

Puxagallery / PhotoEspaña 2022

Kela Coto presents her project – Point of view: how to build the territory – for the PhotoEspaña Festival Off, proposing a retrofuturistic landscape that harmonizes documentary practice and fiction

*We still don't know how to see our industrial complexes,
 our futuristic cities, the landscape power of a highway.
 We are the ones who will have to forge the schemes
 of vision that make them aesthetic*
 (Alain Roger)

Kela Coto's first solo exhibition in Madrid presents several new works that propose a contemporary landscape with a retrofuturistic halo, harmonizing documentary practice and fiction with a reflexive intention. The exhibition shows an evolution of the post-industrial compositions of the artist's latest projects, selected in the 2021 Residents project of the Laboral Center for Art and Industrial Creation, which have also been part of several group exhibitions in venues in Spain and Germany.

For this work in progress which follows the research of the artist in her previous project - *Expansion of the Territory* -, Kela Coto doesn't use images as a mere representation of reality, but rather implements the narrative sense of these post-industrial and almost apocalyptic scenes, proposing new points of view, beyond the obvious, in the etymological idea that defines the word *Landscape*, which here flees from any naturalistic vision. Each photograph proposes an independent aura that adds to the collective sense of the whole, resorting to the critical temporality of creative practice and pointing out to the present and its sociopolitical conditioning factors. The traces of the past combine the historical and the visual, while the passage of time builds the final landscape. The pieces have been produced from medium-format analog films that have been scanned to generate a digital file, with no other manipulation than the decisions made during the process of making the snapshot.

Photographer and video artist, Kela Coto (Gijón, 1979) lives and works between Gijón and Madrid and has been awarded, among others, with the artistic residency grant from Laboral Center for Art and Industrial Creation (2021) and Casa Velázquez (2014). She has been selected in Discoveries PHE (2016) and received the CCAI Award for her project Órbita (2020) as well as the AlNorte Poster Award (2014). Lately she has worked with Simon Norfolk, Klavdij Sluvan, Shelby Lee Adams, Cristina García Rodero, Eduardo Momeñe and José Luis Guerín, in the Efti, Círculo de Bellas Artes and SGAE institutions in Madrid.

KELA COTO

Point of view: How to build the territory

May 19th – July 14th 2022

PUXAGALLERY

Tuesday thru Friday, 11-14 / 17-19.30h

Saturday 11-14h

