

Press Release

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

28 April 2009

DOKU.ARTS 2009 – Announcement of first films and seminar

The first ten films in the DOKU.ARTS programme have now been selected.

DOKU.ARTS is an international festival of documentaries about art and artists, organized by the Filmmuseum and the Media Fund (Dutch Cultural Media Fund). This fourth edition focuses on documentaries about architecture. Films about many other art forms are also shown. On 12 June the Media Fund will present a seminar about architecture and documentaries, as part of DOKU.ARTS.

DOKU.ARTS, 11 - 14 June in the Filmmuseum (Amsterdam).

The programme comprises brand-new films by Dutch directors Aliona van der Horst and Frank Scheffer. The focus on architecture includes documentaries on architects like Rem Koolhaas and Charles Correa. As well as architecture films, documentaries about photography, visual art, music, theatre, cinema and literature are on the programme. Chiara Clemente, for example, depicts the special relationship of five women artists (including Marina Abramovic and Swoon) with the city of New York in *Our City Dreams*. In *Xiao Jia Going Home* Damien Ounouri portrays the well-known Chinese director Jia Zhang-ke (*Unknown Pleasures*, *24 City*). The Swiss filmmaker Villi Herman follows photographer Andreas Seibert in *From Somewhere to Nowhere* and Kerstin Stutterheim and Niels Bolbrinker portray the Russian-American installation artist Ilya Kabakov in *Fliegen und Engel*.

All of the directors of the films selected so far have confirmed that they will be attending the festival. There will be ample opportunity for the public to ask questions after each screening.

Installation David Claerbout

During DOKU.ARTS the video installation *Bordeaux Piece* (2004) by the Belgian artist David Claerbout is on display in the exhibition area of the Filmmuseum. In the video a scene is played against the background of a modernistic, luxurious villa. This scene is repeated time and time again in 69 short films, while time moves forward linearly. The repeated action contrasts with the progression of the day and the changing sunlight. In the De Pont museum of contemporary art in Tilburg a large retrospective of the work of Claerbout is shown during the same period.

The installation can be seen from 28 May - 10 June, 1 pm – 9.30 pm daily; from 11 - 14 June, 11 am - 9.30 pm daily. Admission free.

FILM MUSEUM

DOKU.ARTS seminar 'Building Documentaries'

The Media Fund is organizing a seminar for media professionals about architecture and documentaries on the Friday of DOKU.ARTS (12 June). What are the similarities between the work processes of documentary makers and architects? Is film, or 'cinematographic space', a source of inspiration for architects? And how do documentary makers deal with visualizing buildings and building processes? They will discuss these questions in a panel discussion based on fragments of their own work. The seminar will close with a lecture by Dr. Doris Agotai (Switzerland) about architecture as protagonist.

12 June 2009, 10 am – 1 pm. Location: Media Fund, Herengracht 609, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Admission free, please register via doku.arts@mediafonds.nl

Background to DOKU.ARTS

DOKU.ARTS – unique in Europe for its theme – does not focus on traditional biopics about famous artists, but on creative portraits of artists, cinematic essays, inventive compilations and homages. Documentaries about art and artists are an essential part of the oeuvre of distinguished directors like Johan van der Keuken, Martin Scorsese and Wim Wenders. Artists are also a popular subject with documentary makers making their debut. Filmmaker and festival leader Andreas Lewin founded DOKU.ARTS in 2006 to demonstrate the variety, imaginative power and experimental drive in this genre. After two editions in Berlin, the director of the Filmmuseum, Sandra den Hamer, invited the festival to move to the Filmmuseum in Amsterdam in 2008.

Partners

Collaborative partner: Dutch Cultural Media Fund. Subsidized by: Amsterdams Fonds voor de Kunsten, SNS Reaal Fonds. Partners: EUNIC, British Council, Goethe Institut, Maison Descartes, French Embassy in the Netherlands, EAVR. Hospitality partner: Piet Hein Hotel.

Appendix: alphabetical list of the first 10 films selected.

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**DOKU.
ARTS**



MEDIAFONDS

FILM MUSEUM

First films selected for DOKU.ARTS 2009

*Fliegen und Engel – Ilya Kabakov, Emilia Kabakov und die Kunst der Totalen Installation
(Flies and Angels)*

Kerstin Stutterheim, Niels Bolbrinker, Germany 2009, 93 min.

From Somewhere to Nowhere

Villi Hermann, Switzerland 2008, 86 min.

Our City Dreams

Chiara Clemente, United States 2008, 85 min.

Piotr Anderszewski, voyageur intranquille (Piotr Anderszewski, Unquiet Traveller)

Bruno Monsaingeon, Poland/France 2009, 84 min.

Rem Koolhaas – A Kind of Architect

Markus Heidingsfelder/Min Tesch, Germany 2005, 93 min.

Russisch bal in Amsterdam (Russian Ball in Amsterdam)

Aliona van der Horst, The Netherlands 2009, 25 min.

To be AND not to be

Frank Scheffer, The Netherlands/Iran 2009, 54 min.

Un virus dans la ville (A Virus in the City)

Cédric Venail, France 2008, 80 min.

Volume Zero – The Works of Charles Correa

Arun Khopkar, India 2008, 59 min.

Xiao Jia hui jia (Xiao Jia Going Home)

Damien Ounouri, France/China 2008, 53 min.

Installation in the Filmmuseum exhibition area

Bordeaux piece

David Claerbout, Belgium 2004, 13 hours.

Widescreen video projection, DV-cam, stereo