

Aperture Traveling Exhibitions

THE SOCHI PROJECT: An Atlas of War and Tourism in the Caucasus

Photographs by Rob Hornstra

Texts by Arnold van Bruggen



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Rob Hornstra and Arnold van Bruggen have been working together since 2009 to tell the story of Sochi, Russia, site of the 2014 Winter Olympic Games. They have returned repeatedly to this region as committed practitioners of “slow journalism,” establishing a solid foundation of research on and engagement with this small yet incredibly complicated place before it finds itself in the glare of international media attention. As van Bruggen writes, “Never before have the Olympic Games been held in a region that contrasts more strongly with the glamour of the event than Sochi. Just twenty kilometers away is the conflict zone Abkhazia. To the east, the Caucasus Mountains stretch into obscure and impoverished republics such as North Ossetia and Chechnya. On the coast, old Soviet-era sanatoria stand shoulder to shoulder with the most expensive hotels and clubs of the Russian Riviera. By 2014 the area around Sochi will have been changed beyond recognition.” Hornstra’s photographic approach combines the best of documentary storytelling with contemporary portraiture, found photographs, and other visual elements collected over the course of their travels.

Since the beginning of their collaboration, The Sochi Project has been released in installments, in book form and online, each focusing on a particular facet of the story, the geography, the people, and their history. The highlights and key elements of this extensive effort are brought together for the first time in the accompanying book, designed by Kummer & Herrman, who have been integral to the collaboration from the outset. Aperture’s exhibition *The Sochi Project: An Atlas of War and Tourism in the Caucasus* offers alternative perspectives and in-depth reporting on this remarkable region, the site of the most expensive Olympic Games ever, and one that sits at the combustible crossroads of war, tourism, and history.

Rob Hornstra (born in Borne, the Netherlands, 1975) is a photographer and self-publisher of slow-form documentary work. In addition to his work on The Sochi Project, he is also the founder and former artistic director of FOTODOK, Utrecht, the Netherlands. Hornstra is represented by Flatland Gallery, Utrecht.

Arnold van Bruggen (born in Texel, the Netherlands, 1979) is a writer and filmmaker. He is the founder of the journalistic production agency Prospektor and a cofounder, with Hornstra, of The Sochi Project.

Current itinerary:

DePaul Art Museum	January 16–March 30, 2014	Chicago
CONTACT Photo Festival	May–June 2014	Toronto
FotoFocus	September–October 2014	Cincinnati

Large Exhibition

Contents: includes five framed 40 x 47 in. photographs and five framed 36 x 43 in. photographs; approximately ninety photographs spread over 125 sheets of 23 x 33 in. newsprint; six 42-piece, 82 x 98 in. Sochi Singers billboards; video interviews; and publications to be displayed on a reading table. The venue will receive digital files of maps, typography, and high-res images for blowups to be produced by the venue.

Approximate running feet: 250–400

Participation fee: \$10,000 for an eight-week showing. The host venue is responsible for pro-rated shipping and insurance.

Small Exhibition

Contents: includes thirty framed 19 ½ x 23 ½ in. photographs; twenty-seven 22 ½ x 32 ½ in. photographs on newsprint to be displayed in a three-by-nine grid; a selection of 82 x 98 in. Sochi Singers billboards; thirty 24 x 16 in. newsprints from *On the other side of the mountains*; video interviews; and publications to be displayed on a reading table. The venue will receive digital files of maps, typography, and high-res images for blowups to be produced by the venue.

Approximate running feet: 100–250

Participation fee: \$5,000 for an eight-week showing. The host venue is responsible for pro-rated shipping and insurance.

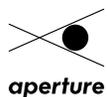
Availability: through 2019

Related publication:

The Sochi Project: An Atlas of War and Tourism in the Caucasus
9 ½ x 12 ½ in.
512 pages, 200 four-color and black-and-white images
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-1-59711-244-4
\$80.00
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Sample Works



THE SOCHI PROJECT: An Atlas of War and Tourism in the Caucasus

Installation View

