





HIAP–Helsinki International Artist Programme, Finland

Lat 60.143304

Lon 24.982731

KC GRAD, Serbia

Lat 44.8143

Lon 20.4503

Skaftefell–Center for Visual Art, Iceland

Lat 65.261529

Lon -13.998644

Scottish Sculpture Workshop–SSW, Scotland, UK

Lat 57.2871

Lon -2.87365

Mustarinda, Finland

Lat 64.7254

Lon 28.0854

Centre d'Art i Natura de Farrera, Spain

Lat 42.497

Lon 1.27195

Interdisciplinary Art Group SERDE, Latvia

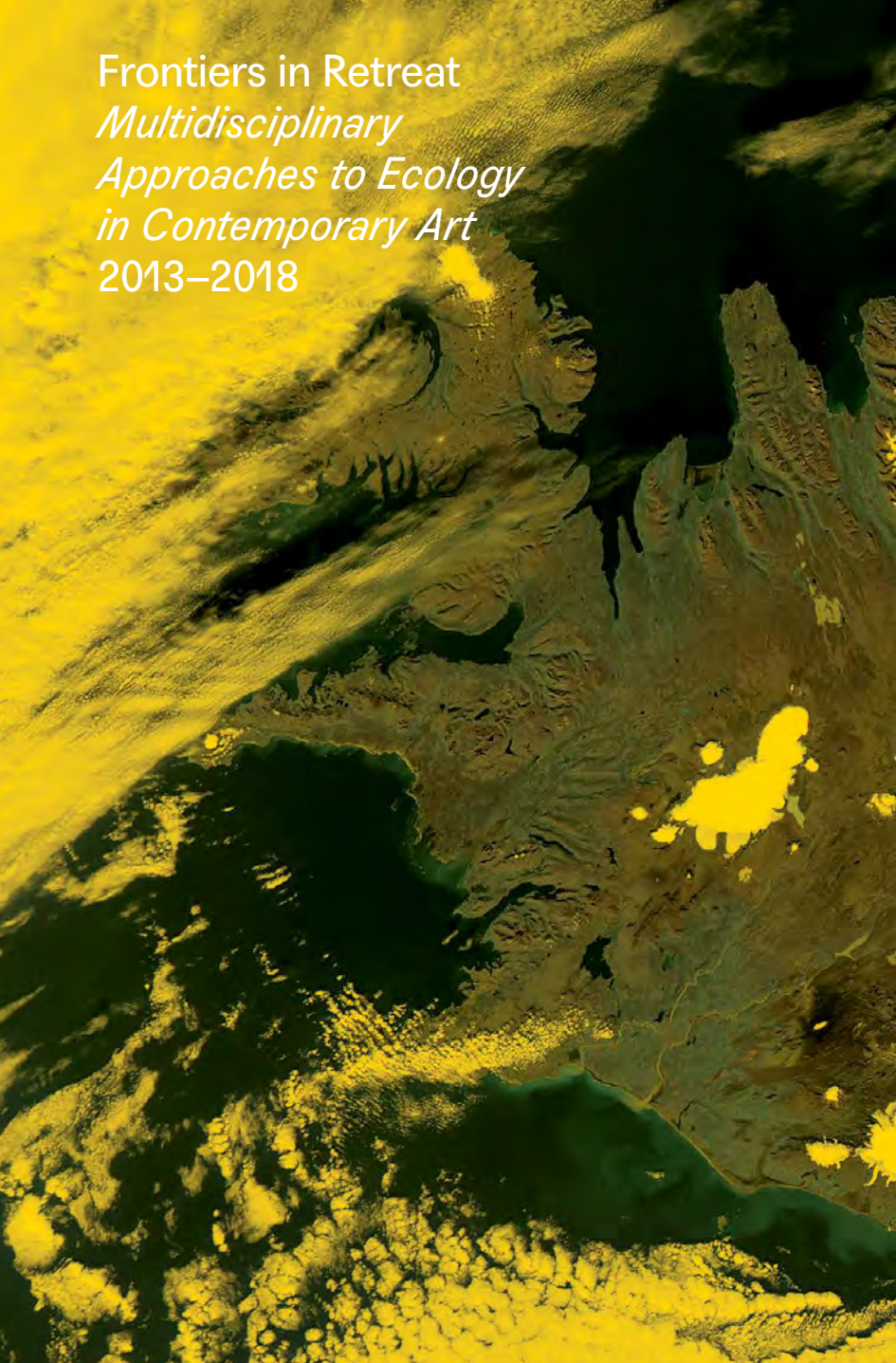
Lat 56.720202

Lon 21.603547

Jutempus, Lithuania

Lat 54.695999

Lon 25.313912

An aerial photograph of a rugged, mountainous landscape, possibly a volcanic region, with a river valley and a lake. The image is overlaid with a yellow-green color filter, giving it a monochromatic appearance. The terrain is characterized by steep slopes, rocky outcrops, and a network of ridges and valleys. A prominent river valley runs through the center, and a large lake is visible in the lower right. The overall scene is one of natural beauty and geological complexity.

Frontiers in Retreat
*Multidisciplinary
Approaches to Ecology
in Contemporary Art*
2013–2018

Frontiers in Retreat is a five-year collaboration project that fosters multidisciplinary dialogue and artistic experimentation on ecological questions within a network of remote European artist residencies. The project aims to map out artistic practices with an interest in ecology, examine processes of change in particular ecological contexts and reflect them in relation to each other, and develop approaches to the urgencies posed by them.

Frontiers in Retreat is coordinated by HIAP – Helsinki International Artist Programme, with support from EACEA EU Culture Programme. The project connects artist residency centres situated in peripheral areas across Europe. It provides a transnational platform for investigating how situated knowledge on local environments could assist knowledge-formation on larger ecological changes that shape habitats and transform societies on a global level.

The project partners are seven artist residency organisations in Finland (HIAP; Mustarinda), Iceland (Skaftfell), Scotland (Scottish Sculpture Workshop – SSW), Latvia (SERDE), Serbia (KC GRAD), and Spain (CAN Farrera), in collaboration with a Lithuanian art organisation (Jutempus) that develops

the theoretical framework and educational programme of the project, under the title *Zoetics*.

Frontiers in Retreat is structured around residencies and various kinds of gatherings: multidisciplinary incubators, seminars and symposiums, camps, excursions, workshops, and exhibitions. The 25 artists, invited collaboratively by the partners, conduct research and develop artworks in response to the ecological contexts of the seven residency sites. The artists either circulate within the Frontiers residency network, or focus more deeply on one site, allowing their work to influence and be influenced by the discourses that develop during the course of the project. The participating artists, curators, educators and students have engaged in experimentation and formation of emergent knowledge, often in close collaboration with local inhabitants and communities.

This small booklet, available at the sites of the 2017–2018 Frontiers in Retreat exhibition series and symposium, introduces the project organisers and the artists who have participated in the Frontiers residencies. The public interfaces of Frontiers in Retreat—the exhibitions, web archive, and printed publications—

aim to assist anyone interested in navigating the intersections of art and ecology. On behalf of the initiators and organisers of the project, we hope that the multiplicity of these entanglements offer new approaches to ecological thinking, doing and being.

