

Press Release, January 2021 (Page 1 of 4)

Taus Makhacheva / Tightrope

February 26th till May 2nd, 2021

The past year has proven again and again that art can cross abysses. The video work *Tightrope* by *Taus Makhacheva*, to be seen at Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden, literally performs a balancing act and visualizes a specific art history at a dizzying height.

A solitary tightrope walker balances above a canyon in Dagestan, the largest and most populous region in the Caucasus. Some in his hands, some pushed along the rope with his foot, some attached to the balance pole, Rasul Abakarov, descendant of a Dagestani dynasty of tightrope walkers, transports sixty-one paintings and drawings between the highland peaks.

For the 58-minute film **Tightrope** (2015), works of art were carefully selected by **Taus Makhacheva** in collaboration with the custodians of the Dagestan Museum of Fine Arts collection named after P.S. Gamzatova, and then copied for the performance. The works span a period from the 19th century to the year 2000 and thus the history of fine art in Dagestan - from 19th century battle scenes to works of Socialist Realism from the region's Soviet period to works resembling Abstract Expressionism or Pop Art. Against the breathtaking backdrop of the Dagestani mountain landscape, one work after the other is transported over a thin rope and the originally sequential arrangement of the works on the first peak is arranged into a cuboid structure reminiscent of a museum depot on the opposite mountain peak.

The film not only visualizes a specific art history, but also literally questions a linear historiography through the physical act of rearrangement. The apparently valuable objects that are transported over a thin wire rope become a symbol of the region's precarious cultural heritage and the question of how museums can guarantee the survival of such a heritage physically and historically. The balancing act of the tightrope walker also becomes a metaphor for the complicated history of the Republic of Dagestan, a region that, after its Sovietization, finds itself balancing between tradition and modernity, center and periphery, historical representation and invisibility.

Press Release, January 2021 (Page 2 of 4)

About the artist /

Taus Makhacheva (* 1983, Moscow) studied fine arts at Goldsmiths College and at the Royal College of Art in London. In 2016, her alter ego Super Taus* received the Kandinsky Prize *Young Artist. Project of the Year*. Her work has been shown in numerous solo and group exhibitions around the world, including at the Tate Modern (London), the 57th Biennale di Venezia, the Manifesta 12 (Palermo), the Center Pompidou (Paris) and the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art (Moscow).

Press contact /

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The Nassauische Kunstverein Wiesbaden is permanently institutionally supported by the cultural office of the Landeshauptstadt Wiesbaden.



* **Super Taus**, Makhacheva's superhero alter ego (or perhaps vice-versa) lives and works in Tsada Mountain village, having graduated from the Department of Philology at the Dagestan Pedagogical State University. She considers her actions as "life affirming practices". Super Taus appeared after Taus Makhacheva met Super Sohrab, a superhero from Iran (www.vimeo.com/34178536). The adventures of Super Taus can be viewed here: www.vimeo.com/142489057.

Press Release, January 2021 (Page 3 of 4)

Program/

The events take place in accordance with the Covid-19 containment measures ordinance valid at that time. Current information can be found at www.kunstverein-wiesbaden.de.

SUNTALK /

Get off the couch!
Guided tour through the current exhibitions
Sundays, 3 pm

ESPRESSO /

Short and strong!
Short guided tour and espresso
Tuesdays, 12.45 am to 1.15 pm

SPRITZ /

Art, drinks and more!
Thursdays, 6 to 8 pm

KIDS INSIDE /

For all / with Titus Grab or Sarah Kottenbrink
Last Saturday of the month, 11 am to 1 pm
March 27th, 2021
April 24th, 2021

WILHELMS WANNE /

Interactive tour / From 8-88 years
Second Saturday of the month, 3 to 5 pm
March 13th, 2021
April 10th, 2021

FINISSAGE /

Sunday, May 2nd, 2021, 3 to 6 pm

Press Release, January 2021 (Page 4 of 4)

Press Images /

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Taus Makhacheva
Tightrope, 2015

58'10'' video, colour, sound.
The work is based on the collection of Dagestan Museum of Fine Arts named after P. S. Gamzatova.
Production supported by Cosmospow Artists' Patrons Programme.
Courtesy: Taus Makhacheva



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