

Screening Programme with Video Art from Switzerland and Brazil

URBAN STORIES

The City as Inspiration, Motif and Imagination

The Swiss nomadic video art platform VIDEO WINDOW will be visiting the Cinemateca do MAM de Rio de Janeiro in mid-July 2022, where it will present a diverse screening programme devoted to the subject of the metropolis entitled «URBAN STORIES. The City as Inspiration, Motif and Imagination». The programme, which premiered in Zurich in early 2020, offers wide-ranging insights into current and traditional Swiss video art in dialogue with Brazilian artists.

At an evening event (PANORAMA), 25 well-known artists – 21 from Switzerland and four from Brazil – will show 33 videos covering urban locations right around the globe – in Europe, Brazil, South Africa and Asia. And individual projections and artist's talks (FOCUS) with Veronika Spierenburg (CH), Marco Chaves (BR) and Dias & Riedweg (BR/CH) are planned for three further evenings. Their videos focus on aspects of the city of Rio de Janeiro, illustrating the importance of the urban realm as a setting for art. At the same time, «URBAN STORIES» will surprise its audience in ways that encourage it to critically address the urbanisation of our planet.

The intriguingly choreographed programme presents a variety of genres and aspects (PANORAMA) on the subject of major cities: Documentary and conceptual approaches, essays, quasi cinematic narrative, performance, dance, music clips and animation. The videos offer us examples of urban environments, architecture, urban landscapes, the environment, public spaces, mobility, everyday life, working, living and consuming at the global level. They raise questions of social and cultural identity, individual and collective memory and economic and social relationships, all with an eye to the future.

Three events (FOCUS) will seek to complement the breadth of the programme by closely examining and presenting individual positions and videos. In addition to their video contributions to the programme, which address such aspects of the City of Rio de Janeiro as architecture, tourism and social marginalisation in the favelas, Veronika Spierenburg, Marcos Chaves and Dias & Riedweg will present further selected works that shed more light on their artistic positions and interests.

Today's video artists are as fascinated as the film pioneers of the early 20th century by the cosmos of the major city, a fascination that was expressed by the silent film classics, Walther Ruttmann's «Berlin. Die Sinfonie der Grossstadt» (1927) and its Brazilian counterpart, «São Paulo – A Symphonia da Metr pole» (1929) by Adalberto Kemeny and Rudolf Rex Lustig. For them, the metropolis was a vast field of observation, tireless source of motifs and stage-like setting. With its moving images, soundtrack and editing techniques digital video is, like film, predestined as a medium for depicting dynamic urban reality.

The interest of artists in the urban realm increased in the late 1990s as the development of digital formats made video more accessible and simplified the process of working away from the studio. At the same time, rapidly accelerating urbanisation increased the significance of major cities right around the globe. Today, cities are the most important form of settlement worldwide. In 2050, two-thirds of the world's population will be city dwellers. And this degree of urbanisation is particularly high in Brazil, where around 90% of the population already lives in urban areas.

The objective of the programme «URBAN STORIES» is to find unconventional and surprising ways of contributing food for thought and stimulating the discussion of concepts for the global development of the cities in which, in future, most of us will live.

Information on the Screening Programme «URBAN STORIES»

PANORAMA: Screening of all 33 videos

Saturday, 16 July 2022, 16:30–22:00

Welcome 16:30

Part 1: 17:00, Duration 87 min.

Pause. Talks, snacks and drinks: 60 min.

Part 2: 19:30, Duration 91 min.

Talks, snacks and drinks: until 22:00

FOCUS

Individual Screenings and Artist's Talks with:

Veronika Spierenburg: Tuesday, 19 July 2022, 18:00–20:00

Marcos Chaves: Wednesday, 20 July 2022, 18:00–20:00

Dias & Riedweg: Thursday, 21 July 2022, 18:00–20:00

MAM – Cinemateca do Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro

Auditório Cosme Alves Netto

Avenida Infante Dom Henrique, 85

Parque do Flamengo

Rio de Janeiro

<https://mam.rio>

Entrance free

For further information about the programme and the artists, please consult the flyers PANORAMA and FOCUS on the websites: VIDEO WINDOW and MAM de Rio de Janeiro.

