

„RIVERINE ZONES CONNECTED“

Video-Room-Installation-Project by Philipp Geist

The multimedia-artist Philipp Geist shows in his video-room-installation „riverine zones connected“ video recordings of waters from different international locations. With underwater video cameras he films the world underneath the water surface. It is an attempt to get in touch with our immediate reality, an artistic examination with the ubiquitous element water. Geist manages to show a part of our reality that is usually hidden in front of us.

In his installation, he shows urban rivers, vast streams, and small ditches next to each other and in comparison to each other. The recordings seem to be partly documenting, partly unfamiliar or raw, partly in low resolution or grainy, and partly mis-exposed, blurry, colour intensive or also monochrome. Without using the usual tv aesthetics, they allow the viewer a real and also irritating insight. The previously known turns into a landscape of the surreal.

With his artistic work he manages to visualise planned and also coincidental processes. The artist chooses the place where he puts the camera into the water carefully. By letting the camera in the water on a cable, the camera is moved by the rhythms of the water. Natural and human movements are hereby connected.

Geist confronts the underwater worlds of the cities with each other. The clear water of one river is put in contrast to a canal full of thrown-away objects such as tins, street signs or even bicycles. A focus is put on the human exposure to the resource water in the different metropolises. With the approach of a seeker, he finds with his underwater video camera creatures and the flora on the ground of the waters.

Rivers as connecting network between countries on the one hand and boundaries on the other are another aspect of the installation. The river that is acting as a border between two countries and therefore separating is at the same time at a different part of its course or at a different historical time a connection between countries. The rivers of the different cities connected by the element water form an international network. In his video-room-installation Philipp Geist shows and confronts exactly that either with video projectors or monitors or with meters-long floating video stills, strung together and exposed on cardboard. The forgotten, displaced or simple the unknown out of the middle of our daily lives is visualised.

Text 2006 - Nora Wagner, Anne Schreiber and Philipp Geist

STUDIO PHILIPP GEIST

video : painting : photo

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