

Perfection

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Danas Lapkus, Curator

September 13 - November 11, 1996

Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture



30th Anniversary

The goal of the exhibit is to show artistic development under the influence of physical and spiritual displacement. How does the change in surroundings compete/coexist with the native country's artistic tradition? Can one describe cosmopolitan or national features of certain art pieces? Is "foreign" mindset comprehensible by the American public? These issues drove an exhibit selection process and formation of the display.

Participating artists came to Chicago from Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Lithuania, Peru, and Poland. The artists' search for a new home, a new self, a new audience manifests in a variety of different forms. But all the artists share the same will to break through "predestined" marginal cultural space and enter the mainstage of the Chicago art performance.


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This project is supported in part by a Community Arts Assistance Program Grant from the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Illinois Arts Council Access Program; Ethnic Cultural Preservation Council; Lithuanian Endowment Fund, Ltd.

AUDRIUS PLIOPLYS

This set of works deals with a continuation of my photographic investigations of the thought process. These thoughts revolve around immigration issues. This set of 12 images is divided between the two locations in the U.S. Six of the works are from Jamestown Settlement in Virginia. Jamestown is the first permanent settlement in North America established by British settlers. This set of images contrasts with six works from Gila River Indian Reservation, near Phoenix, Arizona, where during World War II, 16,000 Japanese-American immigrants were interned.

Besides the obvious difference in the way recent immigrants were treated in these two locations, there is another dimension to these works. In both cases, land from Native Americans was simply appropriated without any request or compensation. In Jamestown, the British settlers simply appeared and built their houses. In Gila River, the U.S. Army simply appeared and built a concentration camp, violating all federal treaties with the Native Americans.



Audrius Plioplys was born in Toronto, Canada, in 1951. He graduated from medical school at the University of Chicago. Audrius Plioplys had one man shows in Artemisia Gallery, Chicago (1996), Contemporary Art Center of Vilnius, Lithuania (1995), Dolly Fiterman Gallery, Minneapolis (1980, 1982), Washington Project for the Arts, Washington, DC (1978). He participated in numerous group shows including Superconcentrated at TBA Exhibition Space, Chicago (1996), 11th Annual National Juried Exhibition at the Berkeley Art Center, Berkeley, California (1995), ARC Regional II Exhibition, ARC Gallery, Chicago (1995), National Competition at the First Street Gallery, NY (1996). Plioplys' art was reviewed in the Sun-Times, Tribune, Reader, Minneapolis Tribune, Washington Post.

1. Thoughts of drainage ditches. Jamestown Settlement, Virginia.
 2. Thoughts of urban planning in a field of dreams. Jamestown Settlement, Virginia.
 3. Thoughts of building foundations. Jamestown Settlement, Virginia.
 4. Thoughts of freedom in the New World. Jamestown Settlement, Virginia.
 5. Thoughts of the city of Pocahontes and John Smith. Jamestown Settlement, Virginia.
 6. Thought of serenity in a land of challenges. Jamestown Settlement, Virginia.
 7. Thoughts of forced relocation and loss of home. Internment Camp, Gila River Indian Reservation, AZ.
 8. Thoughts of destroyed foundations. Internment Camp, Gila River Indian Reservation, AZ.
 9. Thoughts of memorial for displaced Americans. Internment Camp, Gila River Indian Reservation, AZ.
 10. Thoughts of concentration camp vistas. Internment Camp, Gila River Indian Reservation, AZ.
 11. Thoughts of human sewage. Internment Camp, Gila River Indian Reservation, AZ.
 12. Thoughts of concentration camp vistas. Internment Camp, Gila River Indian Reservation, AZ.
- All color photographs, 1996.

Thoughts of a life in a field of destroyed dreams



Thoughts of a life in a field of destroyed dreams. Audrius Plioplys 1996

Thoughts of destroyed foundations



Thoughts of destroyed foundations. Audrius Plioplys 1996



Thoughts of drainage ditches

Thoughts of drainage ditches. Audrius Plioplys 1996

Thoughts of serenity in a land of challenges.



Jamestown Settlement, Virginia

Audrius V. Plioplys 1996

Thoughts of building foundations.



Jamestown Settlement, Virginia

Audrius V. Plioplys 1996

Thoughts of the city of Pocahontas and John Smith.



Jamestown Settlement, Virginia

Audrius V. Plioplys 1996

On September 13, 1996, the location of the first fort built in the US was announced. Excavations at the Jamestown Settlement in Virginia revealed the true location of the fort built by settlers in 1607. Jamestown Settlement was the first permanent site of habitation established by British immigrants from which all of North America was eventually populated.

A series of photographs of this settlement are on display at the Balzekas Museum, 6500 S. Pulaski Rd., Chicago, as part of the "Perfection in Exile: Chicago Immigrant Art" exhibit. The photographs are by Audrius V. Plioplys and will remain on display through November 11, 1996. The photographs were taken in March, 1996, immediately adjacent to the current excavation site. The opening of this art exhibit took place, quite remarkably, on September 13, 1996.