To: Beijing Film Academy – Triennial of Video 2013
from: Ursula Panhans-Bühler

Informations on Artists and their Videos shown in the Beijing Triennial of Video
(Please take no copies of the Video Works without the Authors' consent)

Véronique BOURGOIN: French artist, based in Paris, working with drawings, photographs, video and installations, she has developed in the last years a large project "Vrai ou Faux?" (True or False?), consisting of Installations with photographic wallpapers of noble old interiors that transform the given rooms of Museums and Galleries in an estranged past. The project toured around the European countries, and all over the world lots of artists and professionals in forging techniques joined the workshops she initiated.

"REMAKE I-II-II-IV": Installation with 4 videos sequences, Mini DV 4:3, each about 6-7 min, here shown as single channel sequence, 2007-2013

Given the forging of our actual life by the longing for avatars and other bodily persona masks, Véronique Bourgoin worked together with woman actors, members of her band "The Hole Garden", clothed and behaving as puppets. She sent them around in contemporary cities of the globalised world where they troubled with their faked machine motions in a funny and grotesque way amazed passer-bys. Thus a lection is given in the idea of an artificial "Eve of the future", reaching back to the 19.th century, yet shared today as an escape from human fragility by most people following media prerogatives.
© Edition Fabrique des Illusions & the author

- . -

Christoph GIRARDET: working since 1989 with Video, Video Installations and Films, his experimental media investigations have gained international reputation and many awards. He lives and works in Hannover/Germany.

"PIANOFORTE", 4:3 letterbox PAL, colour & black-and-white, stereo sound, 6 min, 2007

Artists comment: Analogous to a piano keyboard, Pianoforte combines eighty-eight film scenes in which pianos are being played into an audiovisual rhapsody. The composition is given harmony through the re-dubbing of the scenes in the studio. The synaesthesia of image and sound mirrors the emotional life of the protagonists.
© Christoph Girardet

- . -

Jutta HERRMANN: the Kassel based artist mostly works as a sculptor, yet she is also trained in video. Her work is centred on questions about the changing concepts of the female in historic and contemporary times, presented in sculptural installations and several video works.


"KASSEL TREPPENSTRASSE"(Kassel's stepped road): mini dv video 4:3, 04:30 min, 2009

With a sculptural experience, Jutta Herrmann realized that the famous post war Kassel's staircase, linking the railway station with Friedrich's plain, one of the locations of documenta, didn't fit for pedestrians. A Historical research confirmed that the steps of the staircase followed a German military size, fitting to the so-called "Stechschritt", goose step. Performing this motion down the stairs, she mocked confirming this result, when switching in the video takes from distant views to close-ups.
© Jutta Herrmann

- . -

Petra LOTTJE: since 2001 working with Video Performance, Video Installations, Drawings and Animation, focusing on mass media's overwhelming and hollowing of the audience, with a critical counterbalancing of the clichés used by the television and film industry. Living and working in Berlin, the artist's work is shown in many German cities, sharing festivals and in personal shows.
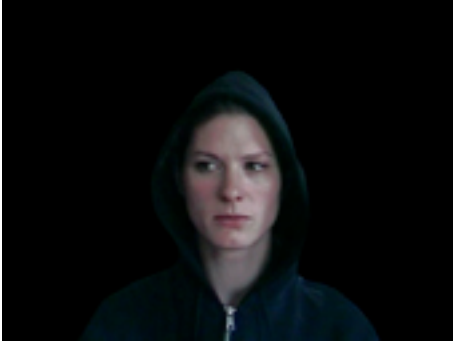
"Time is the Killer": Mini DV 4:3, 5:00 min loop, 2008

Using the device of lip-syncing and dialogue excerpts from Hollywood movies, a man's and a woman's voice, the artist as actor is caught in between. Long, silent moments pass as she searches, surprised and disturbed, for the source of these alien voices, seemingly coming out as her own inner voices via lip-sync motions. The audience realizes the strange alienation when subconsciously being brain and soul washed by mass media.
© Petra Lottje

- . -

Julia OSCHATZ: Video performance, drawings, paintings and Installation Artist, based in Berlin. Since around 1995, she had many shows in Museums and Galleries in Germany and other European countries.

 "AERIAL AREAS", Video Performance, 4-screen Installation transferred on single channel, 6:52 min, 2012

Julia Oschatz has been honoured for creating a rare female clown as her performance character, made anonym by grotesque full head masks. This character desperately tries to escape from or to achieve absurd tasks. In AERIAL AREAS she is performing as a kind of bangbang worker who struggles to translate a heap of coal from one side to the other. Split in four different sequences, the heavy task seems augmented by loosing an organising centre, and the audience shares this congestion when trying to cope with the single motions, but shares also the clown worker's relief coming to a successful end.
© Julia Oschatz

- . -

Bjørn MELHUS: since the late 80's of the 20.th century, the artist's video work expanded the possibilities for a critical reception of mass media as cinema and television, slipping as performer in the masks of well-known characters and role models, turning them into

nightmarish or absurd comic travesties. His work gained many awards and is shown all over the world in renowned Museums and Galleries. A German-Norwegian artist, he is based in Berlin and professor for Virtual Realities at Kassel Art School.