Jenni Nurmenniemi

Curator, Frontiers in Retreat;

HIAP–Helsinki International Artist Programme

ARTISTS

Bartaku (Belgium/Finland)

Quelic Berga (Spain)

Brett Bloom (United States/Denmark)

Sylvia Grace Borda (Canada/Scotland)

Company (Finland)

Gints Gabrāns (Latvia)

Fernando García-Dory (Spain)

Kati Gausmann (Germany)

Carl Giffney (Ireland)

Tue Greenfort (Germany)

Terike Haapoja (Finland/United States)

Hanna Husberg (Sweden)

Ráðhildur Ingadóttir (Iceland)

Saara-Maria Kariranta (Finland)

Mari Keski-Korsu (Finland)

Elena Mazzi (Italy)

Janne Nabb & Maria Teeri (Finland)

Mirko Nikolić (Serbia/England)

Tuula Närhinen (Finland)

Khaled Ramadan

(Lebanon/Cyprus/Egypt/Turkey)

Anna Rubio (Spain)

Joanes Simon-Perret (France)

Richard Skelton (England)

Tracey Warr (France/England)

Simon Yuill (Scotland)



Skaftfell – Center for
Visual Art, Iceland
skaftfell.is

Scottish Sculpture
Workshop –
SSW, Scotland, UK
ssw.org.uk

Centre d'Art i Natura
de Farrera, Spain
farreracan.cat



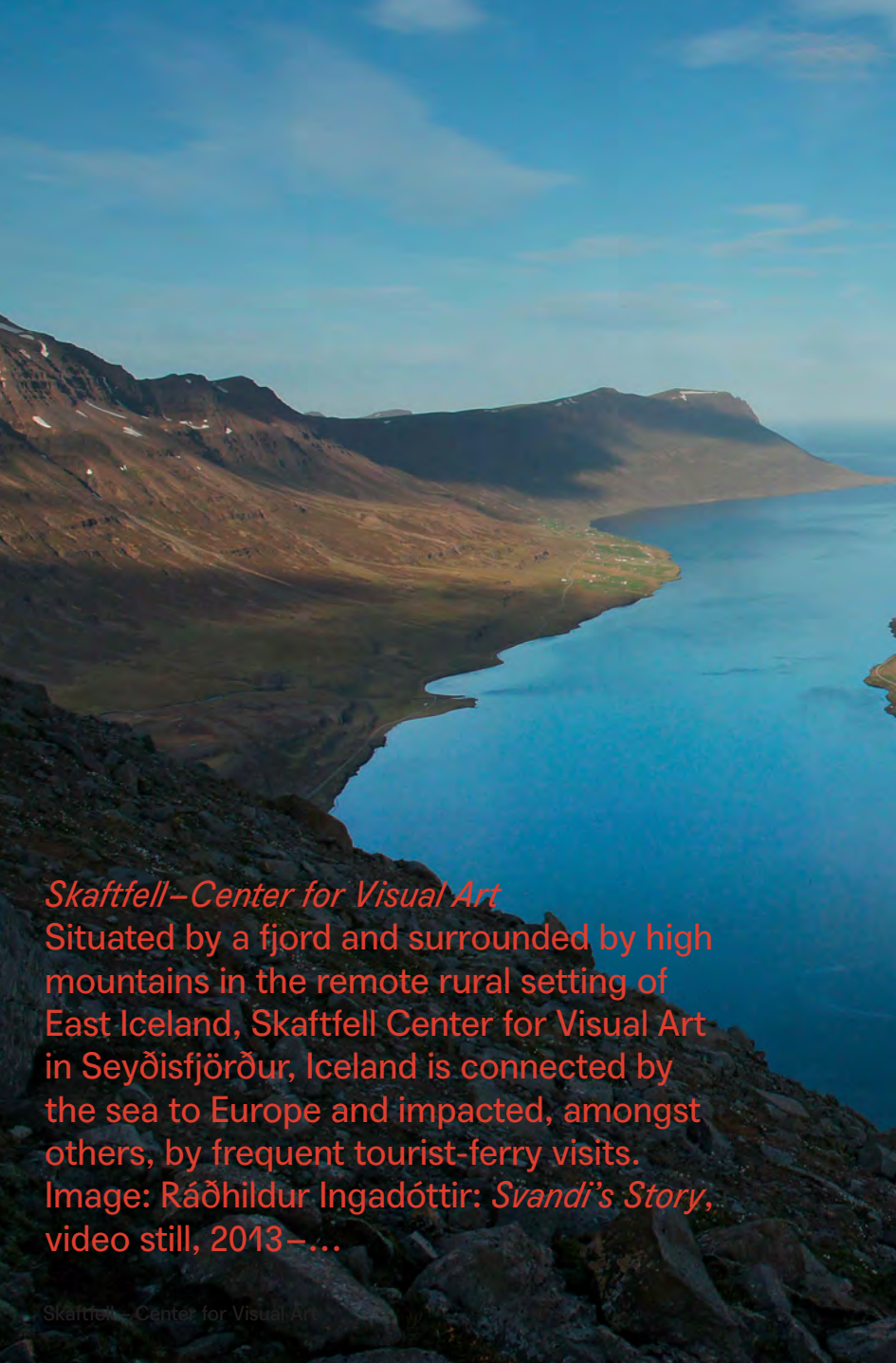
Mustarinda, Finland
mustarinda.fi

HIAP – Helsinki International
Artist Programme, Finland
hiap.fi

Interdisciplinary
Art Group SERDE, Latvia
serde.lv

Jutempus, Lithuania
vilma.cc/jutempus
zooetics.net

KC GRAD, Serbia
gradbeograd.eu



Skaffell – Center for Visual Art

Situated by a fjord and surrounded by high mountains in the remote rural setting of East Iceland, Skaffell Center for Visual Art in Seyðisfjörður, Iceland is connected by the sea to Europe and impacted, amongst others, by frequent tourist-ferry visits.

Image: Ráðhildur Ingadóttir: *Svandi's Story*, video still, 2013–...



Scottish Sculpture Workshop–SSW

Set in the foothills of the Grampian Mountains, Scottish Sculpture Workshop is based in the rural village of Lumsden situated in the North East of Scotland.







