stone for artists to interact, collaborate and present their work to thousands of attendees through various platforms and strands. This year, the festival goes completely online, promoting meetings between artists and the public across a variety of digital formats. The 2021 programme includes 33 artists across 12 different countries, from Russia to Austria.

3 Ed Ruscha: OKLA

Oklahoma Contemporary | Until 5 July

oklahomaccontemporary.org

"Oklahoma looms large in Ed Ruscha's work as a source of inspiration from which his unique perspective on America was formed. In 1956, he embarked on the first of many road trips – which he would frequently make reference to in his art. Ruscha has repeatedly been quoted in the years since saying everything he's done was already part of him when he left Oklahoma at 18; his mythos is tied to Americana and the open road." *OKLA* includes more than 70 works from Ruscha's prolific 60-year career, exploring the role of the artist's home state.

4 Borealis – Life in the Woods

Fotomuseum Den Haag | Until 3 October

fotomuseumdenhaag.nl/en

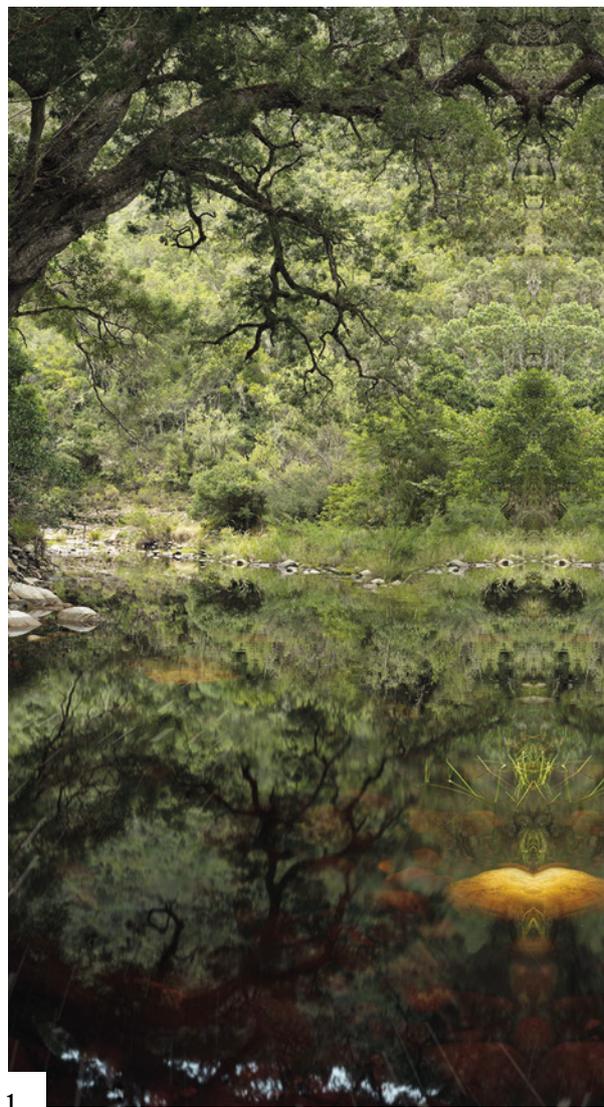
The Boreal Region forms part of a band of vegetation circling the entire northern hemisphere, boasting an endless expanse of coniferous forests, mires and lakes. Over four years, photographer Jeroen Toirkens (b. 1971) and journalist / broadcaster Jelle Brandt Corstius (b. 1978) visited various locations in the boreal zone, seeking stories from the land and the people who live there. Toirkens' images bear witness to the region's mythical appeal as well as its complex present-day realities, from conservation efforts on Hokkaido island to Siberian forest fires.

5 Illusion: The Magic of Motion

MOPA, San Diego | Until 16 May

mopa.org

"Our brains can't see, or hear, or taste. They sit in the dark, making up a world informed by electrical stimuli from our sense organs. The act of perception is an act of prediction, of estimation. What we consciously perceive is our brain's 'best guess' at what the outside world is like." (Laurence Scott, *Picnic Comma Lightning*, 2018) MOPA, San Diego, considers the inception of photography through experimentation with light, optics and perception. Key pieces include shadow play and anamorphosis, all highlighting the illusion of motion.



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6 Grief and Grievance

New Museum, New York | Until 6 June

newmuseum.org

Polls from last summer estimate that between 15 million and 26 people participated in the Black Lives Matter demonstrations in the USA – making the protests the largest in American history. The lessons we have learnt, and are still learning, about systemic racism are immense. New Museum's *Grief and Grievance* is an inter-generational exhibition collating 37 artists who address the concepts of mourning, commemoration and loss as a direct response to the emergency of racist violence experienced by Black communities across America.

