



Lange Nacht der Museen „Zeit“

Berlin Kulturforum

26.01.2008

‚Time Fades‘

Installation by Philipp Geist

During the 'Long Night of the Museums', which is a special event taking place twice a year when most of Berlin's museums are open till 2 a.m., the Berlin-based artist Philipp Geist showed his video installation 'time fades' at the Kulturforum. In his installation Geist interprets the themes of space and time. He avoids using canvasses and projects directly on parts of the façade of the architecture and on transparent grounds like sheets of gauze and fog. The result is an interplay between the concrete, tangible wall and the transparent, dissolving ground of projection. This concept refers to the characteristics of history as experienced in a museum: history and the notion of it mainly develop subjectively in the mind of the onlooker. The representations of history are being animated in the moment of the visitor's reflections. The dissolving projection ground symbolizes not only the fragmentary knowledge and understanding of the life in the past, which is to be completed, but also the memory which must be saved from disappearing and dissolving. Thus, Geist develops a dialogue with the location, his artistic work and the people who are entering and leaving the building. The visitor himself becomes part of the projected image at the threshold between the outside and inside.

Starting point of his video work were the collections of the museums, which Philipp

Geis had filmed and photographed. The ancient art objects, as for example statues, sculptures, busts, paintings, gold decoration and mosaics in Rome and Berlin, were transformed with modern digital techniques (hard- and software) to manipulate the filmed images by abstracting, recolouring and overlaying them. Elements of the art pieces were separated from their context and arranged in new picture variants and artistic compositions. In the video installation, art pieces of the same and different epochs were combined. This conceptualisation emphasizes the simultaneous existence of successive times and events in the visitor's mind and the coexistence of different epochs in the historical knowledge of our time. The collections of the museums in Berlin are experienced from a contemporary perspective and interpreted in an artistic way.

Philipp Geist works internationally as a multi-media artist in the mediums of video, performance, photography and painting. In September 2007, he realized the video installation "Time Lines" on the entire front of the Palazzo delle Esposizioni in Rome at its re-opening after it had been closed for five years. The installation was opened by the mayor of Rome, Walter Veltroni, and was seen by approx. 20.000 visitors. In 2005, he realized the large project "Winterzauber" ("Winter Magic") for the Lake Side Restaurant in Zurich and in 2006, he opened the Salon Noir within the context of the exhibition "Melancholie, Genie und Wahnsinn" ("Melancholy, Genius and Insanity") in the Berlin Neuen National Galerie. Together with the symphony orchestra OBC Barcelona and the Finnish sound ensemble Pan Sonic, Geist opened in 2004 the Sonar Festival in Barcelona. His works were shown at the Dissonanze Festival in Rome, at Clubtransmediale in Berlin and at the Mutek Festival in Montreal which is renowned for new media. He has exhibited his live video performances internationally at the Central House of Artists (CHA) in Moscow, the Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA) in London, the National Gallery in Warsaw (Zacheta) and at the opening of the Pinakothek der Moderne in Munich. Geist's projects are mainly characterized by their complex integration of space, sound and moving images.

STUDIO PHILIPP GEIST

video : painting : photo

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