Centre d'Art i Natura de Farrera

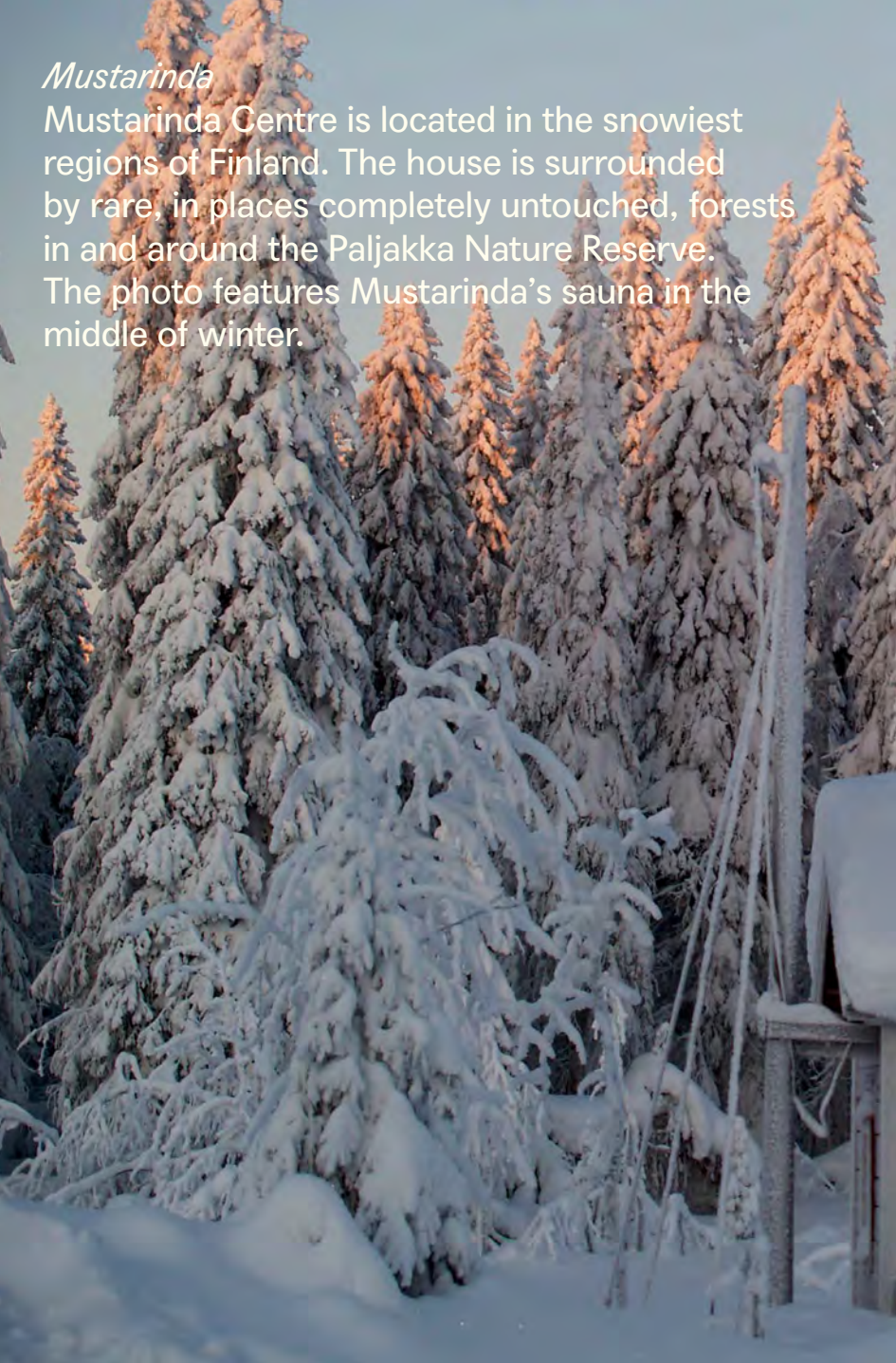
A High Pyrenees view with Frontiers in Retreat artist Anna Rubio.

Centre d'Art i Natura (CAN Farrera) is a family-run residency centre situated in the village of Farrera in Catalonian High Pyrenees. It provides a quiet environment for artists and researchers from various disciplines to work side by side, surrounded by fabulous mountain top views.



Mustarinda

Mustarinda Centre is located in the snowiest regions of Finland. The house is surrounded by rare, in places completely untouched, forests in and around the Paljakka Nature Reserve. The photo features Mustarinda's sauna in the middle of winter.









*HIAP–Helsinki International
Artist Programme*

The Bodybuilding Project: *A Non-Conclusion* workshop took place at HIAP as part of the Frontiers in Retreat exhibition *Excavations* in August 2015. The workshop happened indoors and outdoors across the historic sea fortress island of Suomenlinna, surrounded by the Baltic Sea.

Interdisciplinary Art Group SERDE

Interdisciplinary Art Group SERDE supports exchange between contemporary art, science, and technology in a programme of fieldwork, expeditions, and educational activities that focus on local knowledge and traditions in Kurzeme, a rural region in Latvia. In this photo, the participants of Frontiers in Retreat incubator *Cultural Heritage as a Resource* (September 2015) gather on the courtyard of the residency centre—a 300-year old, three-storey wooden house.







Jutempus

Jutempus, through their research platform Zooetics, has been developing Frontiers in Retreat's Education Programme with a focus on multidisciplinary methodologies and sustainability in artistic research. Jutempus has been working closely with educational institutions, such as Kaunas Technological University (KTU) in Lithuania, to organise series of lectures, seminars, student workshops, research days, field trips, and exchanges. This photo is taken at the Zooetics: *Future Fictions Summit* at Reykjavik Art Museum, 22 October, 2016.





KC GRAD

Art students from KUVA – Academy of Fine Arts/University of the Arts Helsinki, NTNU Trondheim, and Aarhus University gathered for a discussion during the first multidisciplinary Frontiers in Retreat incubator, organised by KC GRAD in Belgrade, and at several locations across the Serbian countryside. The focus of the incubator was art and ecology in the context of former Yugoslavia.





Edge Effects
Exhibition Series
June–December 2017
& Zooetics Symposium
February 2018

While borders draw divisive lines, frontiers are transition and contact zones. Diversity is always richest in areas where different ecosystems meet: This is the edge effect. An encounter never leaves one unaffected.

In the five-year international collaboration project *Frontiers in Retreat* (2013–2018), seven residency sites at the edges of Europe have been approached using various artistic and multidisciplinary methods. These remote sites are seen as frontiers where entanglements between human and other life forms become tangible. They allow insight into the entwined processes of ecological, social, and economic change—in their local manifestations and across a planetary scale.

The project has mapped out artistic practices that respond to ecological concerns, and explored the diverse ways in which ecology can be perceived. In total 25 artists have been invited to conduct research and produce new work in response to particular ecosystems. Their research has ranged across fjords, forests, islands, villages, towns, cities, and mountains in Iceland, Finland, Scotland, Latvia, Lithuania, Serbia, and Spain. Throughout the project, the participating artists and organisations have

challenged the initial premises of the project—productively, towards increased diversity. Rather than a fixed set of theories, concepts, and methods, there are multiple voices and views, positions and practices: the edge effect, indeed.

In 2017, *Frontiers in Retreat* organises the exhibition series *Edge Effects*. Its seven satellite exhibitions weave together the geographically dispersed processes and key discourses developed during the past four years. Besides reflecting the differences and resonances between the particular *Frontiers* sites, these discussions migrate into a new context via a group exhibition at Art Sonje Center in Seoul.

