

Tekla Aslanishvili. **A State in a State**

08.10.2022 – 27.11.2022



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Tekla Aslanishvili. A State in a State

Exhibition

8.10.2022–27.11.2022

Han Nefkens Foundation – Fundació Antoni Tàpies Video Art Production Grant 2020.

Opening: Saturday, October 8, 2022, at 11.00 p.m.

A State in a State is an experimental documentary film that follows the processes of construction, disruption, and fragmentation of railroads in the South Caucasus and Caspian regions. It examines railways as the technical materialization of the fragile political borders that have reemerged after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Revolving around the scenes of delay and waiting that constitute cargo mobility, the film reads the optimistic narratives about the New Silk Road against the grain. It observes how the iron foundation of connectivity between places and people can be used as a weapon of exclusion and geopolitical sabotage.

Dotting the same lines, other forms of sabotage are deployed by workers to disrupt the political violence. Looking at historic and current practices of resistance *A State in a State* explores the potential of railroads for building a different, infrastructural consciousness and the lasting, transnational, kinship among the people who live and work around them.

Exhibition in collaboration with: Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai; Museum of Contemporary Art and Design (MCAD), Manila; NTU Centre for Contemporary Art, Singapore; WIELS, Brussels.



Biography

Tekla Aslanishvili (b. Tbilisi, 1988) is an artist, filmmaker and essayist based between Berlin and Tbilisi. Her works emerge at the intersection of infrastructural design, history and geopolitics.

Tekla graduated from the Tbilisi State Academy of Arts in 2009 and she holds a MFA from the Berlin University of the Arts – the department of Experimental Film and New Media Art. Aslanishvili's films have been screened and exhibited internationally at PACT Zollverein, Neue Berliner Kunstverein, Baltic Triennial, Short Film Festival Oberhausen, Kasseler Dokfest, Kunsthalle Münster, EMAF – European Media Art Festival, Videonale 18, Tbilisi Architecture Biennial.

She is a 2018–2019 Digital Earth fellow, the nominee for Ars-Viva Art prize 2021 and the recipient of the Han Nefkens Foundation – Fundació Antoni Tàpies Video Art Production Grant 2020.

List of works:

A State in a State

Single channel video, colour, sound (Georgian, Russian and English), English subtitles, 47' 00"

The film is developed in artistic-scientific collaboration with Dr. Evelina Gambino, Margaret Tyler Research Fellow in Geography at Girton College, University of Cambridge.

Research & Script: Tekla Aslanishvili / Evelina Gambino

Music: Ani Zakareishvili / Nika Pasuri

Cinematography: Nikoloz Tabukashvili / Tekla Aslanishvili

Typography: Dato Simonia

Editing: Tekla Aslanishvili

Field recordings: Viktor Bone

Sound mastering: Irakli Shonia

Color: Sally Shamas

Graphic material for press

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