7 Format Festival 2021

Derby City Centre & Online | Until 11 April

formatfestival.com

Format International Photography Festival is a biennial event held in Derby, UK, founded in 2004. This year's edition heads online, with a dynamic programme of digital curation, talks and portfolio reviews. Key themes for the 2021 exhibitions include *Picturing Lockdown: Photography in the Pandemic*; *Matrix: Fluid Bodies*; *Unlimited Thoughts*; *East Meets West*; *Notes on Distance*; *Unperson Portraits of North Korean Defectors*; and *Honesty and Disguise*. Mixed reality, performance, images and film explore mass isolation and the concept of home.



8 Modern Look: Photography and the American Magazine

Jewish Museum, New York | Until 11 July

thejewishmuseum.org.uk

Both *Harper's Bazaar* and *Vogue's* early art directors – Alexey Brodovitch and Alexander Liberman – were European émigrés, born in Belarus and Kyiv respectively. These seminal photographers moved to New York in the aftermath of WWII, building careers in magazines through visions of innovation, inclusivity and pragmatism. The Jewish Museum compiles a variety of images, layouts and cover designs for some of America's best-known publications, considering the photographs that transformed American visual culture from 1930 to 1960.

9 Hito Steyerl: I Will Survive

Centre Pompidou, Paris | (Check online for new dates)

centrepompidou.fr

"In the future, 100% of all humans will die. Access this zone at your own risk and don't complain later." So warned Hito Steyerl (b. 1966) when viewers downloaded an augmented reality app for Serpentine's 2019 exhibition *Power Plants* (11 April - 6 May). Steyerl's moving image works often follow this unsettling tone, as well as concerns over militarisation, surveillance migration and the role of media in a globalised world. Her latest show, held at Centre Pompidou, re-imagines the facts of the world in the age of social stimulation technologies.



10 Artes Mundi

Online | Winner Announcements 15 April

artesmundi.org

Artes Mundi celebrates artists who engage with social realities and lived experiences. This year's six nominees (including Carrie Mae Weems, Beatriz Santiago Muñoz, Meiro Koizumi, Prabhakar Pachpute, Firelei Báez and Dineo Seshee Bopape) express diverse global narratives, encouraging meaningful thought on cultural identity, global gentrification and the psychological dimensions of 21st century conflicts. Nigel Prince, Director, notes: "These artists prompt us to critically reflect on what it means to exist in this world, in all its complexity."

1. Oliver Barnett, *Kalandreamer*, 2017. Archival print on Hahnemühle Photograp. 130 x 158 cm. Courtesy the artist. 2. Sofia Yala Rodrigues, *Playing with Visual Fragments* (2020). Courtesy of Festival circulation(s) 2021. 3. *Desert Gravure*, 2006. Photogravure. 21 1/4 X 24 3/4 in. (54 x 62.9 cm) Ed. 4/30. Collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer. © Ed Ruscha. Photo courtesy the artist and Gagolian. 4. *BOREALIS, Buryatia, Russia, August 2019 – Damage from a forest fire in Siberia* © Jeroen Toirkens. 5. Phillip Leonian, *Untitled #20* from the series *Mini Cine*, 1973, printed 2020, inkjet print. Courtesy of Leonian Rosenbaum Charitable Trust. © Leonian Rosenbaum Charitable Trust. 6. Rashid Johnson, *Antoine's Organ*, 2016. © Rashid Johnson. Courtesy the artist and Hauser & Wirth. 7. Brian Griffin, *Big Bang*. Courtesy of Format Festival. 8. Martin Munkácsi, *Woman on Electrical Productions Building, New York Worlds Fair, New York, 1938*. Gelatin silver print. F.C. Gundlach Collection, Hamburg. Artwork © Estate of Martin Munkácsi, Courtesy. Howard Greenberg Gallery, New York. 9. Hito Steyerl, *Hell Yeah We Fuck Die*, 2016 Vue d'installation au LBS West, Münster, 2017 Skulptur Projekte Münster 2017, 10.06 – 01.10.2017. Courtesy: Hito Steyerl, Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York, Esther Schipper Gallery © Photo: Henning Rogge. 10. *The Angels of Testimony*. Image Credit: Meiro Koizumi, *The Angels of Testimony*, 2019. Commissioned by Sharjah Art Foundation. Courtesy the artist, Annet Gelink Gallery, Amsterdam and MUJIN-TO Production, Tokyo.