

## **Topophilia: Ecology, Art and the Cypriot Landscape, May 29 – June 1**

Workshop by Phaneromenis 70 and Vanessa Oberin – Delivering Views, Chapter #20

Phaneromenis 70 invites artists, writers, researchers and creative practitioners of all kinds to participate in the four-day workshop 'Topophilia: Ecology, Art and the Cypriot Landscape', conceived by Berlin-based writer and curator Vanessa Oberin.

The term *topophilia*, coined by geographer Yi-Fu Tuan, refers to a person's feeling of attachment towards a place—the emotional link between geography and identity. Central to the perception of a place is its landscape, which in turn is shaped by social narratives, political agendas as well as economic uses. Specifically, the Cypriot landscape is as much an attraction for visitors of the island as it is paradoxically endangered by the impact of tourism. Lucy Lippard writes: "[S]enses of place, a serial sensitivity to place, are invaluable social and cultural tools, providing much-needed connections to what we call 'nature' and, sometimes, to cultures not our own." At the heart of the workshop lies the idea of an inseparability of feminist and ecological concerns: What can we learn about our connection to a place from eco-feminist theory as well as material encounters with its (is)landscape?

At the intersection of ecology, art and feminist critique, the workshop seeks to explore the notion of 'the sense of place' through collective readings, nature walks and film screenings and to further support the conceptualization of artworks in response to the workshop's program. A subsequent publication will serve as a documentation of the described endeavor and the works it brings forth.

The workshop will run from May 29th – June 1st in Nicosia and is open to local artists and anyone interested in relating their practice to the described subject matter. Further requirements for participation are the willingness to read a small number of provided texts on the topic, to take part in discussions in English language and to present one's own work in the context of the workshop. A printed reader as well as the detailed program will be handed out to participants in advance of the workshop. Participation is free of charge.

Topophilia is the 20th chapter of the ongoing Delivering Views program by Phaneromenis 70. An inquiry into 'sense of place', Delivering Views distributes personal experiences of Cyprus by foreigners and locals, through their images and texts. For more information please visit [www.phaneromenis70.org](http://www.phaneromenis70.org).

To apply for the workshop, please send a short motivation and description of your practice to [phaneromenis70@gmail.com](mailto:phaneromenis70@gmail.com) by Monday, May 21, please do not hesitate to ask any questions you might have.

Vanessa Oberin studied Art History, Aesthetics and English at the Braunschweig University of Art and holds a master's degree in European Media Studies from the University of Potsdam, Germany. After a guest semester at Frederick University in 2011 Vanessa became a frequent visitor of Cyprus with an admiration for both its natural scenery and art community. Her research topics include embodiment, sensory perception, feminist theory, materiality and new media art. She is currently the managing editor of Berlin-based interview magazine [freundevonfreunden.com](http://freundevonfreunden.com).

Cultural and Research foundation Phaneromenis 70 was founded by artist Kyriaki Costa. It is an art center housed in the historic center of Nicosia. The main goals of the institution are aligned with the research field of social studies of 'place' and tourism.