

YCAM PRESS RELEASE

YCAM presents

The exhibition of new installations
“Radio Solaris / -273,15°C=0 Kelvin”
by Nina Fischer / Maroan el Sani

Period: October 1 (Sat.) to November 27 (Sun.), 2005

*Note: Closed Tuesdays and Oct. 27(Thu.)

Time: 10:00 - 20:00

Venue: Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media / Studio B and more

Admission: Free

<http://www2.ycam.jp/radiosolaris/>

Project Curator: Kazunao Abe (YCAM)

Production: YCAM InterLab

Organized by Yamaguchi City Foundation for Cultural Promotion

Supported by GOETHE-INSTITUT OSAKA, Deutschland in Japan 2005/2006, Yamaguchi City, the Board of Education of Yamaguchi City

Sponsored by THE NOMURA CULTURAL FOUNDATION

Courtesy : Galerie EIGEN + ART Leipzig / Berlin

Nina Fischer / Maroan el Sani have regenerated, in their unique ways, the invisible traces of social phenomena, their distance from and imaginary relationship with our culture. Such phenomena have been overlooked while their images were engraved on the surface of different media, e.g. Kirlian photos (Aura Research), Michelangelo Antonioni's film (L'Avventura senza fine) and temporary underground club spots (Phantom Clubs Berlin/Liverpool).

In this time the artists have developed such phenomena into the installation work using brilliant unique images and quotations. In “Radio Solaris / -273,15°C = 0 Kelvin,” they were drawn to strangeness of the architectural existence of “DDR Rundfunkzentrum (Radio Station)” established in the era of DDR and lies in ruins in Berlin, and they filmed all on location. YCAM is pleased to help produce and display this creative media installation, in which “city / architecture” is a medium as the general memory. The derivative illusions, various image elements, and quotations of symbols are combined in the installation.

■ East Berlin Radio Station

In a socialist country, the radio station was, so to speak, an experimental device in the city, in which nature, the world, and our existence were kept frozen and reproduced by the media through sounds only. To everyone's surprise, in then state-of-the-art institution given all available technologies as a recording machine of the materialistic ideology as the social realism, an enormous space like an orchestra hall for recording was designed to hang in midair to avoid noise. Now the building itself is the remains of the past, and almost no one uses this empty space. How is this building viewed in a historical context of Berlin, a leading city in the EU economic block as the capital of Germany having experienced the fall of the

Wall and the reunification of Germany?

In this media-architectural installation, Nina Fischer / Maroan el Sani focus on Andrej Tarkovsky's film "Solaris" (1972, the original novel by Polish writer Stanislaw Lem) that strongly reflects the thought of the Communist block in the Cold War times, while, by contrast, trying to attain the motif of universal human existence. There, the ruins of the "Radio Station" of East Germany and the probe spaceship of "Solaris" are overlapped in the installation. Here arises a question about whether or not the two (one is an unknown celestial body "Solaris" that materializes the marked traces through all human memories, and the other is today's society reproducing all existences through information and media) are actually far apart. The "Radio Station" was designed to use the technology to reproduce the real existences through only sounds without vision, as the ultimate technology. Here, Nina Fischer / Maroan el Sani try carefully to gain insight into some hope and crisis in the contemporary times is, just as the approaches to the unachievable are applied and translated into media technologies.

■ Creative designed media installation

This media-architectural installation constitutes a space composed of ten multi-faceted projections linked sideways in a spiral form. The installation basically consists of a camera travel through the empty spaces of the radio station. It is a continuous shot, which is divided into 8 screens. On each screen another room can be discovered. The films are screened in a unit of 8 alternating twin projections. That means Fischer / el Sani filmed the traveling through the radio station twice. One time just the abandoned spaces and the second time with slight interventions inspired by Tarkovsky's film "Solaris". The objects that appear in Tarkovsky's film "Solaris," and the motifs from Gerhard Richter's paintings are quoted into fascinating and elegant moving images mixed with the space from the social realism. They show practical reality, but at the same time, work as a fictitious factory producing realness obtained through memories. The documents and memory-added documents begin simultaneously, and as they get entangled, they start to regenerate subtle differences.

In addition, Nina Fischer / Maroan el Sani especially produced for the YCAM exhibition a new video double projection for their project "Radio Solaris", in which the viewers can compare the scenes of the metropolitan highway ride in the vicinity of Akasaka in Tokyo filmed by Andrej Tarkovsky around in 1970 that appear in "Solaris" and those in current Tokyo filmed from the same angle in the same size.

Note:

(1) This work was first displayed in Leipzig, Germany. The contents have been substantially revised during the artist-in-residence program at YCAM, with the latest version including travel shots in Japan.

(2) The title "Kelvin" shows the absolute temperature standard, and it also comes from the name of physicist Dr. Kelvin who gets on board the satellite probe in the first Solaris investigation in the film "Solaris" directed by Tarkovsky. "-273,15°C=0 Kelvin" means the absolute zero indicated by centigrade -273,15°C, i.e. the environment that humans are unable to experience. At the same time, the investigation of an unknown celestial body Solaris described in Tarkovsky's film "Solaris" parallels reflectively the investigation of human existence, and so is a metaphor for a situation in which humans are confronted with the limits that are physically impossible for us to reach.

