

Datasheet of the exhibition

**Pastoral**

Alexander Gronsky

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Alexander Gronsky

**Curated by**

Arianna Rinaldo

**Produced by**

Associazione Culturale ONTHEMOVE  
on the occasion of Cortona On The Move  
International Photography Festival 2015

**Print**

Bottega Antonio Manta  
Epson  
SP Systema



## ***Pastoral***

In the Pastoral cycle, Alexander Gronsky captures the intermediate zone between the metropolis - the Russian capital Moscow - and nature - already vanished. This is not the city, yet neither is it the countryside. These are a series of landscapes of the outskirts of the city, often taken from outside - from the overgrown wastelands and rubbish dumps, the no man's land surrounding the town. The landscape is often separated from the observer, barring entry. The remoteness of the landscape is often linked to its ability to reveal to the viewer a self-enclosed aesthetic totality, i.e. something possessing form. In Gronsky's cycle, however, this space between the photographer and the landscape is presented literally in the form of an intermediate zone of litter and indefiniteness.

With their clear geometric forms, the buildings in Gronsky's cityscapes appear to differ greatly from the intermediate zone. Their role is to mark out the border between the space of desolation and the space of habitation. Yet this does not happen. The new blocks of houses are already subjected to the corrosion of time and covered with indentations; they appear to be the abandoned, albeit not yet destroyed "ruins" of modernity. Gronsky's cities are often completely empty with an inhabited wasteland and rubbish dumps around, as if the people have relocated from clean, habitable areas to a place of sewage and decay. The populace is, in essence, indiscernible from the refuse. They are often seen in the dirt looking like figures so miniature that they become small, insignificant detail - just as incidental as the surrounding rubbish.

The artist carefully selects the point of view, balances the composition, meticulously works out every detail and subtly harmonizes the colour gamut, attempting to avoid superfluous colour contrasts which cannot be easily integrated into the whole. There is nothing accidental or improvised about these landscapes. The objects may be quite ugly and formless, but in terms of classical aesthetics, the scenes are extremely beautiful. Both the time of day and the historical moment of his landscapes are undefined. The effect of this indefiniteness is underscored by the desolation of the spaces. If life spreads here, outwardly from the city, why are the new constructions so empty, as if the population had already abandoned them? Is this an end time or a beginning time?

The cold perfection of Gronsky's works would seem to invite this evaluation of his view of the world, particularly as the people in his photographs are tiny figures who hardly stand out from the landscape and do not possess any independent significance. Gronsky's view can be easily identified with a totally technological perception of the world. This "subtraction of the human," the vanishing of the subject, the facelessness of the vision are linked to the disappearance of the "object" and the view's loss of any intentional orientation on it. And herein lies the paradox of Gronsky's photographs. By eliminating objects the vision enters, of its own accord, into an unusually intense relationship with the world in all its indefiniteness and fullness.

Pastoral is a series of enchanting landscapes in which there is virtually nothing to look at. Notwithstanding all their hallucinatory concreteness, Gronsky's photographs belong far more to the plane of pure vision, appearance and apparition than to the field of the materiality of the presented objects. And this is their undoubted contemporaneousness and strength.

extract from the text by Mikhail Lampolski

## Alexander Gronsky

Alexander Gronsky was born in Tallinn, Estonia, in 1980 and began working as a press photographer in 1998. He gradually moved from editorial photography to working on personal documentary projects focusing on the contemporary Russian landscape. He was a participant in the 2003 World Press Photo Joop Swart Masterclass.

He has received numerous awards, including the 2009 Aperture Portfolio Prize, and the 2009 Linhof Young Photographer Award, the 2010 Silver Camera Grand Prix in Moscow, the 2012 Foam Paul Huf Award and the 2013 Prix Levallois-Epson. His work has been presented in solo exhibitions in Tokyo, Moscow, Paris, New York, Amsterdam, Beijing, Bogota, and Levallois (in France), as well as numerous group exhibitions.

Gronsky is based in Saulkrasti, Latvia.

<b>Title</b>	Pastoral
<b>Photographer</b>	Alexander Gronsky
<b>Number of photos</b>	20 Prints on dibond (three different size)
<b>Type</b>	Color, printed on CansonPhotographique Satin paper, mounted on dibond, images in floating frames
<b>Print size</b>	5 40x50 cm 13 70x90 cm 2 90x110 cm
<b>Frame size</b>	5 48x58 cm. Thickness of 3cm, Deph of 4cm Color natural wood 13 78x98 cm. Thickness of 3cm, Deph of 4cm Color natural wood
<b>Linear development</b>	2 98x118 cm. Thickness of 3cm, Deph of 4cm Color natural wood
<b>Set up</b>	15mt minimum required linear space  holes on the back of the frames 2 Panel: intro, bio (text in appendix) and title, must be printed at the expense of the hosting organization
<b>Shipping</b>	1 box 124x104x16 cm 2 boxes 104x50x84 cm 1 box 64x40x54 cm

**PRINTS****Image size  
cm (height x base)****Frame size  
cm (height x base)**

1



40x50

48x58

2



40x50

48x58

3



40x50

48x58

4



40x50

48x58

5



40x50

48x58

**STAMPE****Image size  
cm (height x base)****Frame size  
cm (height x base)**

6



70x90

78x98

7



70x90

78x98

8



70x90

78x98

9



70x90

78x98

10



70x90

78x98

**PRINTS****Image size  
cm (height x base)****Frame size  
cm (height x base)**

11



70x90

78x98

12



70x90

78x98

13



70x90

78x98

14



70x90

78x98

15



70x90

78x98



**PRINTS****Image size  
cm (height x base)****Frame size  
cm (height x base)**

16



70x90

78x98

17



70x90

78x98

18



70x90

78x98

19



90x110

98x118

20



90x110

98x118

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## **CONTACTS**

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