

GRAHAM FOUNDATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

One Thousand Doors, No Exit, an exhibition by Nicolas Groszpiere on view at the Graham Foundation from Thursday, March 3 through Saturday, April 2, 2011



Nicolas Groszpiere, *TATTARRATTAT*, 2010, 43 ¼" x 51 ½"



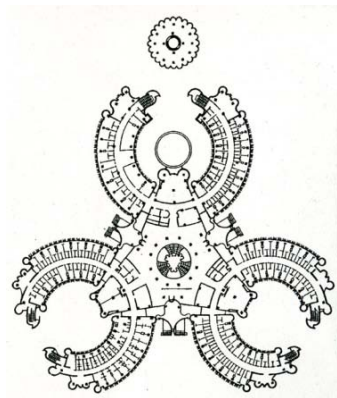
Nicolas Groszpiere, *TATTARRATTAT*, 2010

Chicago, March 1, 2011 — The two subjects by Warsaw-based artist Nicolas Groszpiere in the new exhibition, *One Thousand Doors, No Exit*, at the Graham Foundation from March 3 through April 2, could not be less similar: a 14th century Venetian palazzo and an abandoned Soviet-era spa treatment complex in Lithuania. Taken together, however, *TATTARRATTAT* (2010) and *Hydroklinika* (2004) show Groszpiere's persistent interest in the tension between perception and truth in architecture, as well as architecture's capacity to stand as an artifact of ideology.

Tracing a path of reflections through a series of convex mirrors, the two-channel projection *TATTARRATTAT* guides viewers on two simultaneous tours of a 14th century Venetian palazzo's winding interior. While each tour appears to be different, they progress along the same path but in different directions. Both begin and end in the courtyard, and what at first appears to be a video shot in real time begins to reveal itself as an animation composed of over 500 individual photographs. *TATTARRATTAT* was originally commissioned by the Signum Foundation, and curated by Grzegorz Musiał, the Foundation's director, as one of the first in a series of site specific projects intended to engage the unique history of the Palazzo Donà, Signum's headquarters in Venice. The project's title, *TATTARRATTAT*, comes from the longest palindrome in the dictionary, a term for a knock on a door coined by James Joyce in *Ulysses* (1922).

Hydroklinika is a series of 32 photographs of a treatment spa complex built between 1976 and 1981 in Druskininkai, Lithuania, once one of the Soviet Union's most popular spa towns. The complex boasted 50 healing rooms, 80 thermal baths, 40 mud baths, and an underground pool, and could accommodate up to 500 patients. Groszpiere photographed the facility in 2004, a year before it was partially demolished and radically transformed into a water park. He recalls

that the eerie emptiness of the abruptly abandoned building reminded him of a modern Pompei, and that "the frozen state of the architecture from this perspective is very telling about the Marxist project. Incredible, Utopian, buoyant, but not practical, and not economically viable." The architecture stood vacant as a relic of a communist country and system that no longer exists. The complex was designed by little-known architects Romualdas and Austra Silinskas on a ternary plan, which means that each element is repeated by a multiple of three. And since Groszpiere photographed both the interior and exterior of the building uniformly, in what he characterizes as a "global, objective, and systematic" way, many of the photographs appear to be the same when in reality they are three different parts of the building.



Romaldas and Austra Silinskan, *Hydroklinika*, Druskinkai. Plan



Nicolas Groszpiere, *Hydroklinika*, 2004, D-Print on Wood, 19 3/4" x 19 3/4"



Nicolas Groszpiere, *Hydroklinika*, 2004, D-Print on Wood, 19 3/4" x 19 3/4"

The Graham's exhibition *One Thousand Doors, No Exit* is the first presentation of *TATTARRATTAT* and *Hydroklinika* in the United States. The Graham Foundation's presentation of *TATTARRATTAT* is made possible in part by the *Signum Foundation*.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Nicolas Groszpiere (born 1975, Geneva, Switzerland) lives and works in Warsaw, Poland. He studied sociology at the London School of Economics and political science at the Institut d'Etudes Politique de Paris. In 2008, Groszpiere and Kobas Laska were awarded the Golden Lion for Best National Participant at the 11th International Architecture Biennale in Venice for the Polish Pavilion project, *Hotel Polonia. The Afterlife of Buildings*. He works predominantly in an expanded field of photography, exploring the social organization of space. Groszpiere's work has been shown internationally in exhibitions in Berlin, Brasilia, Madrid, New York, Venice, Warsaw, among other cities. For more information on Groszpiere, visit <http://www.groszpiere.art.pl/>.

RELATED EVENTS

ARTIST TALK

MARCH 3, 2011, 6–7PM

“Lost in Architecture”

Nicolas GrosPierre

Space is limited. Reservations are required.

For more information and to RSVP, visit:

<http://grahamfoundation.org/...>

OPENING RECEPTION

MARCH 3 2011, 6:30–8PM

TOURS

The Graham Foundation will offer public tours of *One Thousand Doors, No Exit* every Saturday at 2PM beginning March 5, 2011. Saturday tours do not require reservations and are free and open to the public. Tours will begin in the foyer on the first floor.

Group tours are available throughout the week. Please email publicprograms@grahamfoundation.org to make arrangements.

ABOUT THE GRAHAM FOUNDATION

Founded in 1956, the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts makes project-based grants to individuals and organizations and produces public programs to foster the development and exchange of diverse and challenging ideas about architecture and its role in the arts, culture, and society. The Graham Foundation was created by a bequest from Ernest R. Graham (1866–1936), a prominent Chicago architect who was a protégé of Daniel Burnham.

Since 1963, the Graham Foundation has been located in the Madlener House, a 9,000-square foot turn of the century Prairie-style mansion by architect Richard E. Schmidt and designer Hugh M. G. Garden, located in the historic Gold Coast neighborhood of Chicago.

EXHIBITION LOCATION & HOURS

Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts

Madlener House

4 West Burton Place

Chicago, IL 60610

www.grahamfoundation.org

Gallery Hours: Wednesday to Saturday, 11AM to 5PM; every third Thursday of the month, 11AM–8PM.

Accessibility:

One Thousand Doors, No Exit will be on view in the second floor galleries, which are only accessible by stairs. The first floor of the Madlener House is accessible via an outdoor lift. Please call 312.787.4071 to make arrangements.

Talks are held in the ballroom on the third floor which is only accessible by stairs. The first floor of the Madlener House is accessible via an outdoor lift. Please call 312.787.4071 to make arrangements.

Admission: *Free*

For more information: 312.787.4071 / publicprograms@grahamfoundation.org

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High-resolution digital images are available online; email Sarah Rogers at srogers@grahamfoundation.org for login information. Press tours available by appointment.

Contact Sarah Rogers for additional information.

Media Contact: Sarah Rogers, Graham Foundation
srogers@grahamfoundation.org or 312.787.4071