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## ***Scenes from an Island*** **Exhibition at Fotografiska New York**

**NEW YORK, NY — December 4, 2020** Swedish-American artist and photographer Florence Montmare's *Scenes from an Island* will launch on December 7 as a virtual exhibition and part of Fotografiska New York's The Foto Sessions. Utilizing images, text, and video, a visual journey is played out against legendary director Ingmar Bergman's mise-en-scène, the cinematic landscape on the remote island of Fårö, Sweden.

During a year dominated by a global pandemic and civil unrest, many of us find ourselves trapped on our own islands. In *Scenes*, Montmare explores the human condition of isolation, displacement, and transience among the elemental conditions of a landscape where land meets water. The work is the culmination of five years of experimentation and process on the part of the artist, which she views "as a ritual and meditation on the need to connect with nature as the source of our existence. On the island, natural elements are stripped down and laid bare," Montmare says, "allowing a contemplation of the rocks and sea to function as a mirror, and in reflection, you are able to see an essence of yourself."

Montmare is excited her art will be available to a worldwide community through the virtual presentation online, and in a multi-experiential approach, the exhibition's seven chapters (*exteriors, interiors, persona, rite, black postcards, incantation, refuge*) will be released over four weeks in December.

Additionally, in conjunction with Fotografiska's ongoing *Mindfulness Friday's* series, Montmare, a lifelong meditation practitioner, will offer a specialized theme tied to the seven chapters of *Scenes from an Island*, accompanied by a guided meditation with original music, offering viewers a chance to contemplate her images and while going deeper within themselves.

**When:** The exhibition goes live on December 7, 2020 and will be available until February 28, 2021.

**Where:** [www.fotografiska.com/nyc/the-foto-sessions/](http://www.fotografiska.com/nyc/the-foto-sessions/)

**Opening event:** December 9, 2020 at 7PM. "*Scenes From An Island: Stillness, Performativity, and the Imaginary.*" Montmare and Critical Theorist Natasha Chuk will discuss the artist's travels to the remote island of Fårö, and her inner journey toward stillness and self-discovery, culminating in this body of work.

**Guided meditation events:** December 11, 18, January 8, 15, 22, 29 and February 5.

**ABOUT THE ARTIST:** New York- and Stockholm-based artist and photographer Florence Montmare creates photographs, films, performances, installations, books and commissions, while exhibiting her work internationally. Projects include *Illuminations* (New York 2014, 2015), performance *Det är i mötet det sker* (Bergman Week Fårö 2017), exhibition *Return to sender*, (Helsinki 2018), theatrical performance *Dream machine* (New York 2012) and video *Phantasme* (2007). She was an artist in residence at Chashama studio program (New York 2010-2012), and at Ingmar Bergman Estate (Sweden 2015, 2017). Excerpts from *Scenes from an Island* have been shown at the Bergmancenter Gallery (2019) and in the Summer Yard of the National Museum of Finland (2020). She is represented by Ivy Brown Gallery, New York and Barona Productions, Mexico City.

**ABOUT FOTOGRAFISKA NEW YORK:** Fotografiska New York is the newest global outpost from the internationally renowned, Stockholm-based destination for photography. Located in the Flatiron District of Manhattan, the six-floor, 45,000 sq ft. historic landmark is home to a multi-concept venue, offering an unexpected mix of world-class art, vibrant cultural programming, and exceptional dining experiences. Guided by the principle of inspiring a more conscious world through photography, Fotografiska has built a safe haven of innovation, inclusivity and self expression. The presentation of photography is powerful and unparalleled, and includes over 220 exhibitions to date globally, such as Annie Leibovitz, Zanele Muholi, Hassan Hajjaj, Ren Hang, Sebastião Salgado, Bettina Rheims, Sally Mann, David LaChapelle, and Robert Mapplethorpe.

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