

JOHAN GRIMONPREZ – RETROSPECTIVE 1992-2007
accompanied by PUBLICATION

Press conference: 09.05.2007, 11.00
Opening: 09.05.2007, 19.00
Duration of exhibition: 10.05.-19.08.2007



Accompanying the exhibition is the publication

Johan Grimonprez – Looking for Alfred

Published by Film and Video Umbrella, Hatje Cantz Verlag, Pinakothek der Moderne and Zapomatik, with the support of the SMAK; and BOZAR.

With essays by Patricia Allmer, Jorge L. Borges, Chris Darke, Thomas Elsaesser, Tom McCarthy, Jeff Noon, Slavoj Žižek

Price in the museum: 35 Euro

The Belgian media artist Johan Grimonprez (* 1962) achieved international acclaim with his video collage »Dial H-I-S-T-O-R-Y«. With its premiere at Centre Pompidou, MNAM, and the Documenta X in Kassel in 1997, it eerily foreshadowed 9-11. Recycling news broadcasts, Hollywood mainstream, quirky home movies, and commercials it traces the news representation of airplane hijackings since the 1970's and how it changed the course of news reporting. Playing on Don DeLillo's riff in the novel MAO II: » what terrorists gain, novelists lose,« it blends reality and fiction together to relate to actualities. This way, Grimonprez – child of the first TV generation – presents history in a completely new way: from a multitude of perspectives, fragmentally and as manipulative as the news today.

Likewise »Dial H-I-S-T-O-R-Y«, Grimonprez' latest and by no means completed project »Looking for Alfred« plays with the theme of the double through simulations and reversals. Point of departure is the figure of film director Alfred Hitchcock and his legendary guest appearances playing double agent in his own films. Innumerable Hitchcock doppelgangers act out a mysterious game of confusion in which Hitchcock meets Hitchcock. The imaginable claims to be true, the real seems improbable. This homage to Hitchcock through a series of Hitchcock castings, the »Master of Suspense«, also pays tribute to that other double agent of the Surrealist tradition, namely René Magritte – and, in doing so, to one of the central themes of the Sammlung Moderne Kunst (Modern Art Collection) at the Pinakothek der Moderne.

»Looking for Alfred« consists of film installations in two parts as well as hundreds of hand drawings, collages and photographs; and elaborates on the themes of Grimonprez' new feature »Double Take«. The acquisition of this complex of works for the Pinakothek der Moderne has been made possible with the support of Wormland Stiftung. The first presentation of these works in a museum presents also an overview of Grimonprez' remarkable artistic development with this mid-career retrospective spanning the past 15 years. It includes an updated dvd-theque, in collaboration with Charlotte Léouzon (Passion-Pictures), as well as earlier works such as »Kobarweng or Where is Your Helicopter?« (1992)

The exhibition has been made possible with the support of the Theo Wormland Stiftung | die Wormland Unternehmen and is also sponsored by the Ministry of Culture of the Flemish Community, Brussels.

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“I thought I was save until you guys came along, digging up all those other Hitchcock lookalikes. Now we will have to find ways of disposing of them.”
Ron Burrage, Hitchcock double

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Guided tours

WED 06.06. | 15.00

THURS 10.05. | 18.30

THURS 14.06. | 18.00

Young Palais

SAT 06.05. | 15.00-17.00

PINAKOTHEK BACKSTAGE | LOOKING FOR ALFRED

Before the opening of the exhibition of the Belgian artist Johan Grimonprez, there is the opportunity to join the curator Bernhart Schwenk and see the video installation being set up.

Press Office of the Pinakothek Museums

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