

VIDEO WINDOW as a guest at Videoex Festival 2024

Friday, 24 May 2024, 19:30; Festival Cinema Z3

Sunday, 02 June 2024, 17:45; Festival Cinema Z3

Dias & Riedweg

Synopses

Funk Staden, 2007

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

The work is based on the *Wahrhaftige Historia* (1557) by Hans Staden from Kassel, an account of a shipwreck off Brazil during a colonial expedition and subsequent captivity among the Tupinambá. The book contributed significantly to the formation of the European myth of the vicious savages in the tropics with anthropophagous practices, which served to legitimize colonization. The artists transpose the story to a favela not far from Sugarloaf Mountain and have Funkeiros ritualistically re-enact nine woodcuts from the report to the rhythms of the local baile funk at a barbecue. These reflect the clichés with relish and deconstruct the myth.

The Mirror and the Dusk (O Espelho e a Tarde), 2011

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

The protagonist is a young man with a mirror under his arm. In the late afternoon, he climbs a hill in the *Complexo do Alemão*, a notorious favela conglomerate in the north of Rio de Janeiro. He then disappears into the light of the streetlights.

The simple narration accompanied by poetic piano music invites us to quietly contemplate and reflect. Crossing the busy favela on narrow streets, through alleyways and up and down stairs becomes a journey of discovery in an area that is difficult to access. The kaleidoscopic images reflect the complex settlement topography and social reality.

The Reverse of Heaven (O Avesso do Céu), 2023

Video 4K, colour, sound, P/E/e, 38:00 min., 17:9

The film tells an essay-like story of neo-colonial exploitation deep inside the Amazon region at the border triangle of Peru, Colombia and Brazil. It artfully interweaves three spheres into a dense visual and acoustic composition: the vibrant, nature-loving and acutely endangered indigenous community and culture, rhythmically underpinned by wood knocking and drum sounds; the illegal timber industry on rivers, audible through the shrill sounds of saw blade grinding machines; and the obtrusive proselytizing by evangelical churches with masses, litany-like sermons and church hymns promising paradise and culminating in an animal sacrifice ritual – symbolic of the importance of religion in the centuries-long colonization process.

Texts: Bruno Z'Graggen