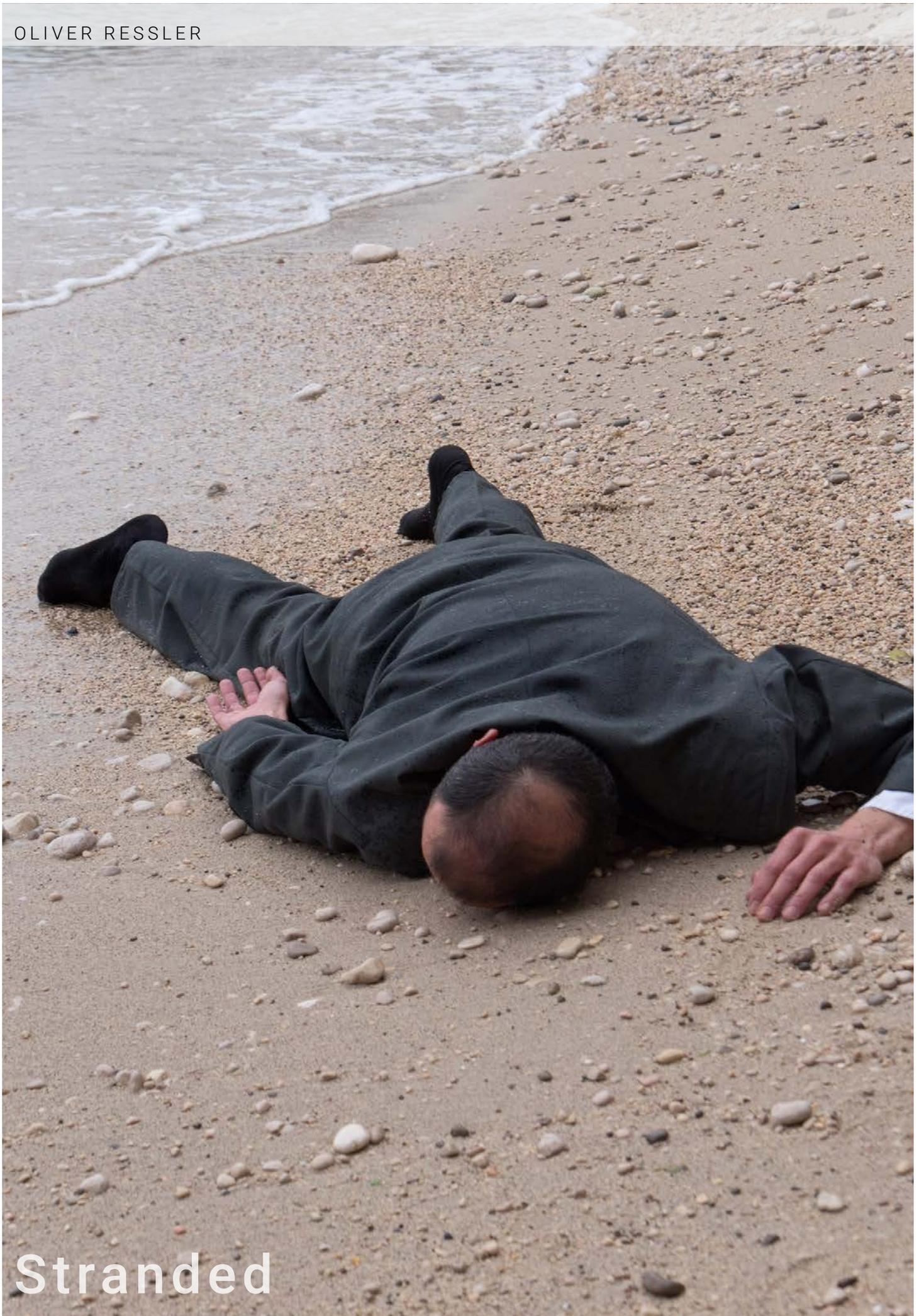


OLIVER RESSLER



Stranded

Stranded

A series of photographs by Oliver Ressler

2015

When thinking about dead bodies on the beach, nowadays most people think of refugees whose boats sank during the dangerous sea crossing to the European Union. The number of refugees drowned in the Mediterranean Sea in 2015 is the highest ever, reaching 2,500. The killing of these men and women can effectively be seen as a direct – and deliberate – act of EU policy, making the border between Northern Africa and Europe the deadliest in the world.



"Stranded". Installation view: Who Throws Whom Overboard?" (solo show), SALT Galata, Istanbul, 2016

The photographic series "Stranded" shows men lying motionless on an empty beach. But unlike refugees these men wear business suits, the standardized clothing of politicians and managers. Their bodies are partly in the water, partly on the beach; they appear to be stranded.

These images could be seen as depicting those responsible for the policy of drowning refugees. The current European Union measures go beyond "refugee deterrence". Today the EU makes use of the catastrophe it caused itself (through support for dictatorships, political intervention in uprisings, continuous wars on

terror and economic strangulation of Africa and the Near East) to prepare renewed military intervention behind the back of the population.



"Stranded". Installation view: Who Throws Whom Overboard? (solo show), SALT Galata, Istanbul, 2016

Meanwhile, corporate executives have for decades used their global economic reach to enrich their shareholders at the expense of environmental, social and labor standards, causing entire regions to sink into poverty.

The photographic images in the "Stranded" series point to something that might happen in the future as the collapse of the capitalist system as we know it continues. The economic breakdown is already underway: as it spreads and deepens disasters, wars, and uprisings of all kinds will follow. "Stranded" imagines what might happen if the managers of today's economy – those for whom there is no alternative to corporate profit and human loss – were themselves sacked and thrown overboard by the people.



"Stranded". Installation view: Artwall Gallery, Prague, 2015



"Stranded", digital print on aluminum behind acrylic glass, 120 x 80 cm, 2015



10.11.2016 –
26.03.2017

OLIVER RESSLER
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"Stranded". Poster "Property is Theft" (solo show), MNAC – National Museum of Contemporary Art, Bucharest, 2016



"Stranded". Artwall Gallery, Prague, 2015 (Photo: Lenka Kukurová)