



as a guest at stattkino Luzern

Dias & Riedweg *Casulo and Palco, 2019*

Two new videos produced in cooperation with the group *A Voz dos Usuários*,
Institute of Psychiatry of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro

Premiere: Saturday, 14th May 2022 and Wednesday, 18th May 2022

The video art platform VIDEO WINDOW, which is curated by Bruno Z'Graggen, is being welcomed once again to the stattkino Luzern, following its visits in 2019 and 2021. In cooperation with Kunsthalle Luzern, it is presenting four videos by the well-known Brazilian-Swiss artist duo Dias & Riedweg from Rio de Janeiro: two older works on the subject of the favela and two newer ones on the subject of psychiatry. VIDEO WINDOW and Kunsthalle Luzern are delighted that, following a delay caused by the pandemic, they are now able to celebrate the premieres of the two new videos *Casulo* (Cocoon) and *Palco* (Stage) in the presence of the artists.

Dias & Riedweg developed *Casulo* and *Palco* in 2019 in cooperation with *A Voz dos Usuários*, a supervised group of patients from the Psychiatric Clinic of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. In the works, they examine life between everyday isolation and the outside world. At the same time, they call into question the borderline between the socially defined territories of sanity and insanity.

The programme opens with the two older works *Funk Staden* (2007) and *O Espelho e a Tarde* (The Mirror and the Afternoon, 2011), which offer surprising perspectives on the world of favelas and their musical subculture. In a variety of ways, these videos shed light on a largely inaccessible downside to the famous city below the sugarloaf, which is the subject of so many clichés. Both works share an artistic fascination for investigating the social periphery and for reflecting our perception of the unknown, the alien and the other.

The presentation builds upon the relationship with Lucerne that the internationally respected artist duo have enjoyed since their solo show with accompanying publication that took place in Kunstmuseum Luzern in 2014. Walter Riedweg was born in the city, where he also trained as a teacher.

The first screening will be followed by an artists' talk featuring Mauricio Dias and Walter Riedweg together with Bruno Z'Graggen and Michael Sutter, the Director of Kunsthalle Luzern.

Event location and programme

stattkino Luzern, Bourbaki Panorama
Löwenplatz 11, 6004 Luzern
stattkino.ch

Saturday, 14th May 2022, 18:15 to 20:00

Screening and Artists' Talk

Mauricio Dias and Walter Riedweg
Bruno Z'Graggen, Curator VIDEO WINDOW
Michael Sutter, Director Kunsthalle Luzern
Followed by an aperitif in Kunsthalle Luzern

Wednesday, 18th May 2022, 20:30

Screening (without talk)

Free admission

Video programme

Duration: 60:42 min.



Funk Staden, 2007

Video HD, single-channel, colour, sound, P, 13:38 min., 16:9

Funk Staden consists of two skilfully interwoven contexts, a historical one from the colonial past and a contemporary one from a favela in Rio de Janeiro. It begins by turning the pages of *Warhaftige Historia* (1557), in which Hans Staden recounted his two years as a prisoner of – and his lucky escape from – an indigenous tribe. The early, powerfully worded and richly illustrated report by the German soldier who was in the service of the Portuguese helped to shape the clichéd European view of indigenous peoples as wild cannibals and to legitimise colonial violence.

Against the background of a barbecue staged on the roof of a house in the favela, Dias&Riedweg direct funkeiros as they ritualistically re-enact scenes from the woodcuts in the report, accompanied by the loud rhythms of the popular local Baile Funk style. In doing this, the artists turn the tables. By reflecting and satirising clichés of otherness, the video sharply criticises colonial aspirations. At the same time, the work enables us to participate in the subcultural practice of a section of the population that lives, marginalised, in ghetto-like circumstances.



O Espelho e a Tarde, 2011

(The Mirror and the Afternoon)
Video HD, single-channel, colour, sound, 8:42 min., 16:9

The main character of *O Espelho e a Tarde* is a young man with a mirror under his arm, who sets off from downtown Rio de Janeiro to cross the heavily-populated favela of Complexo do Alemão. The man begins his walk in the late afternoon. He leads us up steps and along narrow alleys and streets lined with simple and sometimes unfinished houses and huts, before reaching the top of the hill after dark and then steeply descending on the other side and disappearing into the glare of the streetlights.

The simple narration, accompanied by the poetic strains of piano music, invites us to calmly observe and reflect. The route taken by the man becomes, for us, a voyage of discovery in an urban milieu that we find it hard to access. The kaleidoscope-like triple projection and the reflections offer us multi-faceted insights and generate a harmonious formal relationship with the complex topography of the settlement and its difficult social reality.