Through creating a platform for shared inquiry, *Frontiers in Retreat* has brought seven geographically dispersed sites closer to each other on the world map. Instead of conventional cartography, the process has resembled a kind of deep mapping: while engaging with the unique characteristics of each site, the participants have also learned about the complex co-dependencies and forces shaping habitats, human and non-human life trajectories, and migration patterns globally.

In the ethos of *Frontiers in Retreat*, the 2017–2018 Edge Effects events pose critical questions about the constitution of frontiers and boundaries. Another focus is the search for a new paradigm beyond the fossil-fuelled modes of living that are inevitably coming to an end. These focal points are being kept in mind while acknowledging that art should not be instrumentalised for the purposes of finding simplistic solutions. Instead, it can reveal conflicts within our values, formulate questions that challenge the status quo, and create a space for discussion and debate. As the *Frontiers* project continues as an open platform that branches out to new contexts, further edge effects can be expected.

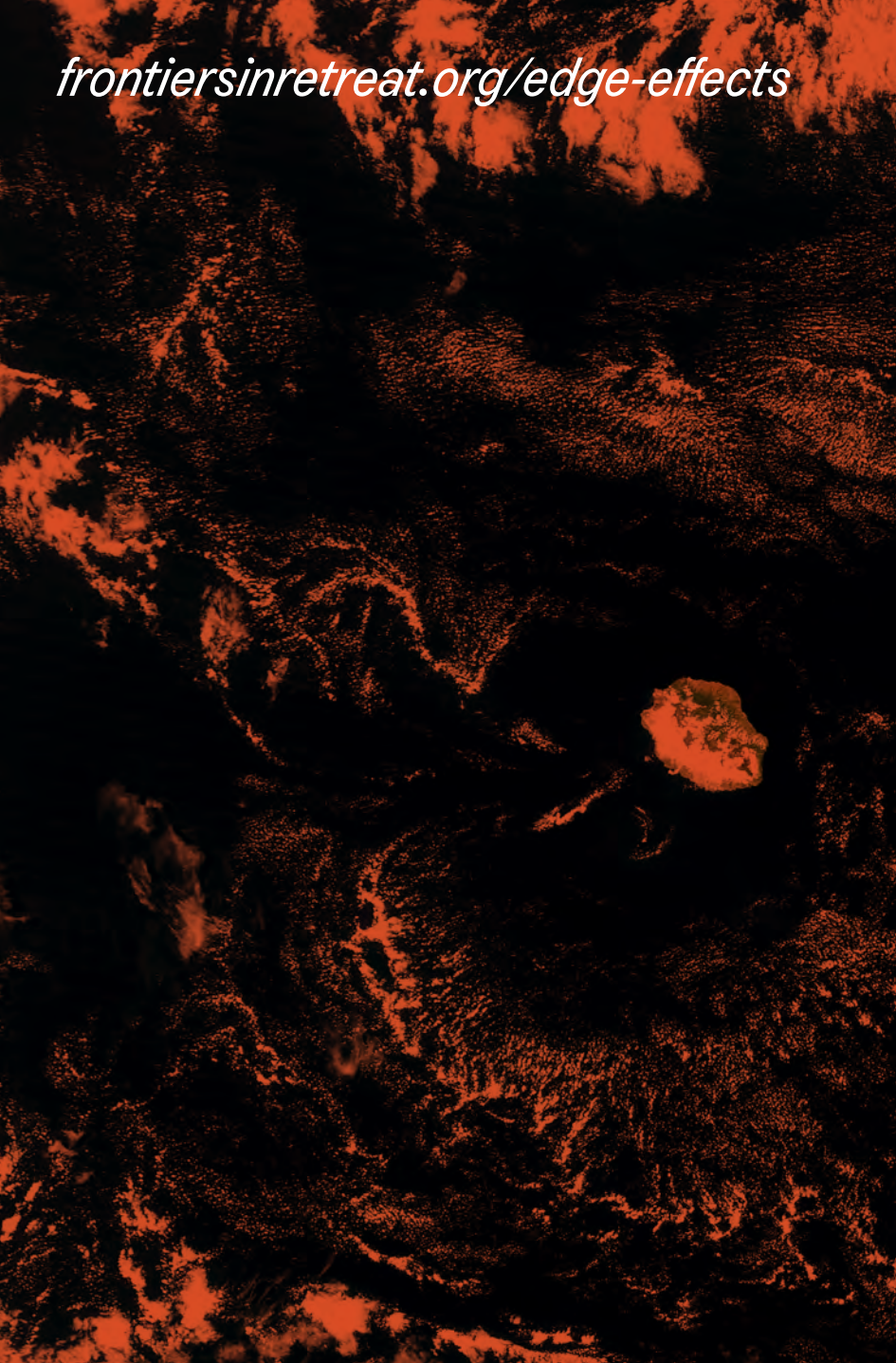
Jenni Nurmenniemi

*Curator, Frontiers in Retreat; HIAP –
Helsinki International Artist Programme*

Taru Elfving

Curator, Project initiator and curatorial advisor

frontiersinretreat.org/edge-effects



Mustarinda,
Hyrynsalmi, Finland
Jun–Aug 2017
mustarinda.fi

Skaftfell – Center
for Visual Art,
Seyðisfjörður, Iceland
Jun–Sept 2017
skaftfell.is