"MURPHY": Single channel Video, 03:20min loop, 2008

Authors comment: The videolight sequence is based on sound snippets from the movie Blue Thunder (USA 1982), which was one of the early 80's media rehabilitation of Vietnam war veterans in civilian society. By re-integrating war veterans into a civilian society, the war itself was subconsciously brought to America and turned the air space above the urban landscape of Los Angeles into a battlefield. - In MURPHY the visible stream of coloured light and the absence of the image itself creates an imaginary movie that possibly connects to the first draft of the screenplay for Blue Thunder which featured Frank Murphy as more of a crazy main character with deeper psychological issues, who went on a rampage and destroyed a lot more of the city. - MURPHY is a true abstract Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. © Bjørn Melhus

- . -

Neringa NAUJOKAITE: Born in Vilnius, Lithuania, the East European artist was trained at the Media School of Cologne, Germany. Now based in Düsseldorf, she realized an impressive corpus of technically inventive, emotional delicate Video-Installations, shown in different European countries and also in Chongqing, China.

"CONVERSION": HD Video 16:9, 11:29 min, 2011

The artist realised this video when invited to Chongqing 2011 for an artist's residency. The shots from Chongqing city focus on the mazy system of its highways and bridges, taken without moving the camera and from distant points of view. Motion is added from the now tiny vehicles and sometimes citizen, flying by as fugacious apparitions. The sound is based on Chinese contemporary music that paraphrases with partly traditional instruments the time honoured music of China. Thus, the artist creates a tension between the past and the present-future, and between the monstrous bigness of contemporary cities and the miniaturized scale of the contemporary life. Past and future encounter in a delicate balance

and in the same time configure an open question of the relation between that new technological 'nature' and the humans' enduring fragility.
© Neringa Naujokaite

- . -

Stefan PANHANS: Video, Photo and Multimedia Artist, based in Hamburg and Berlin. Since 2000, he gained many awards and exhibitions in Galleries, Museums, and on Festivals in Germany and abroad.

„SORRY", HD-VIDEO, 16:9, 08:08 min, 2010

In Stefan Panhans' quite hypnotic video "Sorry" (2010) we see a somehow nightmarish, jam-packed train ride of a bunch of restless, tired and closemouthed people looking like half-professional, contemporary celebrity look-alikes; among others, in company of lots of XXL-coffee-to-go cups, a ghost of a 1930's dirndl, two police officers in full rig, a jogging zombie and the soldier. Appearing absent and wordless, they carry all sorts of strange luggage looking like remains of a department store plundering and seem to follow certain unknown ritual rules until everything starts again. The situation seems surreal but, on the other hand, we recognize a lot of our contemporary reality in it.
Courtesy: the artist / Dorothea Schlueter Gallery Hamburg /Feldbuschwiesner Berlin

- . -

Julia RICHTER: a young artist trained at Kassel Art School and now based in Berlin, her video work, realized mostly as several channel installations, quickly gained recognition by critics and the public, awards supported her further development.

"PROMISED LAND": HD Video, Installation, transferred to single channel version, 11:21min, 2013

Time seems frozen in a situation where young, educated employees in the business community are gathered in an emotionally clean office atmosphere. They are actors, yet in the filmic video sequence they seem not only to follow the plot of the script, yet trying to fit to their personal role as smart social climbers. Trapped in the rituals of this behaviour, they

fail more and more, and the muteness of their gestures gives way to a hardly oppressed emotional break down – their dream of a meaningful place in contemporary society gives way to the confrontation with a hollowed future.
© Julia Richter

- . -

Monica & Christoph STUDER VAN DEN BERG: Video- and New Media Artists, based in Basel/Switzerland. Since around 1990 working with computer programs, creating also projects for groups of artists – www.Xcult.org - Since 2000 with 3D programs working on a virtual Hotel Vue des Alpes – www.vuedesalpes.com - many international exhibitions in Galleries, Museums and on Festivals
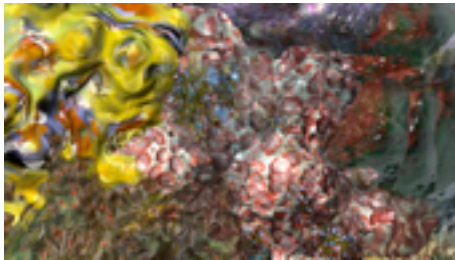
"DARK MATTER", 3D-Animation, loop, 6 min, 2011

By now, physicists tell us, in the universe there is more dark, invisible, unknown matter as visible one. Because of its fascination, dark matter has also gained the metaphorical state as symbol for dark situations, be it in society or in our inner life. "Dark matter" is a random animation of 3D constructed unknown matter, mutually permeating, and silent as any unknown reality.
© Monica & Christoph Studer van den Berg

- . -