

SaySay Love: "My work is a silent protest"

13:48, 25 May 2018

Interview: Elizaveta Bialaya

Photo: gallery "Here on Taganka"

In Moscow, in the gallery of the exhibition association of Moscow "Здесь на Таганке" an exhibition of the architect and photographer SaySay Love has opened. The German artist visited Moscow for the first time and was glad to share his ideas with the guests of the gallery.



Your exhibition "There is no more water" is partly inspired by the stunning nature of Cape Town, partly influenced by your concerns for the ecological future. Can, in your opinion, art help to protect the environment ?

SaySay Love: I asked myself this question many times. My photos are a silent protest. We are losing touch with the nature in which we live. Each of us consists of water to more than 80 percent, and if the water disappears, then we will too. Viewers of my projects, looking at my photos, start to think about the importance of preserving nature and water.

Tell me, how long did you prepare this exhibition?

SaySay Love: The exhibition "There Is No More Water" a continuation of the "The Gift of Water" project, which I started in South Africa in November 2017. In South Africa, where I lived for half a year, there is practically no water, and it's terrible. The millions of people who live there have no electricity, no internet and they don't even know what pure water looks like. This prompted me to create a series of exhibitions, the purpose of which is quite simple to draw the attention of viewers to the way they use and consume water. Like with a beautiful flower or as with love we need to take care of it, cherish and preserve it that's exactly what you need to do with water.

How did you decide to show your exhibition in Russia?

SaySay Love: As I said before, initially I showed this project in South Africa, recently we opened an exhibition in Amsterdam, now, together with curator Anna Sarra and with the support of Andrei Bartenev we brought the exhibition to Moscow, next weekend it will open in London and later in Berlin. This exhibition, it seems to me, is important for the whole world.



Tell me, what kind of reaction are you waiting for in Moscow, since the problem of water seems not as relevant here?

SaySay Love: I often go to Berlin, and there, of course, there are no problems with water either, but according to the BBC report, some 12 major cities in the next 2030 years will also begin to experience difficulties with water. Perhaps these results are influenced by large industrial corporations that do not care about water pollution.

It's hard for us to imagine what people of South Africa are going through, but living there, I saw a catastrophe coming on us from different angles. I had two minutes for showers, bottled water is not for sale, it's impossible to use a washing machine or dishwasher. In a city where there is no water, there is no sewage. And when there is no sewage, other more severe problems will follow. While living in large cities, we must reduce water consumption. We don't always need as much of it as we consume.

What kind of photography technique do you use for your work? Water sometimes looks completely unrecognizable.

SaySay Love: Here it's important to understand something about myself. I have one inherent visual defect, which is changing my perception of depth and distance. And when I was developing my technique, I did it in such a way as to convey the image that I see myself. With the help of iPhone and macrolenses, plus certain filters and you begin to see water and Cape Town like me.

On 1st June at 18:00 in the gallery "Здесь на Таганке" there will be a guided tour of the exhibition for the whole family with the curator of the gallery Andrei Bartenev.

