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Scenes from an Island

Swedish-American artist Florence Montmare's homage to the inspiring landscape of Ingmar Bergman is featured at Helsinki Photo Festival

NEW YORK, NY — July 3, 2020 Artist and photographer Florence Montmare's *Scenes from an Island* will be featured as a solo exhibition at the 2020 Helsinki Photo Festival, July 7 - September 30. Describing the project, Ms. Montmare says: "The overarching theme is the human condition of displacement played out against Ingmar Bergman's mise-en-scène, the barren cinematic landscape on the remote island of Fårö, Sweden. When I was offered a chance to stay in one of his homes in 2015, it inspired me to create this new body of work." The exhibition is the culmination of five years of experimentation and process on the part of the artist, exploring metaphors of transience and elemental conditions of nature by staging different scenarios; images of landscapes and figures transitioning through them. "I see it as ritual and a meditation to connect to nature as the true source of our existence," Ms. Montmare says.

WHERE: The Summer Yard of the National Museum of Finland. Address: Mannerheimintie 34, 00100 Helsinki, kansallismuseo.fi, and on JCDecaux digital billboards at bus, tram and subway stations.

WHEN: Every day from July 7 - September 30 during museum hours (11AM to 6PM).

ABOUT THE ARTIST: New York- and Stockholm-based artist Florence Montmare studied photography at the School of Visual Arts and the International Center of Photography. She established her studio Florence Montmare LLC to create photographs, films, performances, installations, books and commissions, while exhibiting her work internationally. Projects include: two solo shows of her photography, writing, and performative work *Illuminations* (New York 2014, 2015), a theater/dance named *Det är i mötet det sker* (Fårö 2017), photo exhibition *Return to sender*, (Helsinki 2018), interactive theatrical piece *Dream machine* (New York 2012) and video performance *Phantasme* (2007). She was an artist-in-residence at Chashama studio program (New York 2010-2012), and at Ingmar Bergman Estate (Sweden 2015, 2017). She is represented by Ivy Brown Gallery, New York and Barona Productions, Mexico City.

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL: The Helsinki Photo Festival promotes and exhibits works of photographers, photojournalists, visual arts professionals and multidisciplinary artists. The festival theme of 2020 is "Trust" and the aim is to showcase fine art photography that has never been seen before in Finland in the metropolitan area of the City of Helsinki. The curated exhibitions will take place in historic landmarks, warehouses, art centres, galleries, parks and waterfront areas in Helsinki. helsinkiphotofestival.com

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