Interdisciplinary
Art Group SERDE,
Aizpute, Latvia
Jul–Sept 2017
serde.lv

Centre d'Art i
Natura CAN,
Online exhibition
Jul 2017–...
farreracan.cat

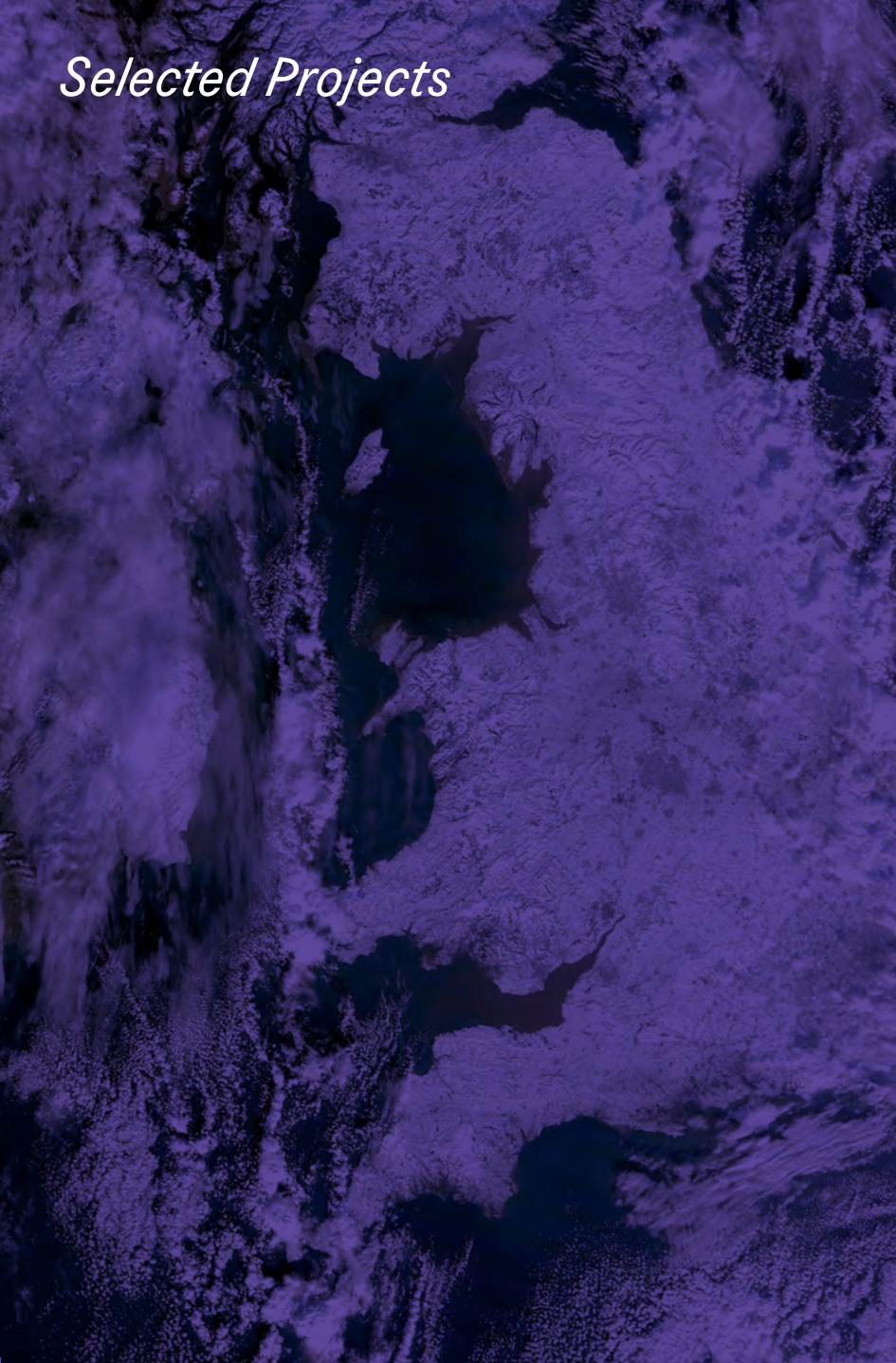
KC GRAD,
Belgrade, Serbia
Nov 2017
gradbeograd.eu

SSW – Scottish
Sculpture Workshop
in collaboration with
CCA Glasgow,
Glasgow, Scotland
Jul 2017
ssw.org.uk,
cca-glasgow.com

HIAP – Helsinki
International Artist
Programme at Art
Sonje Center, in
collaboration with
Gallery Factory, Seoul,
South Korea
Nov–Dec 2017
hiap.fi, artsonje.org,
factory483.org

Jutempus, Zooetics
Symposium at MIT
Program in Art,
Culture & Technology,
Cambridge, MA, USA
Feb 2018
zooetics.net,
act.mit.edu

Selected Projects





Bartaku's *Labsy* at SERDE Incubator *Cultural Heritage as Resource*, 2015.
Photo: Eli Garmendia. bartaku.net

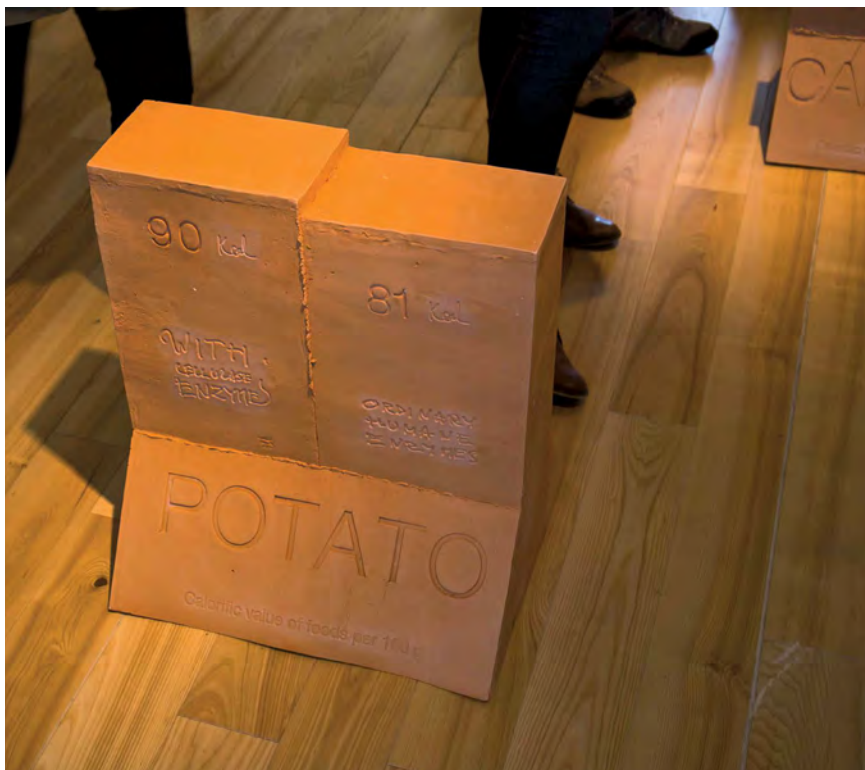




Sylvia Grace Borda, *Farm Tableaux*, 2013–2015.
sylviaorborda.com

Company, Johan Olin and Aamu Song, visiting a Belgradian plater in November 2016.
com-pa-ny.com





Gints Gabrāns, *FOOD*, 2014.
gabrans.com



Fernando García-Dory, *INLAND Scotland: Tenant Farmer Exchange Residency*, 2017.
Photo: Valerie Passano/INLAND. fernandogarciadory.info



Kati Gausmann, *dancing dough and circumstances*, 2014—...
kati-gausmann.de





Tue Greenfort, *Ongoing Mushroom Cultivation Research, 2014–...*
Photo: Tuomas Laasanen/HIAP. tuegreenfort.net