Credit

Radio Solaris / -273,15° C = 0 Kelvin
Media Installation

Concept and Direction: Nina Fischer / Maroan el Sani

Cast: Maria Andersson

Director of Photography: Max Penzel

Steady Cam Operator: Benjamin Treplin

Editing: Nina Fischer/ Maroan el Sani

Sound Design: Robert Lippok

With friendly support of: Hausverwaltung RFZ Nalepastraße and planet.roc

Production: Galerie EIGEN+ART Leipzig/Berlin and Fischer/el Sani, Berlin

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Exhibition at YCAM:

Space and Installation Design: Shiro Yamamoto, Richi Owaki

Sound Installation: Takayuki Ito, Etsuko Nishimura

Construction: Mitsuo Uno, Takuro Iwata

Lighting: Sachiko Tajima

Shooting Crew in Tokyo: Shiro Yamamoto, Keniichi Hagihara

Graphic Design: Yuko Takezawa

Photography: Keniichi Hagihara

Press: Yumico Cotaki

Assist Curator: Rina Watanabe

Curatorial Director: Kazunao Abe

Exhibits and locations

- (1) "Radio Solaris / -273,15°C=0 Kelvin," a media installation / Studio B
- (2) "Palast der Republik Berlin," a installation with double projections/ Studio C - Lounge
- (3) "Panorama Berlin - TV Tower of the Alexander Platz", a video projection / 2F Gallery
- (4) Screening of "TOKYO STAR" / 1F Entrance
- (5) "A film works collection of Fischer / el Sani, a video projection/ 2F Gallery

Related events

(1) Fischer / el Sani; an art lecture

Speaker: Nina Fischer / Maroan el Sani

Date/Time: Oct. 1(Sat.), 2005: 15:00 - 17:00 (with simultaneous interpretation)

Venue: 1F Foyer / Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media (YCAM)

Admission: Free

(2) Fischer / el Sani; a film show "Tokyo Star" (2002, 78 min)

Date/Time: Oct. 2 (Sun.) and Oct. 10 (Mon. holiday) ,2005

the 1st session begins at 12:00

the 2nd session begins at 16:00 each day

Venue: Studio C / Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media (YCAM)

Admission: Free

(3) A related-film show; Andrei Tarkovsky's "Solaris" (1972)

Date/Time: Oct. 3 (Mon.); 19:00 – 22:00

Venue: Studio C / Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media (YCAM)

Admission: ¥500

(4) Series on reading film history "Film Retrospectives by Andrei Tarkovsky" + "City and Film special"

Date/Time: Nov. 12(Sat.) - Nov. 27(Sun.) (Saturdays and Sundays only)

Venue: Studio C / Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media (YCAM)

Admission: ¥500 (Ticket valid for one showing only)

Note: For more details and schedules, please contact YCAM. Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media (YCAM)

Artist Profile

Nina Fischer

Born in Emden, lives in Berlin

1987-92 Visual Communication, Academy of the Arts, Berlin, Diploma, Master Class Valie Export

1989/90 Audiovisual, Rietveld-Academy, Amsterdam

1991 Stipend for Photography, City department for Cultural Affairs, Berlin Postgraduate Study German Academy for Film and Television (DFFB), Berlin

Maroan el Sani

Born in Duisburg, lives in Berlin

1988-95 Sciences of Communication and Film, FU Berlin, MA

Collaboration since 1993

Prizes, Stipends

2005 Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris, City Department for Science, Research and Culture, Berlin

2003 Stipend for Fine Arts, City Department for Science, Research and Culture, Berlin

2002 Daad Stipend, Japan

1999 German Academy Villa Massimo, Rome

1998 Karl-Hofer-Prize, Academy of the Arts, Berlin

1998 Stipend Kunstfonds, Bonn

1997 Stipend for Fine Arts, City Department for Cultural Affairs, Berlin

Solo Shows (selection)

2005 Yamaguchi Center for Arts and Media, Yamaguchi, Japan

2004 Galerie Eigen+Art, Leipzig

2002 Galerie Eigen+Art, Berlin

2000 Galerie Eigen+Art, Berlin, Goethe Institute, Paris

1999 Städtische Galerie für Gegenwartskunst, Kunsthaus, Dresden

1998 Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Tokyo, Galerie Meile, Lucerne

Group Shows (selection)

- 2005 Global Players - German and Japanese Contemporary Art, Bank Art 1929, Yokohama, Japan
- 2004 The future is not what it used to be, Gallery for Contemporary Art, Leipzig Sonar Sound Festival, Tokyo, made in berlin, art forum Berlin
- 2003 From Dust to Dusk, Charlottenborg Museum for Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 2002 Manifesta 4, European Biennial for Contemporary Art, Frankfurt, Germany Quobo, Art in Berlin 1989-1999, Sungkok Art Museum, Seoul, South-Korea (The World May Be) Fantastic, 13th Biennale of Sydney, Australia Pause, 4th Gwangju Biennale, South Korea
- 2000 AutoWerke, European and American Photography, Deichtorhallen, Hamburg, Germany
- 1999 Liverpool Biennial of Contemporary Art, Liverpool
- 1998 Berlin Biennale, Plattform, Berlin, ISEA, Liverpool/Manchester
- 1995 Beyond the Borders, Kwangju Biennale 95, South-Korea
- 1994 Independant Art Space, London

Films/Videos (selection)

- 2004 "Tokyo Star", Digi Beta, 16:9, 78 min., colour, stereo
- 2002 "On Location with Michael Ballhaus", Imagespot for Film Location Berlin-Brandenburg, 35mm, colour, 2 min.
- 2001 "Hongkong will sing", DV, colour, 20 min. "Palace of Republic", DVD, double projection, colour, loop, 7 min
- 2000 "panorama Berlin", Beta SP, loop, colour, 20 min.
- 1998 "Tokio[sur]face - 10 seconds thinking about the future", 16 mm Film-Loop, colour, 5 min. "Klub 2000 - Rome, Paris, Marzahn", short fiction, 16mm, b/w, 12 min.
- 1995 "Be supernatural", short fiction, Beta SP, 18 Min.

<INQUIRY>

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