Aperture Foundation announces the exhibition and accompanying publication

THE SOCHI PROJECT:  
AN ATLAS OF WAR AND TOURISM IN THE CAUCASUS  
Photographs by Rob Hornstra  
Texts by Arnold van Bruggen

New York—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 found 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.” Now, in 2014, the area around Sochi has 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 via 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 were brought together for the first time in the publication of the same name, designed by Kummer & Herrman, who have been integral to the collaboration from the outset. The Sochi Project: An Atlas of War and Tourism in the Caucasus, published by Aperture in November 2013, offers alternative perspectives and in-depth reporting on this remarkable region, the site of the most expensive Olympic Games ever—one that sat at the combustible crossroads of war, tourism, and history.
The exhibition *The Sochi Project* will be on view at Aperture Gallery in New York, May 30–July 10, 2014 and includes a variety of media: photographs, newsprints, billboards, videos, and publications.

*The Sochi Project* is made possible, in part, with generous support from the Mondriaan Fund and the Dutch Culture USA program by the Consulate General of the Netherlands in New York. Aperture’s exhibitions receive support from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and additional public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council.

ABOUT ROB HORNSTRA

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.

ABOUT ARNOLD VAN BRUGGEN

Arnold van Bruggen is a writer and filmmaker. He is the founder of the journalistic production agency Prospektor and a cofounder, with Hornstra, of The Sochi Project.

BOOK DETAILS:

*The Sochi Project: An Atlas of War and Tourism in the Caucasus*
9 1/2 x 12 1/2 in. (24 x 30 cm)
512 pages
200 four-color and black-and-white images
Hardcover with jacket
ISBN 978-1-59711-244-4
$80.00/£50.00
November 2013

Copublished with The Sochi Project

EXHIBITION ON VIEW:

RELATED EVENTS:

Friday, May 30, 2014: In Conversation: Rob Hornstra and Arnold van Bruggen, UnionDocs, Brooklyn


Tuesday, June 3, 2014: In Conversation: Rob Hornstra and Arnold van Bruggen, Aperture Gallery, New York

Wednesday, June 4, 2014: Opening Reception for The Sochi Project, Aperture Gallery, New York

RELATED EXHIBITIONS:

May 1–31, 2014: The Sochi Project, CONTACT Gallery, Toronto

August 31–October 19, 2014: The Sochi Project, FotoFocus, Cincinnati

MULTIMEDIA:

DePaul Art Museum Art Minute Interview with Rob Hornstra and Arnold van Bruggen

Here & Now, NPR: “Dutch Journalists Bring Sochi to America”

ABOUT APERTURE FOUNDATION
Aperture, a not-for-profit foundation, connects the photo community and its audiences with the most inspiring work, the sharpest ideas, and with each other—in print, in person, and online.

Created in 1952 by photographers and writers as “common ground for the advancement of photography,” Aperture today is a multi-platform publisher and center for the photo community. From its base in New York, Aperture Foundation produces, publishes, and presents a program of photography projects and programs—locally, across the United States, and around the world.

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