and the sea is losing ground to a rising awareness that we commonly cre







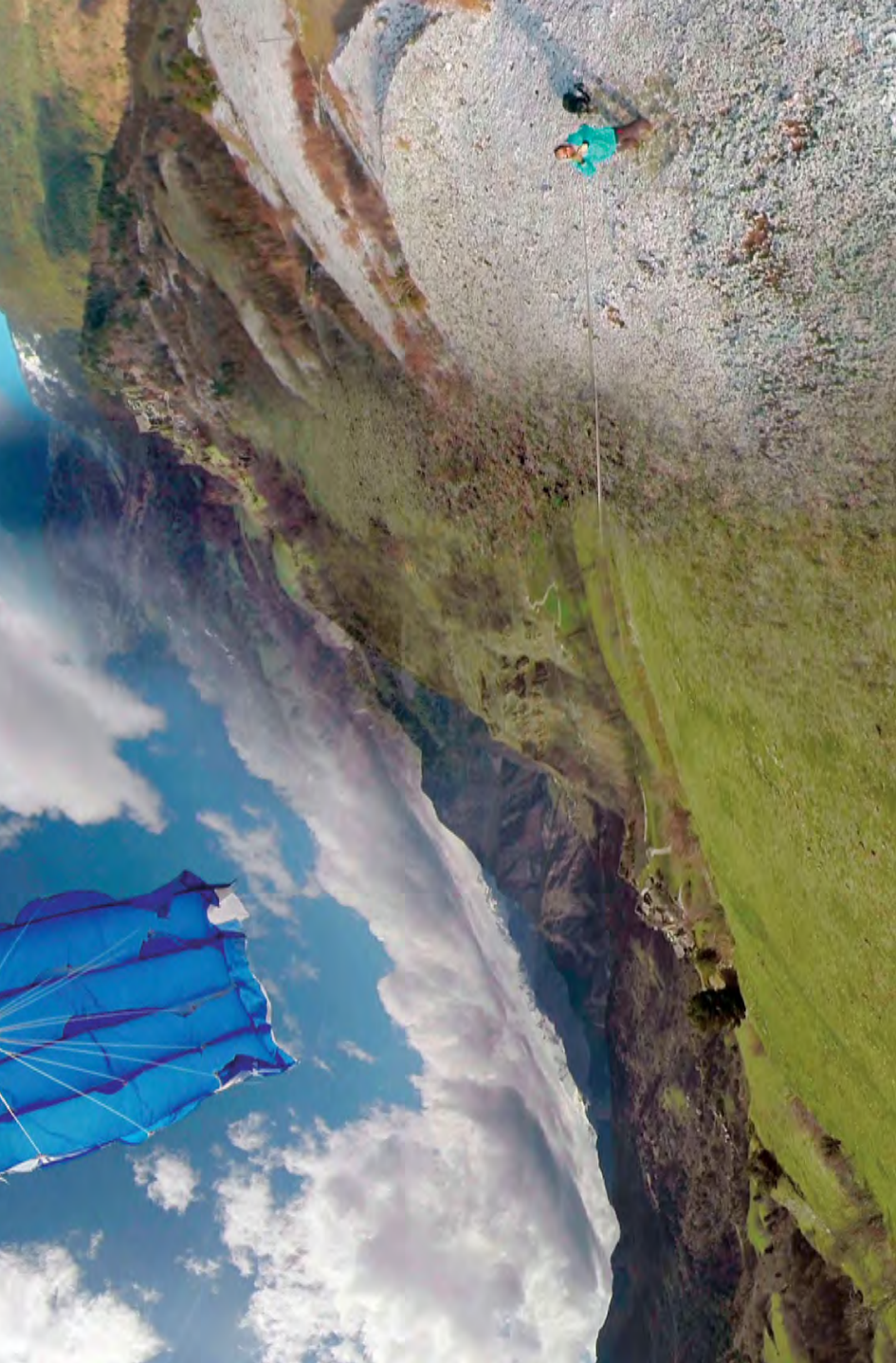
Saara-Maria Kariranta, *Existence*, 2016.
kariranta.com





Elena Mazzi (in collaboration with Sara Tirelli and Bruno Giorgini),
A fragmented world, 2016. elenamazzi.com

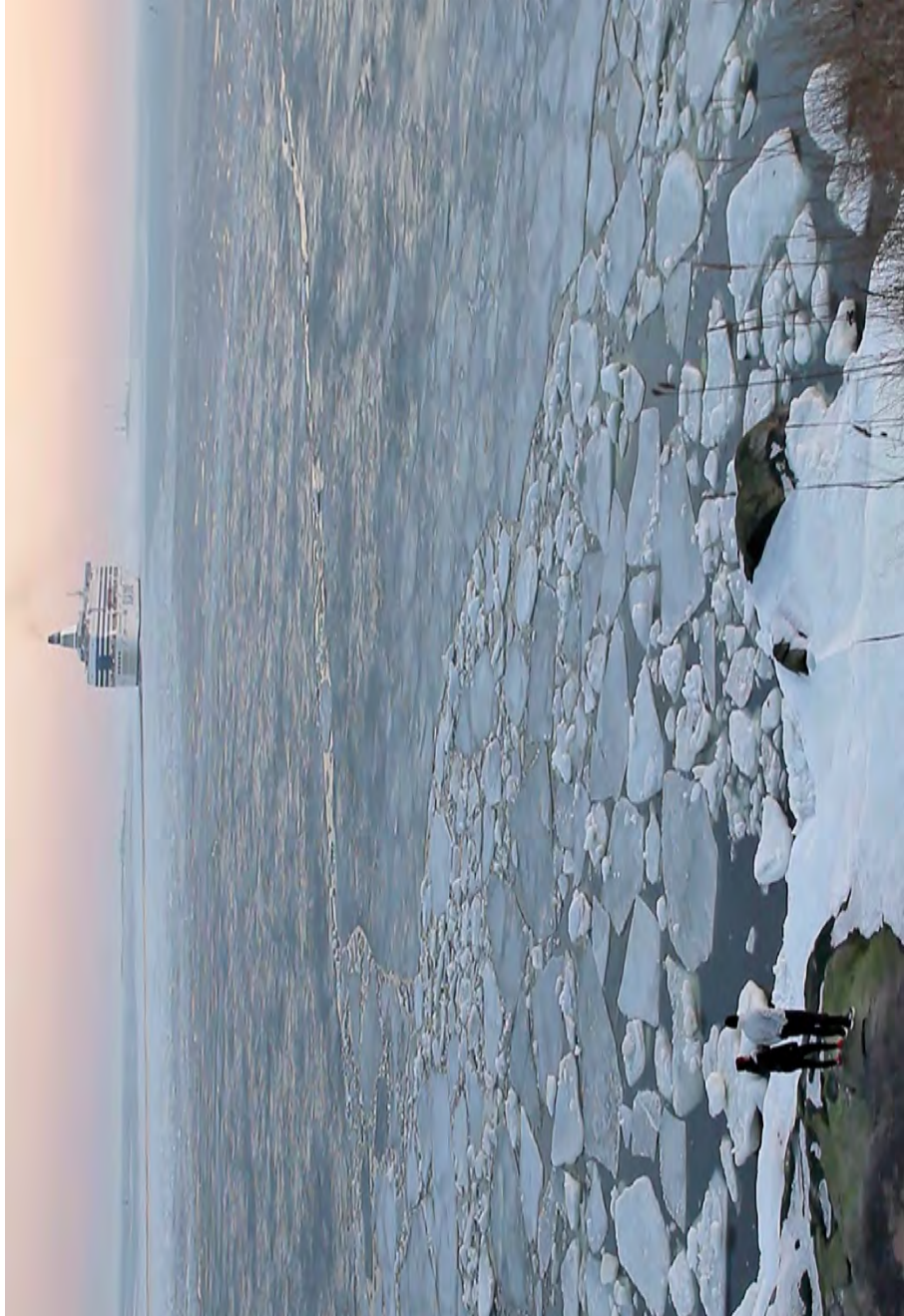




Mirko Nikolić, *we ♥ copper copper ♥ us vol.3/mineralizacija*, 2016.
Photo: KC GRAD. mirkonikolic.com



