

Image Movement

Artist Films — Films on Art and Records **PRESENTS**

Frances Scholz – »China City«, hobbypopMUSEUM – »Drama«, Tamuna Karumidze – »ZAHESI 708«

Image Movement is delighted to present three artists movies at JungArt Berlin.

»CHINA CITY« is a 60 plus minute krimi, is a new kind of film. Shot primarily on digital video by contemporary artist Frances Scholz, CHINA CITY stars museum director Kasper König and "surveillance artist" Julia Scher in a strange and dark story of creativity, longing and resistance. A mysterious wave is coming. Legendary curator Kasper König - whose position has so far allowed him to enjoy a very special relationship to the law - goes renegade. He steals a priceless vase from the Asian Museum in plain daylight. Is the Museum Director a thief, or has he simply redefined what it is to be a curator?

CHINA CITY, 2010, Mini DV color, and b/w video

Starring Kasper König, Julia Scher, and with Paul Giamatti als Chief Inspector Nayland Smith. Directed by Frances Scholz. Screenplay by Mark von Schlegell, with additional dialogue by Julia Scher. Produced by stop/the/bus productions. Camera by Frances Scholz, Jan Höhe, Julia Scher, Mark von Schlegell. Edited by Frances Scholz, Mark von Schlegell. Music by Andreas Reihse, E-Rock, The Warnings et al.

hobbypopMUSEUM was founded in the late 1990s at the art academy of Düsseldorf. The artist group combines media as diverse as painting, photography, sculpture, music and film to create extensive sujet related and site-specific installations – like a kind of stage setting on which they regularly perform. In their works they invent characters, re-formulating historical figures and facts, then inhabiting them. Humour is an important factor, while the working method is of course a serious one. The multilinguality of their work can be explained by the fact that the members of hobbypopMUSEUM regularly subgroup themselves within the group, and that whoever joins them for a piece of work becomes hobbypopMUSEUM, too. Films are part of their installations, but they also stand as autonomous works. Film for hobbypopMUSEUM is a material with which to create (faux-)documentaries, to explore an environment, and to transform an idea quickly. Speed is another important factor in their work – they have often done the editing and post-production of their videos directly in the camera. The quality of the films of hobbypopMUSEUM lies in the balance between a refreshing lightness – improvisation, freedom, chutzpah – and a strong idea behind it.

»DRAMA« was shot in two days in Düsseldorf, an ad hoc play, an improvisation of in situ handcrafted scenes, parts of it loosely based on found footage and pulp literature like an autobiography of Miles Davis or the infamous book *Christiane F.*

DRAMA, 2000, Mini DV, color, b&w
by hobbypopMUSEUM

ZAHESI 708, Tamuna Karumidze's first full length film, is in a way a documentary of one week in the life of Tbilisi. We dive into the Georgian reality and into real emotions. There is nothing to investigate. But there is a lot to observe... and to watch. The camera moves like it chooses the views of its angle by chance, guided by what's happening around. And the camera is taping the parts of absurd, lovely, expressive and shocking scenes of the live in this city. The protagonists of the film seem just to hang around. And that's what they actually do. What the whole country does.

ZAHESI 708 follows a few citizens of Tbilisi. We became very intimate to these persons and to their story, to the Georgian reality. **ZAHESI 708** is a portrait of a country that had fought for its independence from Soviet-Union, just to figure out that it's now left alone to find a way out of a post-soviet trauma. Who are the persons driving their cars through a ridiculous insane traffic? Who is the person asking another person to kill a couple of flies? Who is that lady talking about satanic signs? Who is the man at the end of the film asking for the sense of life? The questions aren't answered yet, but life goes on.

Tamuna Karumidze is member of GOSLAB, a loose collective of visual artists, musicians, film professionals, (fashion) designers, et al. based in Tbilisi or coming from Tbilisi. The word GOSLAB is a konstruktion of *государственная* (state) and *лаборатория* (laboratory). A pun with the history of Georgia, when it was part of the Soviet Union, when everything was GOS.

ZAHESI 708, 2004, Mini DV color
by Tamuna Karumidze



Film stills: Frances Scholz, *China City*, 2010; hobbypopMUSEUM, *Drama*, 2000; Tamuna Karumidze, *ZAHESI 708*, 2004 (courtesy of the artists)

“It’s not Warhol who is the most important artist of the 1960s, but Godard!” When John Baldessari welcomed his students with the above exclamation at *CalArts* in Los Angeles in 1970, it sent the crowd into confusion. From today’s point of view, however, Baldessari’s claim holds water: it goes without saying that film is the most influential medium in the field of contemporary art; many artists are deeply inspired by the language of cinema and its visual codes, which they incorporate into their work. The newly coined term ‘moving image art’ describes a new artistic development, which blurs the boundaries between fine art and film. For these reasons, it was natural to the gallery Sprüth Magers Berlin London to dedicate the front spaces at Oranienburger Strasse to the film medium.

Image Movement, a film store and venue between film and art is borrowing its name from the book *Cinema I. The Movement Image* (1983) by Gilles Deleuze. In this, the French philosopher emphasizes the medium film as a modern concept of movement to be “capable of thinking the production of the new.” Exactly this restructuring and alternative classification of signs, symbols and images through cinema and film is what fascinated artists of the of the 20th and 21st century.

Image Movement is conceptualized at the interface between a store and art space. The interior is designed by the artists Rosemarie Trockel and Thea Djordjadze – as a venue where a specific selection of artist films as well as artist records can be seen, heard, discovered, discussed and purchased.

Furthermore, the film store is regularly represented at art fairs or film festivals as e.g. at Frieze Art Fair and International Short Film Festival Oberhausen; also its team is curating several screening programs, amongst others for festivals or art institutions.