Premieres



Casulo, 2019

(Cocoon)

Video HD, single-channel, colour, sound, P/e, 33:45 min., 16:9

Casulo and *Palco* is a pair of videos that offers a moving collective portrait of *A Voz dos Usuários*, a supervised group of patients from the Psychiatric Clinic of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. Dias & Riedweg collaborated with the group on a total of three occasions. These videos add to an existing group of works on the subject of psychiatry and society that originated in 2012.

In *Casulo*, the artists accompany the group in everyday situations, giving the individual members the time and space to episodically tell their stories. Lasting over half an hour, the essay-like video offers intimate insights into their private realm, shows us communal activities such as yoga and visits to parks and reveals their inner world, with all its fears, hopes and dreams. In powerful interviews, the members of the group reflect upon their situation in the clinic, record these thoughts in writing and pictures and recall fragments of their lives before their admission, of their childhood, families and parents.

Casulo employs a metaphoric visual language with allegorical and dream-like elements, reinforced by an atmospheric soundtrack that associatively stimulates the imagination. The title symbolises the sensitivities of the protagonists. The ambivalent state between protection and imprisonment embodied by the cocoon raises important questions about the concept of psychiatric practice and the relationship between these people and the outside world and, more generally, between individuals and society.



Palco, 2019

(Stage)

Video HD, single-channel, colour, sound, P, 4:41 min., 16:9

The portrait of the group *A Voz dos Usuários* is completed by *Palco*, a short contribution in the form of a video clip accompanied by the specially-composed rock song *Nada* (nothing). Each member of the group selected an indispensable personal item that they brought to the stage of the clinic's theatre. Following a seemingly chaotic coming and going through the two backstage doors, they finally pose with their objects for a choreographed group portrait.

Dias & Riedweg

Dias & Riedweg is a Brazilian-Swiss artist duo that has been collaborating since 1993. They live and work in Rio de Janeiro and come from the fields of graphic reproduction and the performing arts.

Mauricio Dias

*1964 in Rio de Janeiro. Studied graphic reproduction at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and the Schule für Gestaltung und Design Basel and printmaking at the School of Visual Arts, New York.

Walter Riedweg

*1955 in Lucerne. Studied high school and music teaching in Lucerne and theatre improvisation at the Accademia Teatro Dimitri, Verscio and has participated in workshops at the Performance Studies Department, New York University.

The work of Dias & Riedweg is based on an artistic approach, which is notable for its research-like interest in social phenomena and mechanisms that impact upon their environment. They address social issues, subjects, problems, deficiencies and conflict, with a special focus on the social periphery and unknown others. Their works chronicle power and control structures, violence, exclusion and inclusion, subculture, identity and alienation and can be grouped in such subject areas as cities and favelas, being at home and migrating, sexuality and sex work, imprisonment and psychiatry.

Dias & Riedweg favour participative ways of working such as quasi-theatrical actions and individual and group interventions. They realise these as aesthetic concepts with precise dramaturgy and discontinuous narration, often using video and in the form of video or spatial installations with a range of objects and materials, photographs and texts. Their main representative is Galeria Vermelho in São Paulo.

See: galeriavermelho.com.br and dias-riedweg.com

Project participants

This project is a collaboration between VIDEO WINDOW, stattkino Luzern and Kunsthalle Luzern.

Curatorship

Bruno Z'Graggen, Curator Video Window, Zurich

Contact for further information and images: contact@brunozgraggen.ch

VIDEO WINDOW

VIDEO WINDOW is a nomadic platform for the dissemination of contemporary video art that has been curated by Bruno Z'Graggen since 2012. Presentations take the form of exhibitions and screenings, accompanied by discussions of the work that take place in cooperation with exhibition locations, galleries, art spaces, cinemas, festivals and universities.

See: brunozgraggen.ch/video-window

stattkino Luzern

stattkino Luzern, which is directed by Peter Leimgruber and has existed as an association for thirty years, is devoted to auteur cinema and the history of film. Since the reconstruction of the Bourbaki Panorama in 2000 it has been a permanent feature of the cultural centre.

See: stattkino.ch

Kunsthalle Luzern

Kunsthalle Luzern shows contemporary regional, national and international art. And it is also home to the BASIS Documentation Centre of the artists of Central Switzerland. Since 2011, it has been a close neighbour of stattkino Luzern within the Bourbaki Panorama Cultural Centre.

See: kunsthalle-luzern.ch

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