

KONSTENS HUS
VID HAVET

TAITEENTALO
MEREN ÄÄRELLÄ

ART HOUSE
BY THE SEA

CHAPPE

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Gustav Wasas Gata 11
10600 Ekenäs, Finland
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chappe.fi

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Daniel & Geo Fuchs: "Nature & Destruction" 19.10.2024-30.3.2025

The exhibition **"Nature & Destruction"** by the artists Daniel & Geo Fuchs is a photography project that the artist couple has been realizing on their travels across the world, including the Nordic countries, since 2007.

The exhibition consists of extremely detailed landscape panoramas and close-ups that have been taken with a photography robot developed jointly by NASA and Google for taking pictures of Mars. The photographs show nature's beauty and sensitivity, but also its destructive force as well as the devastation caused to nature by man; this is the origin of the name for the photographic series. The individual photographs have been named after famous natural scientists, or persons, who have dedicated themselves to the conservation of nature.

Many points of view on landscapes have prevailed in western landscape art over the years. The Age of Enlightenment emphasized the idea that man was given, by God, the right to exploit the resources of nature. The photographs of Daniel & Geo Fuchs concretize this idea in the context of our modern era. When you take a closer look at the photographs, you notice details that you may have overlooked at first glance. There are fish-rearing ponds between majestic mountains and fjords. An electric power line cuts a panorama in two. The vertical and horizontal lines visible in the snowy Alps are ski lifts and masts. There are houses and roads next to rocky mountain walls. Human has made his view to the sea better by felling trees; by opening a gap in the forest.

During the Romantic period, artists were inspired by high mountains, stormy seas and untouched nature. In the 19th century, German Romantics painted landscapes to express their spiritual yearning. Caspar David Friedrich (1774–1840) painted landscapes to depict a sense of belonging and estrangement. He may also have conveyed a sense of infinity and holiness in a landscape. Friedrich presented the viewer with a natural experience that lifted one to the point of revelation.

Daniel & Geo Fuchs create the same experience with modern photographic technology. During the photographic process, a robot takes hundreds of pictures of a landscape, using an exposure time of about one hour and more. Photographing a single landscape may take a whole day. Adapting the colours in the pictures is a very intuitive process performed by the artists with image processing software. The use of filters is something we are familiar with from social media imagery, but in the context of landscape photography, a manipulated range of colours alienates the photograph from the real subject.

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A desert glowing yellow gives an impression of the world after nuclear destruction. A clear-cut forest creates a sense of danger. A landscape shining in coralline colours is artificial and unreal. When viewing the photographs of Daniel & Geo Fuchs, one can begin to comprehend the marks that modern man leaves in the landscape and nature when using it to promote his own goals.

Daniel & Geo Fuchs (1966 / 1969) have worked together since the mid-90s and are known for their conceptual photography series. Their work has been shown in numerous international exhibitions and can be found in many public and private collections. Daniel & Geo Fuchs have worked artistically in many museum collections and archives, and at the same time they have created their own archive and collection. Artistic collection work has become a central part of their art and career.

For additional information

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