



PRESS RELEASE

FINIS TERRAE (WORLD'S ENDS)

Karin Schmuck

10.05 - 28.05.2023

00A GALLERY - TRENTO

via della Malvasia 53, Trento

opening: Wednesday, May 10, 6.30 pm

introduction: Adina Guarnieri

duration: 10.05 – 28.05.2023

opening hours: Wednesday to Friday 3.00 to 6.30 pm

or on appointment

informations: +39 335 7733760

free entry

From May 10 to 28 2023, the 00A Gallery will be showing Karin Schmuck's "*FINIS TERRAE (WORLD'S ENDS)*" photography project at its exhibition space in Via della Malvasia 53 in Trento. The inauguration will be held on Wednesday May 10 at 6.30pm.

The exhibition, which is admission-free, will be open from Wednesday to Friday from 3pm to 6.30pm (or by appointment, booking on +39 335 7733760) and has been organised with the patronage of the Commune of Merano and the Autonomous Province of Bolzano.

Here Karin Schmuck presents photographs taken along the coast of Galicia in the extreme northwest corner of Spain, where mythology and contemporary history meet and where the end marks the beginning of something new.

The story goes that in 1492, when Christopher Columbus first set foot in the "New World", a *galego*, a native of Galicia, walked up to him and said, "Shall I give you a hand to moor?" The joke, which is very popular in Galicia, is a humorous comment on a sad truth, namely the fact that, in the past, most of the population were forced to leave their native land in search of a better future. Galicia is a rural region, sparsely populated and poor. Over the last 250 years, it has lost more than 2.5 million inhabitants, who have emigrated mostly to Latin America.

Stretching between their old homeland and their new one is the Atlantic Ocean. Many a vessel has sunk in the perilous waters off the parched coastline known as *costa da morte*, between Malpica to the north and Cape Finisterre. *Finis terrae*, the end of the world – this is the name the Romans gave to this rocky headland. Before them, the Celts, who settled in Galicia in the 7th century BC, were convinced that it marked the westernmost point on earth. But the headland wasn't only the end of (their) world; it was also the point of departure for the afterlife, a voyage the dead embarked on with stone vessels.

Karin Schmuck has also been on a journey. Taking her camera with her, in 2018 she began visiting places once regarded as the "edges of the world", areas that in antiquity inspired all sorts of myths and tales: from the Straits of Gibraltar with the so-called Pillars



of Hercules, to the Straits of Messina, the haunt of Scylla and Charybdis, the sea monsters described by Homer. The result was *Hercules' Pillars* and *Between Scylla and Charybdis*, two independent sets of artworks which, albeit exhibited separately, are integral parts of the same project. The boundary, its artificiality, the imaginary *limes*, the frontier we cross – these are the guiding threads of Schmuck's research, for which she has travelled thousands of kilometres, all rigorously on foot. Walking and looking: two actions whose slowness make it possible to interiorise *genius loci* both physiologically and experientially. The artist creates photographic works suspended between reality and myth, capturing what she sees and senses in the memories of the people who faced up to these places in the past.

The fear, the crossing, the uncertainty, the depths – in Galicia the artist explored the waiting and the experiences of people who took to sea, ignorant of what they would find on the other side. They saw the foamy ocean, heard its roar, felt its spray on their skin. Karin Schmuck sees a solid rock emerging from the waves. After a while its outline fades and it starts moving over the water, like a stone vessel challenging the immensity of the ocean.

The OOA cultural association was formed in 2016 in Merano from an idea by Christian Martinelli and Andrea Salvà as a temporary space for exhibitions designed to promote analogue photography. Its vocation is to promote the conversation about contemporary photographic culture and its ambition is to implement national and international circulation of local and other projects to support, consolidate and supplement emerging local bodies and actors in as broad a context as possible. Following the premature death of Christian Martinelli, the distinguished Merano-born artist and photographer, the new board – composed of Andrea Salvà, Nicola Morandini and Massimo Giovannini – has developed a packed exhibition schedule to meet their late friend and colleague's shared goals.

May 2023 will be a month full of events. In addition to the Karin Schmuck exhibition in Trento, the OOA Gallery has organised three meetings at the Centre for Culture at Via Cavour 1 in Merano. Entitled "*Stories of Photography – Reflections on Photographic Language*", they are curated by Anna Zinelli, a graduate in history of contemporary art at Parma University and an assistant director at Kunst Merano Arte.

The association promotes its mission through exhibitions and cultural talks, thus creating a virtuous synergy in different places and spaces and connecting artists and photographers with locals interested in contemporary photography.

Karin Schmuck studied painting at the Accademia di Belle Arti in Urbino and photography at the Accademia di Belle Arti in Bologna. For some years now she has devoted herself to projects that take her to remote places, rigorously on foot and on her own. Her works are currently on show at the *National Mountain Museum* and the *Crag Gallery* in Turin, and in September 2023 Wörgl in Austria will dedicate her a solo exhibition, including a premiere of a selection of works from her *Limitis* project. In June this year she will travel to the Bosphorus on the next stage in her *World's Ends* project. She lives and works in Siusi (Bolzano).

website OOA Gallery: <https://www.00agallery.com/>

website Karin Schmuck: <https://www.karinschmuck.com/>