

KÜNSTLERHAUS STUTT GART

Three Black Minutes

Isabelle Cornaro, Jeremiah Day, Richard Hawkins, Megan Sullivan, Nadim Vardag.

December 13, 2008 - February 1, 2009

New Opening hours: Wed. – Sun. 3–7 PM

Opening, Friday, December 12, 7 PM (with the performance "Lowndes County: Prologue" by Jeremiah Day, 8 PM)

The exhibition "Three Black Minutes" focuses on vision and its social conditioning. The works and projects by five international artists presented in the exhibition question how visibility is understood in the area of art, but also in theoretical and curatorial investigations. "Three Black Minutes" is not conceived as a monolithic presentation, but rather, in the sense of a festival, encompasses temporary presentation forms like performances, lectures, and music presentations.

The nature of the modern exhibition is based on the assumption that knowledge can be exchanged through visual, image-oriented presentation of artifacts. This assumption is shared with other areas of modern life, as in photo journalism, didactic theory, and advertising. Since early Modernism, it has been intensely researched how visual communication functions and how its effect, like political education or advertising, can be optimized. Modernist exhibition practice experimented with various models of display. As a result, artists found new fields of activity in this area. One of the most important exhibitions of these times took place in Stuttgart – the Film and Photo Exhibition (FIFO, 1929), which presented new possibilities of seeing through new techniques of image production.

The exhibition project "Three Black Minutes" directs its attention above all to the signifying quality of vision. Seeing and the construction of perception, as well as the channeled desires effective within visual processes, become a subject within the artistic works themselves. The works examine the relationship between constructed perspective and pictorial impression, as with the meticulously made drawings of Isabelle Cornaro, or the relationship between history and photographic and sound documentation (Jeremiah Day). They show how the gaze inscribes itself into social constellations, as in the paintings and photographs of Megan Sullivan, and how it is constructed through technical instruments like cinema (Nadim Vardag). From Richard Hawkins is a series of collages with male models entwined in a game of "appearance and disappearance" on view. The exhibition questions once again where the meeting point lies between design and art, documentation and fiction.

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About the artists:

Isabelle Cornaro (*1974) lives and works in Paris. She recently showed at Ferme du Buisson in Noisiel near Paris. In February 2009, the Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen in Düsseldorf will present a solo exhibition with the artist.

Jeremiah Day (*1974) lives and works in Berlin and Amsterdam. He was a fellow of Rijksakademie in Amsterdam and had recent solo exhibition at Project Arts Centre Dublin, Ellen de Bruijne Projects Amsterdam and Arcade Fine Arts London. "Lowndes County: Prologue" had been shown previously in the exhibition "Heartland" at Van-Abbe-Museum in Eindhoven.

Richard Hawkins (*1961) lives and works in Los Angeles. Last year, de Appel Arts Centre in Amsterdam presented a comprehensive retrospective of his work.

Megan Sullivan (*1975) lives and works in Berlin. She studied at Cooper Union in New York. Recent shows include Broadway 1602 in New York and Freymond-Guth & Co. Fine Arts in Zürich. Her forthcoming publication "Die Hunterklasse" is the result from a research project at Jan van Eyck-Academie in Maastricht and will be published this winter.

Nadim Vardag (*1980) lives and works in Vienna. He studied in Nuremberg and Vienna. He recently showed at Galerie Georg Kargl in Vienna and participated in the special exhibition "Difference, what difference?" at Art Forum Berlin.