Christiana Caro and Emma High

September 20 - 29, 2010
Reception Date: Thursday, September 23, 2010 3 - 4:30pm

AY-yah-fyah-lah-YOH-kuul explores High’s and Caro’s experience while living in Bratislava, Slovakia. While studying at the Academy of Fine Art and Design through the Winter and Spring of 2010, they spent a substantial amount of time exploring the landscape. What resulted is an archive of collected moments – experienced individually and in tandem by the artists – that have been brought together to suggest the personal and social exchanges that occur when one is immersed in a new place.

When Emma High makes a photograph or video, the experience is self-referential, yet located in the external world. While studying in Bratislava, she worked with professor Ana Daučíková to make a series of six videos - four of which are being debuted in this exhibition. In these works, visual language moves beyond a reaction to Slovakian heritage, and is transformed into a meditative, subjective interpretation of culture. Her videos attest to the artist’s experience composed within the landscape; disquieting, psychological, and unfamiliar. The work speaks to modes of adaptation, and the subsequent meta-awareness formed to sound, language, and image.

Christiana Caro’s photographs offer a quiet view of Slovakia’s land and its people. The majority of these images were made on Žitný ostrov, an island located 15 miles from Bratislava, which lies on the Danube. The river represents a physical dividing line of the land, upon which generations have existed with the constancy of the water’s flow —while the political recontextualization of Central European boundaries has fluctuated. While her observations spanned interior and exterior spaces, she recorded the complex relationship between humans and the landscape.

~ Christiana Caro and Emma High