Artists from Switzerland

Peter Aerschmann, Seline Baumgartner, Denise Bertschi, Daria Blum, Françoise Caraco, Chalet5, collectif_fact, Quynh Dong, Aurèle Ferrier, Catherine Gfeller, Marianne Halter & Mario Marchisella, Nicole Hoesli, Susanne Hofer, Silvan Kälin, Dirk Koy, Georgette Maag, Christoph Oertli, Elodie Pong, Doris Schmid, Veronika Spierenburg, Lena Maria Thüring

Artists from Brazil

Giselle Beiguelman (São Paulo), Marcos Chaves (Rio de Janeiro), Dias & Riedweg (Rio de Janeiro), Kika Nicolela (São Paulo/Brussels)

Curated by

Bruno Z'Graggen, Curator VIDEO WINDOW, Zurich

Lucas Murari, assistant curator, Rio de Janeiro

José Quental, Cinemateca do MAM de Rio de Janeiro, curator

VIDEO WINDOW is a Zurich-based nomadic platform for video art, which is run and curated by Bruno Z'Graggen. It seeks to make video art more accessible by organizing screenings, artist's talks and exhibitions that focus on artists who live in Switzerland. Major cities are a personal research area of the curator, who discovered Brazilian video art during his six-month research visit to Videobrasil in São Paulo in 2017.

The production of the screening programme is supported by

Temperatio Stiftung, Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation, Dr. Georg und Josi Guggenheim Stiftung, Stiftung Erna und Curt Burgauer, Cassinelli-Vogel Stiftung, Casimir Eigensatz Stiftung, Stadt Zürich Kultur, Kanton Zürich Fachstelle Kultur

The presentation at MAM de Rio de Janeiro is supported by

Swissnex Brazil, Consulado Geral da Suíça no Rio de Janeiro, Pro Helvetia Swiss Arts Council, Tarbaca Indigo Foundation, Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation, Kanton Uri

For more information and images, please see and contact:

<https://brunozagraggen.ch/video-window/> and contact@brunozagraggen.ch

<https://mam.rio/cinemateca/> and monica@monicavillela.com.br

Screening Programme with Video Art from Switzerland and Brazil

URBAN STORIES The City as Inspiration, Motif and Imagination

MEDIA IMAGES: 8 VIDEO STILLs

The programme consists of 33 videos showing 25 artistic positions, 21 positions from Switzerland and four from Brazil. Video stills from works by the following artists are available to the media as downloads:

4 video stills by artists from Switzerland



Dirk Koy

The City, 2010

Video HD, animation, b/w, sound, E, 4:09 min., 16:9

Keywords: Future, science fiction, modernity, dynamic, music, imagination



Catherine Gfeller

Woman Night, 2018

Video HD, colour, sound, Mand./e, 4:57 min., 16:9

Keywords: Guangzhou, conceptual, performance, public space, gender



Veronika Spierenburg

Crossing of a Horizontal Body with a Vertical One, 2011

Video HD, colour, sound, 12 min., 16:9

Keywords: Rio de Janeiro, modernist architecture, space, dance, body



Marianne Halter & Mario Marchisella
Fine (ital.), 2017

Video HD (originally 16mm film installation), colour, no sound, 4:33 min., 16:9

Keywords: Venice, performance, intervention, irony, public space, architecture, history

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4 video stills by artists from Brazil



Giselle Beiguelman
CGH-SDU (Homage to the Minimal Information), 2010

Video HD, animation, colour, sound, P/E,
5:05 min., 16:9

Keywords: São Paulo – Rio de Janeiro, air travel, landscape, perception, digitalisation



Marcos Chaves

Eu só vendo a vista, 1997/2019

Video HD, colour, sound, P, excerpt, 1:30 min.,
loop, 16:9

Keywords: Rio de Janeiro, conceptual, irony, public space, landscape, economy



Dias & Riedweg

The Mirror and the Dusk, 2011

Video HD, colour, sound, 8:42 min., 16:9

Keywords: Rio de Janeiro – favela, documentary, performance, landscape, social issue



Kika Nicolela

Crossing, 2003

DV PAL, b/w and colour, sound, 9 min., 4:3

Keywords: São Paulo, Avenida Paulista, music, performance, transit – human beings