

BLACK MORTAR

ARTISHOK BIENNALE IN TALLINN
ESTONIA

MARC LESCHELIER

PRESS KIT

LOCATIONS : **EKKM, CONTEMPORARY ART MUSEUM, TALLINN.**
KAI CENTER, TALLINN.

OPENINGS : 25TH OF NOVEMBER 2020 IN EKKM (INDOOR PAVILION)

OPENINGS : 27TH OF NOVEMBER 2020 IN KAI CENTER (FILM)

BIENNALE : FROM 18TH OF NOVEMBER UNTIL 6TH OF DECEMBER 2020

ABOUT THE BIENNALE :

The 7th Artishok Biennial COPY will take place from November 18th to December 6th, 2020. 10 artists will be presenting new works, and for each artwork 10 writers have written accompanying texts. During 10 consecutive days from November 18th to November 27th, each artwork will be premiered at a specifically-chosen location in Tallinn. A group show that brings all the works together will open at Kai Art Center on November 27th and will remain open until December 6th.

The curators of the 7th Artishok Biennial are Laura Linsi and Roland Reemaa. Amid today's compulsive yearning for innovation, the curators' aim is to revive discussions on imitation, simulation and copying. "Could it be that blinded by originality and uniqueness, we have unjustly left aside the potential that lies in copying?" ask the curators.

ABOUT MARC LESCHELIER :

Marc Leschelier (1984) is working between the field of sculpture and architecture, he is building pavilions and architectural artefacts in experimental conditions. Marc lives, works and teaches Architecture in Paris. His work explores the possibility of a spontaneous formation of architecture through direct operations. Starting

from a refutation of construction as a rational enterprise, the work reduces its domain to an elementary, instinctive and irrational constructive practice to transform the architectural project.

During the year 2017/2018, Marc was a fellow at the Villa Medici in Rome. He received in 2011 the research grant from the Le Corbusier Foundation. He currently works on a book about Raimund Abraham supported by the Graham Foundation to be published by NERO editions. Marc has also founded the Unbuilt Archive (www.unbuilt-archive.org), an open-source archive specialized in radical architecture's texts and manifestos.

CONTACTS AND SOCIAL NETWORK :

<https://artishokbiennale.com/ab2020/>

<https://kai.center/en/exhibition/7th-artishok-biennial-copy>

www.marcleschelier.com

Instagram : @marcleschelier

mail@marcleschelier.com

Nimrod Keren (filmmaker)

Instagram : @nimroddeluxe3.0

www.nimrodfilms.com

vonkeren@gmail.com

Curators Instagram accounts : @lauralinsi / @rolandreemaa

Curators emails : laura@lrrllrr.com / roland@lrrllrr.com

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION :

BLACK MORTAR is a project that brings together a film and an indoor pavilion, made in-situ for the 7th edition of Artishok, the Tallinn Art Biennale in Estonia, by architect-sculptor Marc Leschelier, commissioned by Laura Linsi and Roland Reemaa. The film which is also entitled BLACK MORTAR will be screened for the first time on November 27th, 2020 at the Kai Center and the indoor pavilion will be open to the public in one of the rooms of the EKKM, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Tallinn, two days earlier, on November 25th for a period of three weeks.

DESCRIPTION :

BLACK MORTAR indoor pavilion at EKKM is realized with white silikaat blocks and bricks, which are one of the most conventional construction material in Estonia. The construction is a set of stacks of blocks with specific configurations arranged around two existing columns in the center of the exhibition space. These closely spaced pillars form a space that the visitor can enter. The blocks are assembled with black tainted mortar. The two components of the construction are expressed as two opposite entities, showing how any wall is composed of two antagonistic materials, one liquid, one solid. The black mortar leaves clear traces on the white blocks changing this matter into an expressionist component of the architectural language. The result is a skeletal architecture with no apparent function. A building that shows clearly its structural principle and makes appear vertically all the energy expended and stored during construction.

The film, made exclusively with GoPro embedded cameras, is showing a first-person vision of the construction process of the pavilion. BLACK MORTAR is a collaborative project with Israeli director Nimrod Keren. It will be Marc Leschelier's first direct film, which is a type of film specifically designed to record direct construction (a type of construction Marc is inventing). The video shows, in the manner of a surgical camera, the inside of the constructive process. The idea is to put the spectator in front of an almost unknown spectacle, by showing gestures and material states generally belonging to the domain of pure execution, without any sublimation.

ABOUT NIMROD KEREN :

Nimrod Keren is a producer, director, screenwriter, cinematographer and editor born in Jerusalem. He has lived in London, Amsterdam, Antwerp, and currently resides in Tel Aviv and New York City. He has a B.F.A. in film from Sapir College, Israel.

Nimrod has written, directed, produced and edited two short narrative films and one documentary short which he also filmed. He has made numerous music videos in Tel Aviv and Europe for musicians, bands and DJs. Nimrod works as a «one man show» or with a film crew, which he leads.

In addition to commercial work for different brands, IT companies and organizations, Nimrod is working closely with music festivals around the world from Israel, Europe, Asia to the United States producing films to promote the events.

In the past few years Nimrod has been documenting the performance art of artist Marc Leschelier, together they have created two films.

ABOUT MARC'S WORK :

The works refute construction as a rational enterprise, but instead imagine it as a process simply made up of accumulations of matter, shapeless and brutal. As the constructive process is before it becomes a finished object. The approach seeks to abandon architectural formalism and the desire for a more raw and intelligible reality of architecture. The aim is therefore to reduce architecture to a skeletal state in order to understand its components and make visible the forces passing through it. These buildings were built in an intermediate language, materially unfinished, which is why they are less like buildings than a form of «pre-architecture».

The work is built according to three different mediums - models (reduced model), performances (physical experience) and prototypes (scale 1 realizations). The link between these works and these different scales is the constructive gesture, each time direct and without modification.

A cycle of works entitled: *Worksite I* to *IV* - began this research at the level of physical experience by conducting worksites, sometimes as performances, without interruptions and without preliminary drawings. These performances have made it possible to produce chaotic and spontaneous fragments of architecture, with the aim of one day becoming the alphabet of a complete building. Other works such as *Building/Prototype I* and *II* are constructions that focus more on the articulations between the elements than on the elements themselves. The crudeness of language is intensified by the enhancement of articulations: chains, concrete reinforcing bars, superpositions and accumulations.