Tuula Närhinen, *Local Winds*, 2014–...
tuulanarhinen.net

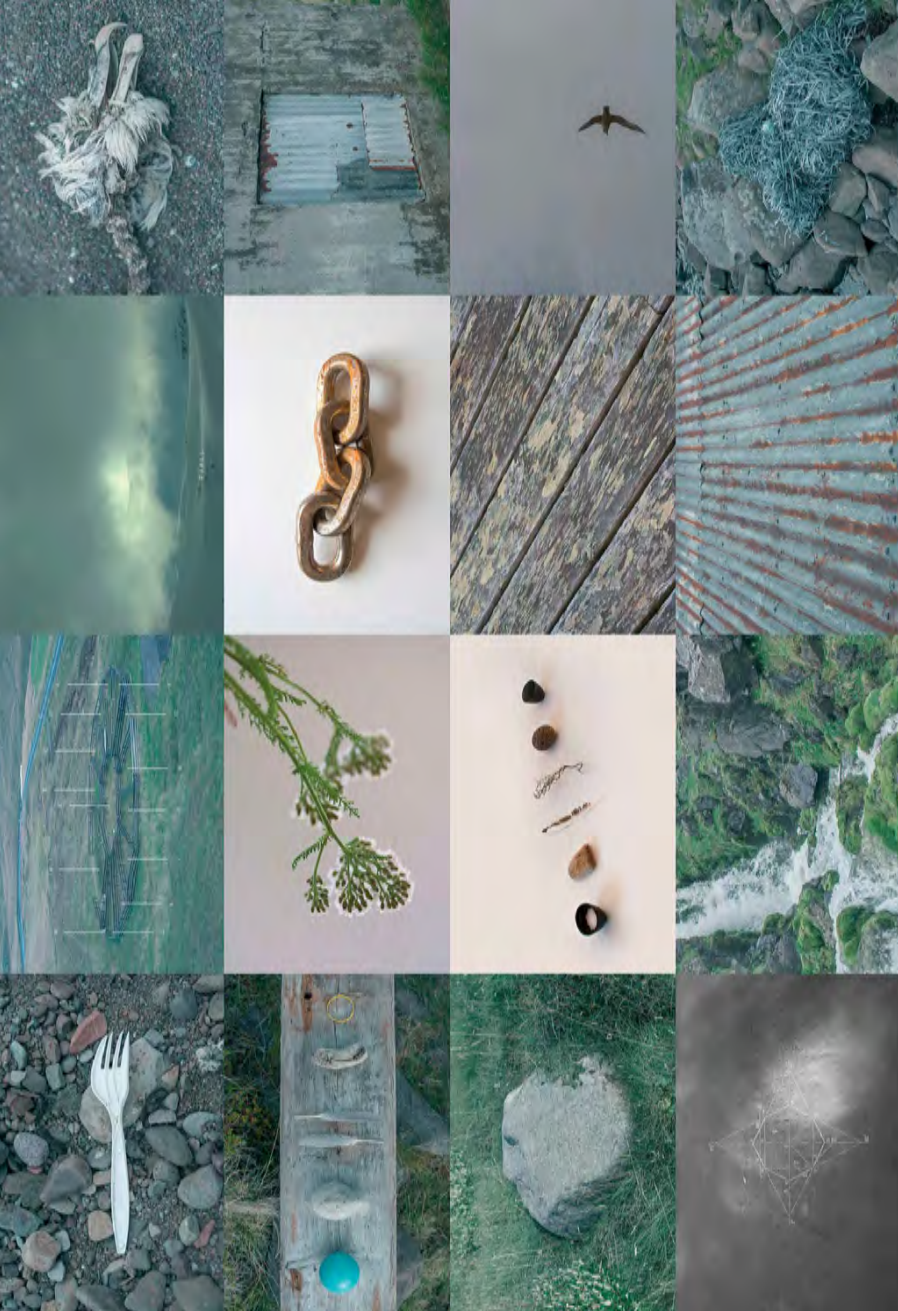


Khaled Ramadan, *For the love of air liquid*, 2014.
khaledramadan.org

Anna Rubio, *All the Trees I Met*, 2014–2016.
Photo: Henrik Duncker. dansanatura.com







Richard Skelton, *Towards a Frontier*, 2014–...
richardskelton.tumblr.com



Tracey Warr, *Meanda*, texts installed on the River Lot path in the Exoplanet Lot exhibition, France, 2016.
Photo: Yohann Gozard. traceywarrwriting.com

Simon Yuill contributed three texts within the framework of *Frontiers in Retreat: Uncommonality of the Commons; Slime Mold and Political Constitution; The Biconditionality of Craft and Kraft*. 2015–2016.
lipparosa.org



Web Archive

frontiersinretreat.org
frontiersinretreat.tumblr.com
instagram.com/frontiersinretreat
facebook.com/frontiersinretreat

Project Coordination

HIAP – Helsinki International
Artist Programme:
Jenni Nurmenniemi, curator;
Jaana Eskola, producer;
Salla Lahtinen, communications
and project assistant

Project Concept (2012)

Taru Elfving, in dialogue with
Irmeli Kokko, Jenni Nurmenniemi
and Jaakko Rustanius (HIAP)

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Salla Lahtinen & Jenni Nurmenniemi
(HIAP)

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Art Fund.

