

KÜNSTLERHAUS STUTT GART

PRESS RELEASE

March 8, 2012

ARTISTIC DIALOGUES III Florian Zeyfang: „Stones“

March 17 – 6. May 6, 2012

Opening: Friday, March 16, 2012, 7pm

Künstlerhaus Stuttgart is pleased to present Florian Zeyfang's first solo show in Stuttgart. The exhibition "Stones" is a continuation of the Stuttgart-born artist's long-term preoccupation with experimental forms of moving images and narration, showing the results of a new body of work, which takes up Zeyfang's fundamental question of the use of media and the reflective breaking up of media.

Zeyfang's explorations of form, content, art and politics manifest in videos, photographs and installations. As an artist, author and curator he examines the use of images, their content and formal conditions, from which he deduces analyses or deconstructions. Zeyfang employs a variety of different forms of moving images ranging from drawn animations to slide projections and self-made video projectors to high definition videos, which he never uses according to their intended purpose only, but rather with respect to questioning the rhetoric quality of the medium in use.

The artist's use of drawings in the form of reduced animations, as seen most recently in "Eulerwege" (2009), is only one variation of a strategic reduction in which Zeyfang unfolds a topic. Another one of his methods includes the use of limited formal frames, such as photography in videos or slide projectors that allow only for a limited amount of images.

Found material from archives and also the image of archives themselves are frequently used by Zeyfang, be it in his re-narration of Walter Benjamin's study of photography (Introduction to a Short History of Photography, 2008) or in his interlinking of a detail analysis of a harbor scene painting with migratory movements on the sea ("Horizon", 2009); which has also been realized as a web archive.

In continuing his artistic discussion of moving images and media in art-related conceptual and political contexts, Zeyfang's works in the last years have increasingly come to focus on experimental film. He curated the exhibition "Poor Man's Expression" in 2006 together with Martin Ebner at the Arsenal Institute for Film and Video Art Berlin and the traveling exhibition "1, 2, 3... Avant-Gardes", which was shown at Künstlerhaus Stuttgart in 2007. He will deepen his study of experimental film by taking part in the project "Living Archive" (2012/2013, Arsenal Institute for Film and Video Art Berlin).

Archives, still moving images and reduction also serve as the central starting points for the current solo exhibition "Stones" at the Künstlerhaus Stuttgart. Stones seem to defy the quality of moving images; they are lifeless and yet charged with time and history. From a linguistic and terminological point of view the term "stone" covers a wide range of appearances. Zeyfang approaches the different forms of stones at the site where he finds them or uses images of processed stones forming parts of a city archive for his video and slide projections. Both as remnants of a city and as erratics, stones shape a time frame which, owing to its size, can hardly be perceived or depicted.

Florian Zeyfang was born in Stuttgart in 1965. He grew up in Stuttgart and Bremen and studied art in Berlin where he currently lives. His first works were shown in Berlin after the fall of the Berlin Wall. In the 1990s, he was actively involved in the *Botschaft* group which carried out documentary and political art projects in its own premises. In cooperation with the video group *dogfilm*, Zeyfang completed short productions and a documentary for German television before he visited the Whitney Independent Study Program in New York in 1997. Florian Zeyfang's interest for alternating organizational forms between group and individual activities continues to be present in various projects. His works can be seen at international exhibitions and film festivals.

The exhibition "Stones" is part of ARTISTIC DIALOGUES, a series which was launched last year and aims at integrating and discussing different artistic approaches towards a mutual context and issues through concurrent solo exhibitions.

Visitors can experience "Stones" on the 2nd floor of the Künstlerhaus Stuttgart while Solmaz Shahbazi's solo show "Dreamland" is shown on the 4th floor until April 1.

The next exhibition in the series ARTISTIC DIALOGUES will assemble works from Annika Eriksson and open on April 13, 2012.

SCHEDULE:

Saturday, March 17, 2012, 7pm-2am

LANGE NACHT DER MUSEEN

Wednesday, March 21, 2012, 6pm

Curator's tour through the exhibition with Adnan Yildiz (Artistic Director Künstlerhaus Stuttgart)

Thursday, April 19, 2012, 7pm

„Thinking Like A Stone“: lecture by Clemens Krümmel and film screening

Clemens Krümmel will provide an illustrated analysis of several motives from the Japanese film "Nowhere Man" as well as talk about the aesthetics of enlivened stones by showing clips from other films and works.

After the lecture the film "Nowhere Man" will be shown. It is centered on a manga artist who chooses to quit his commercialised profession and starts to run a stone shop. „Nowhere Man“ is the direction debut of actor Naoto Takenaka. It is based on a famous manga by Yoshiharu Tsuge and was awarded the Fipresci prize at the Venice Film Festival in 1991.

„Nowhere Man“ („Muno no hoto“)

Japan 1991, Japanese with English subtitles, 107 min, director and leading role: Naoto Takenaka

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Exhibition hours: Wed-Sun 3-7pm
Office hours: Tue-Fri 10am-6pm

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