

Focus Video Art Festival 2013

NIKOLAJ KUNSTHAL

February 7 - March 3 2013

Decadence in 3D, a Documenta magnum opus, DJ-set with a queen of grime, Open Call, and lots more

Opening Thursday February 7, 5-10 PM

FOCUS 2013 is the third festival for video art at Nikolaj, Copenhagen Contemporary Art Center, and FOCUS has by now established itself as a notable platform for video art with a comprehensive programme of Danish and international works, talks, performances and VJ-events. This year, the programme has been prioritised differently than the previous years, with the emphasis on major and spatially installed solo presentations. The programme invites guests to immerse themselves; but it also offers the opportunity to take a quicker glimpse. If, for instance, one has six hours at one's disposal, here is the chance to experience Ulrike Ottinger's masterpiece *Südostpassage* from Documenta 11 - and if six minutes are more like it, you can take in Marco Brambilla's spectacular 3D inferno as well as a few videos from the YouTube Wunderkammer.

This year, Focus offers a special place for premières of works by leading names on the Danish video art scene - among these Johanna Domke, Søren Thilo Funder, Pia Röncke, as well as Tina Enghoff in collaboration with young people from the Folehaven neighbourhood in Copenhagen.

Another of the festival flagships is legendary German filmmaker Ulrike Ottinger, a participant of numerous film festivals and with her works exhibited at museums worldwide. FOCUS presents four of Ottinger's major works, from *Freak Orlando* (1981) to her newest production *Unter Schnee*. Experience or re-experience her central work *Südostpassage* from Documenta 11. Ulrike Ottinger will give an artist talk during FOCUS, on Saturday March 2.

In addition to the major solo presentations, the festival includes the overwhelming bombardment of the senses *Civilization* (2011) by Italian artist Marco Brambilla which has created a stir all over the world, with its condensed editing together of more than 400 Hollywood films - and in 3D!

Last but not least, FOCUS 13 once again brings back the successful feature of its two previous editions: the Open Call. Here, established artists along with new budding talents have submitted video works to the festival programme. A cross-disciplinary jury has evaluated the videos and selected ten works to be presented on the opening night where three will be appointed winners and given a prize. Jury members are Swedish video artist Miriam Bäckström, director of CPH:DOX Tine Fischer, gallery owner Martin Asbæk, along with Elisabeth Delin Hansen and Andreas Brøgger (director of and curator at Nikolaj, respectively).

Parallel to the video programmes, a series of events will take place, among these a talk and DJ-set by Danish queen of *grime* Lucy Love whose aesthetics combines art, video and music. Lucy Love is one of three profiles to star the FOCUS Friday Bar during which music and video art will cross swords - and this is also where musician Gry Bagøin and video artist Rikke Benborg will present their peculiar and poetic universe. Saturdays at Nikolaj will be nice and cosy with cookies and video art and talks to investigate this medium from different angles. And on Thursdays the Danish artists behind the various FOCUS premières will present their works and practices.

For further information and press photos, please contact Head of PR Anne Riber on m: pr@nikolajkunsthall.dk or t: (+45)33181784.

FOCUS 13 video programmes:

New Danish video art: Premières of works by Johanna Domke, Tina Enghoff, Søren Thilo Funder, Lærke Laut, Pia Rönicke, and Sonja Lillebæk Chrisensen.

Ulrike Ottinger: Four major works by this legendary German film artist, among these *Südstadspassage* from Documenta 11.

Marco Brambilla: A lavish and hyped 3D work, edited together from more than 400 Hollywood films.

Open Call: The ten titles that were selected from the works submitted. All works can be seen on jukeboxes next to the ten.

Auguste Orts: Belgian video production collective Auguste Orts has compiled a special programme for FOCUS with the title “I’ve been Here Before, But Not Really...”.

Last year was long time ago: A selection of new works by the former students of the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts who presented their graduation exhibition at Nikolaj in 2011 and 2012.

Playtime: Nikolaj has picked out a special selection of videos for children, with an emphasis of the visual, narrative and humorous immediacy of the medium.

YouTube Wunderkammer: Various curious sequences, picked out by, among others, author Kaspar Colling Nielsen, video artist Rikke Benborg and director Michael Noer, are presented on a number of small screens.

FOCUS City: Once again, the FOCUS Video Art Festival can be experienced at a number of Copenhagen locations, among these the Grand Teatret, the bar/café “Din Nye Ven”, and the Kulturanstalten at Vesterbro. Here, the ten finalists of the Open Call will be shown during the festival period.

General information:

Opening hours: Thursday and Friday: 12-10 PM, Saturday and Sunday: 12-6 PM; Monday to Wednesday closed.

Prices: Ticket including a printed programme: DKK 20.-, “Go as you please” ticket for the duration of the festival: DKK 50.-.

Collaboration partners: FOCUS 13 has received support from The Danish Arts Council Committee for Visual Arts, the Goethe-Institut Dänemark, and “Din Nye Ven”.