

3 O'clock: :Migration as an act of art, ritual as a method

LOA Nomination #3
Exhibition 17 - 22October 2019. Nomination by Rory Beard/ text by Yu'an Huang

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When the Russian-born British artist Vlada Predelina relocated to the Netherlands in 2019, she felt the strangeness of dislocation resurface as something weirdly familiar. To migrate seems to her a family tradition, only this time, it is her turn. The artist set out on a journey back to her grandmother's house in Ekaterinburg, The Urals, seeking a piece of memory from childhood: A domestic ritual that performs as a stabiliser regardless of its geographical context.

Pattern finding from maps, architectural structures and scenarios reoccurs in Predelina's work. The minimalistic line drawings indicate locations and sceneries that once existed. Much like a personalised filing system created through hands-on methods such as stamp carving, clay modeling and print making, the repetition of a symbolic act is performed. The act of duplicating patterns, until the background details are lost and the imprint of the mark surface, allows a grounding sense of existence to emerge. The artistic method transforms the experience of relocation.

It is through the practice of pattern making and ritual performing that the artist further explores the global identity we all share in our transcultural contemporary state.

3 o'clock beetroot workshop with Vlada Predelina

19 October 3-5 pm

In this 2 hours beetroot print making workshop, the artist invites you to share the story about the taste of your home. The workshop will be recorded and concludes with a bowl of Borscht made with the grandma's secret recipe.

Vlada Predelina (b.1991)

Multi disciplinary artist Vlada look into routines as a way of exploring identity and sense of belonging. She is also interested in living spaces, with the key word being 'living' by taking part in housing project in London and community building in the Netherlands.

Graduated from Kingston University BA Fine Art and the artist let MFA course at School of the Damned, Vlada has exhibited across UK, awarded with Stanley Picker Scholarship, shortlisted for Zealous x Visual Arts Prize a residency and solo show oppounity at SHOWROOM, Rotterdam.

Leave Of Absence Gallerv (LOA London)

is an art space curated by a nomination system. Each exhibiting artist will be asked to nominate three artists to consider making work for the space. One who they know of in person, one who they do not and one that does not have the right to live and work in the UK.

LOA exists to explore the relationship between art works and the societal context in an age of dematerialized culture and transient movement.

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There was always enough borscht to feed everyone. Me, my mum, friends that might follow me home, or mum's friends that might come over last minute. As I remember it, it was always there, maybe not always but definitely enough to make me assume it was. Standing there, rich, thick, "spoon standing" inside. A Russian idiom probably made up specifically for the thickness of my grandma's borscht. They just didn't know that at the time...

Everything is in there!

But what exactly and how? A recipe from her mother whom I never met. Did hers taste the same?

Probably.

So I go to Russia with a mission, first day I see my grandmother, I tell her that I have a 'government party task' for her. Another Russian idiom for a task that must be done.

She asks me what it is. I ask her to teach me her borscht.

From start to finish; a recipe for me to record, to keep, to never lose. A piece of home that I can take anywhere in the world.

She agrees, we set a date.

Feeling empowered with a secret tool to make me feel better on any day, I return to my new home in the Netherlands.

I make the borscht.

Not quite there...

But it's good enough for me to feel strange: the smell is here, the taste is here, the borscht is here, my grandmother is not.

Vlada Predelina October 2019

