



**NEW RELEASE** 

## Jaakko Kahilaniemi 100 hectares of understanding

Text by Jaakko Kahilaniemi
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Seeking answers about a parcel of land this conceptual project delves into the composition of a wild wooded area in Finland.

Finland is one of the most forested countries in the world. Almost 75 percent of the country is covered by forests – that's over 26 million hectares of which Jaakko Kahilaniemi owns 100 hectares. His conceptual project 100 Hectares of Understanding is his attempt to understand the forest area he inherited:

»Throughout adulthood my relationship with the forest has been somewhat discordant and attitude towards my inheritance has been indifferent. Recent explorations in the forest, and in the world of forestry have managed to provoke my interest towards unfamiliar property of mine.

I study what nature has to offer to urbanized people and I will try to create new ways of thinking and ways to experience and feel the forest. I capture nature through my lens before applying the alchemical process that makes art out of the familiar. I arbitrarily mix various types of pictures with each other, and define them as part of a larger visual entity. I am working with the method of deconstruction, but rather than creating physical work out of the results of my private rituals in the forest, I unveil the result through the medium of photography. For the unknown to become familiar requires both physical and delicate acts: to nurture and to tame, to master and to yield. My photographs are testimonial, traces of my aspirations towards understanding and awareness. Photography, for me, is a gateway to the very core of my thoughts and imagination.

In a way, I am a contemporary incarnation of a land artist, a land artist of the digital age, in which the photograph has gained more value than ever as a means of communication and information. I see similarities between my acts in the forest and walking artist Hamish Fulton's walks, which he records with photographs and

poems. Taking inspiration from Fluxus and the traditions of Arte Povera, I seek to encounter the forest with a playful and open approach. 100 Hectares of Understanding consists of the objects that I've found, the acts that I've photographed, the sculptures I've made and visual secrets that I have created.«

Jaakko Kahilaniemi (b.1989, Finland) is a visual artist and freelance photograpgher based in Helsinki, Finland. He received his BA in Photography from Turku Arts Academy Finland in 2014 and his MA also in photography from Aalto University of Art, Design and Architecture in Helsinki Finland in 2018.

Kahilaniemi has won the prestigious ING Unseen Talent Award Jury Prize in 2018, he was the winner of the International Photography Culture Exhibition Datong in 2019 and the winner of the Majaoja/Backlight Grand Prize in 2017. He was selected as one of the Lens Culture Emerging Talents in 2017. He was also one of the exhibiting artists at Festival Circulation(s), Format Festival, Fotografia Europea and GETXO Photo Festival in 2019. He was one of the finalists in the Tokyo International Photo Competition 2019, at the Hyéres Photo Festival and at the Fotofestiwal Lódz in 2018.

His work has been featured in many publications, including Eikon Magazine, Greenpeace Magazine, Der Grief and HANT Magazine. He has been exhibited at various international galleries and institutions.

www.jaakkokahilaniemi.com

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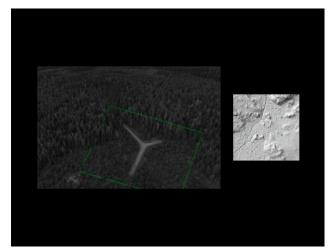
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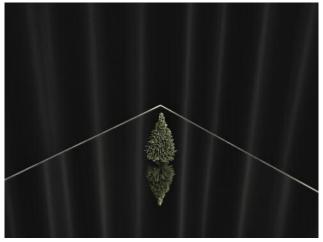
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