Funders



Culture

KONEEN SÄÄTIÖ

Ministry of Education and Culture

AVEK
THE PROMOTION CENTRE FOR
AUDIOVISUAL CULTURE



Organisations

HIAP

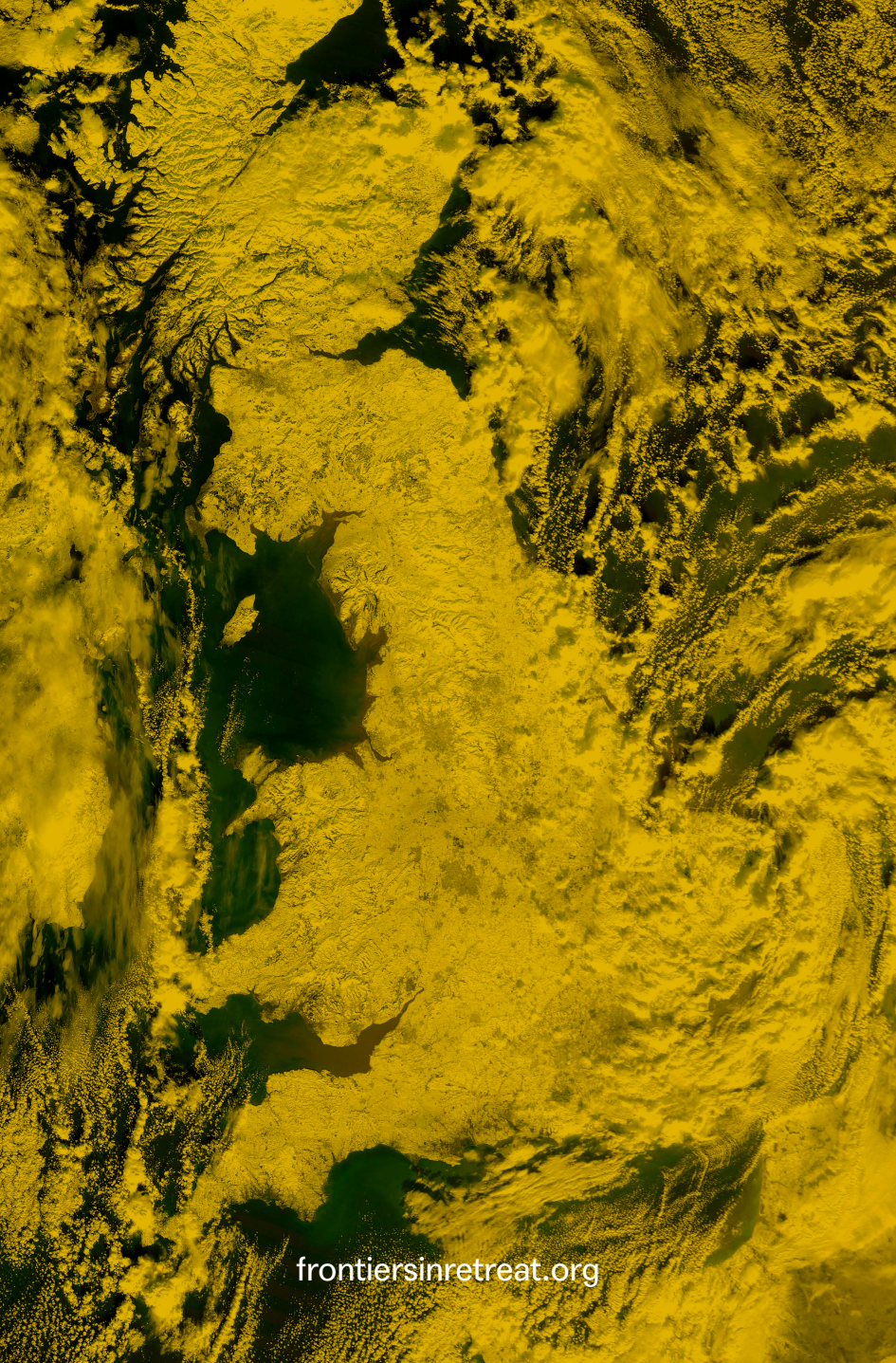


Skaptfell

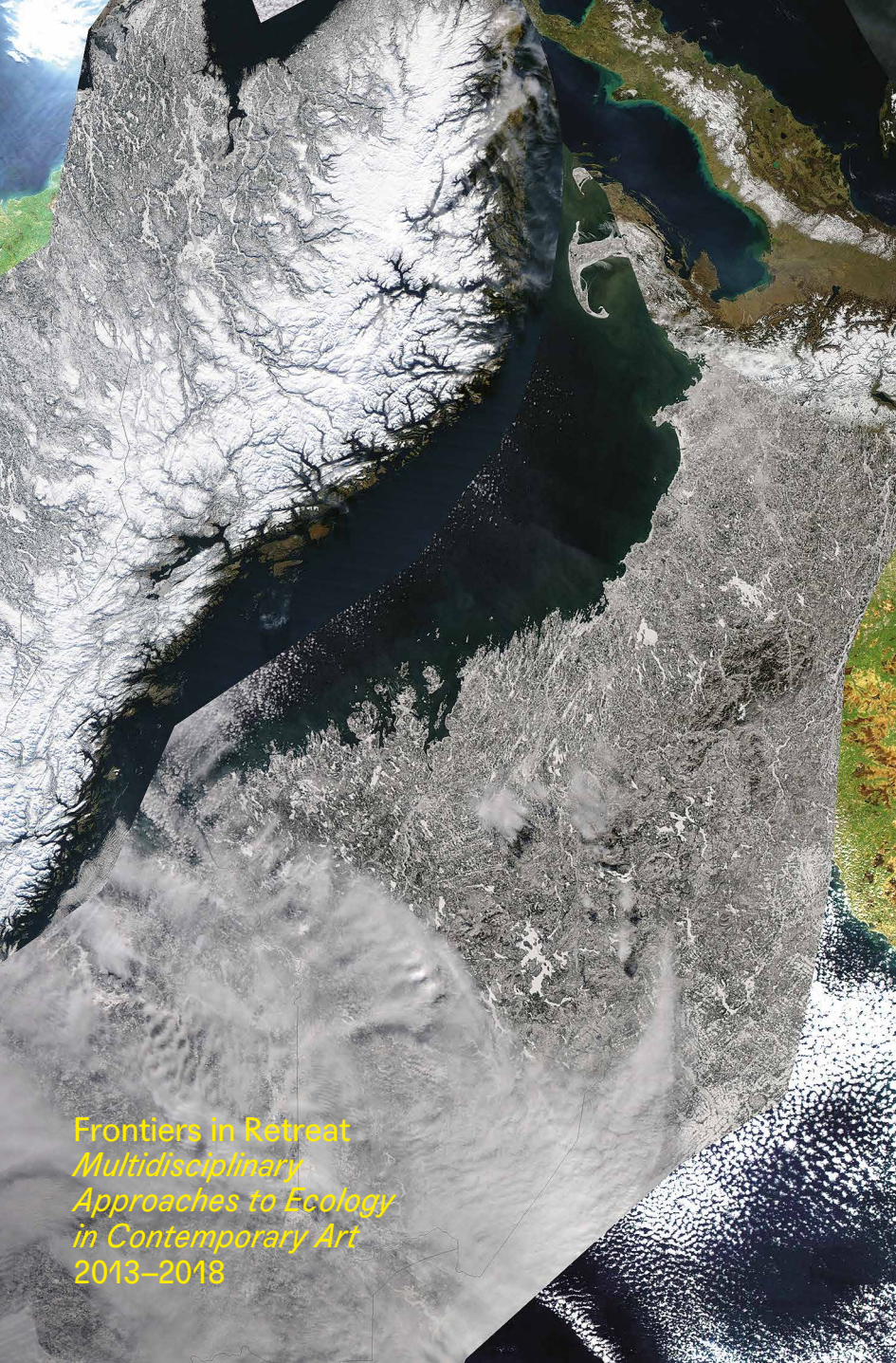
MYNDLISTARMEÐSTÖÐ AUSTURLANDS
CENTER FOR VISUAL ART



A
Zooetics



frontiersinretreat.org

An aerial topographic map of a mountainous region. The terrain is rendered in shades of gray, with darker tones indicating higher elevations and lighter tones for lower elevations. A prominent river valley runs diagonally from the upper left towards the center. In the upper right, a large reservoir is visible, with a dam structure crossing a narrow section of the river. The map shows intricate details of the landscape, including smaller tributaries and forested areas. The overall composition is a high-angle, top-down view of the terrain.

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