BAWAG Contemporary
BAWAG FOUNDATION

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Sonia Leimer
Neither in motion nor at rest

July 15 – August 25, 2010
Opening: Wednesday, July 14, 2010, 7 p.m.
Press preview: Wednesday, July 14, 2010, 10:30 a.m.

A lost film is a feature film or short film that is no longer known to exist in studio archives, private collections or public archives . . . The phrase "lost film" is also used in a literal sense for instance where footage of deleted scenes, unedited and alternative versions of feature films are known to have been created but can no longer be accounted for. (Wikipedia)

Celluloid is a delicate and dangerous substance that decomposes easily when stored under unfavorable conditions; it is also highly inflammable. Estimates suggest that eighty percent of all silent movies are undiscoverable, have vanished, and are probably lost forever.

Yet there are also feature films made after the Second World War of which we have only heard, for which there is only oral evidence. Rainer Werner Fassbinder's *This Night* (1966) is such a lost film. We have no idea of its contents. We only know that the money for it came from the actor Christoph Roser and that it was shot on 8 mm. Fassbinder wrote the script, directed it, and was the man behind the camera. He also seems to have played a part in his first film.

The subject Sonia Leimer deals with in her exhibition "Neither in motion nor at rest" is unstable material – the fragile and unsteady which pushes between the seemingly solid, robust, and durable. The concrete, physical space and its relationship with the artist's mise-en-scène. The connections between today's society, personal stories, and the classical canon of pictures. Leimer's work reveals a clear awareness of present-day key issues and condenses fundamental statements on material, medium, and display in filmic, architectural, and spatial solutions.

The new BAWAG Contemporary rooms with their contrasts of light and dark, their different levels, and the generous vista through the gallery are very convenient for the artist's plans, which are not aimed at exploring a complete whole, but rather fragile constructions along boundaries in space. The exhibition is about feigned spaces, spaces

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made from materials that pretend to be something different. About architectures presenting themselves as transparent, about imagined, narrated, remembered spaces.

Investigating the cinematographic space as an autonomous realm in five works, all of which date from 2010, Sonia Leimer explores constructions of space and time, the patterns and hierarchies behind them, as well as the part the imaginary plays in this context.

Brigitte Huck, excerpt from her text *Lost Film* for the catalog

Accompanying Events

July 21, 2010, 9 p.m.
Videoscreening / Performance
with Catrin Bolt, Kerstin Cmelka, Christian Mayer

August 11, 2010, 10 p.m.
Concert Ernesty International

August 21, 2010, 9 p.m.
BC Book Club: Martin Guttmann

BAWAG Contemporary
Accompanying events
Guided tours
each Thursday at 6 p.m.
Admission free

Artistic director:
Christine Kintisch
Curator:
Brigitte Huck
Management:
Elisabeth Hofbauer
Technical coordination:
Olli Aigner & Team
Concerts curator:
Stephen Mathewson
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Press Download:
bawagcontemporary.at/presse

Sonia Leimer
Biography

Born in Meran, Italy in 1977; lives and works in Vienna.
2000/01–2003/04 Academy of Fine Arts Vienna.
2009 *Chinese Wall. M*, artist book, Schlebrügge Editor, Vienna

Solo Exhibitions

2010 *Neither in motion nor at rest*, BAWAG Contemporary, Vienna *
No Site to Fall in, Salzburger Kunstverein, Salzburg
2009 *Series of successive instants*, Galerie nächst St. Stephan, Login, Vienna
Bar Restaurant 42, Bolzano, Italy (curated by Letizia Ragaglia)
To move in parallel, playing back from earlier, Saprophyt Project Space, Vienna
2008 *Elseworlds*, Silo Laa, Art in Public Space Lower Austria (with Christian Mayer) *
2007 *The Last Museum*, Bellstreet Project Space, Vienna

Selected Group Exhibitions

2010 *Premio Cairo*, La Permanente di Milano, Milan *
ASAP, Beijing *
The Invisible Play, Istanbul *
Fractional Systems. Garage Project II, Mackey Garages, Los Angeles
Triennale Linz, Lentos Kunstmuseum, Linz (curated by Nina Kirsch and Stella Rollig) *
Out there, out here, art in public space project, Bolzano, Italy (curated by Letizia Ragaglia)
A talk, Saprophyt Project Space, Vienna
The Bare House, Museum for Art, Pori, Finland *
2009 *Art in Public Space,* Vorgartenstraße 128, Vienna (curated by Li Tasser)
Sleepwalking, Temporary Gallery Cologne (curated by Amer Abbas)
Audio Prop. See this sound, Lentos Kunstmuseum, Linz (in collaboration with Female Obsession)
Not enough detail is given for a reconstruction, however, Künstlerhauspassage, Vienna (curated by Ursula Maria Probst)
Trick of Light, MOP, Sidney, Australia (curated by Marita Fraser)
Bulletin Board Blvd. 2, Pro Choice, Vienna
2008 *Urban Signs/Local Strategies. Art in Public Space*, Vienna (curated by Ursula Maria Probst and Walter Seidl)
Architecture, Künstlerhaus Palais Thurn und Taxis, Bregenz *
Alp-traum, Galerie Museum, Bolzano, Italy
Manifesta 7: Principle Hope. Manifestation, Rovereto, Italy *
(curated by The Office for Cognitive Urbanism)

Reconstructed, Kunsthalle Exnergasse, Vienna (curated by Antonia Lotz) *
13th Biennale Bjm, Bari, Italy *
Groupshow, Bellstreet Project Space, nonartfair, Vienna
Perception and Utopia, traveling exhibition: Kerava Art Museum, Pärnu Art Museum, Rovaniemi Museum of Modern Art (curated by Pirkko Siitari and Annu Willenius) *
Images 2, Ecole d'Art et de Design de Genève (Pôle Artmedia), Galerie Forde (curated by Daniel Baumann) *
2007 *Images*, Bauernmarkt 1, Vienna (curated by Spike Art Magazine)
The Theater, Graz (in collaboration with Steirischer Herbst)
Grillparty and Show, Max-Winter-Platz 13/41, Vienna (with Catrin Bolt)
Kairos, Fondazione Pistoletto, Biella, Italy
This is Happening, Georg Kargl Fine Arts, Vienna (curated by Fiona Liehwehr and Martin Guttmann)
Group Show, Tanzquartier Vienna
Logbuch, Galerie 5020, Salzburg
2006 *Love after the cold war*, MAK Center for Art and Architecture, Los Angeles
Société des nations, factice et scindée en elle-même, Circuit, Lausanne
Mongolia: Perception and Utopia, Union of Mongolian Artists, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (organized by the Kerava Museum, Helsinki)
2005 Parachute Pavilion, New York (organized by the Van Alen Institute, New York) *
2004 *Living Room*, Kunsthalle Exnergasse, Vienna *
Condensed community, Ottakring, Vienna (in collaboration with the Institute for Art and Architecture, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna) *
2003 *Schmarotzer*, annual exhibition of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna *
2002 *The Rabin Square Design Competition*, Künstlerhaus, Vienna *

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