

18 January – 18 February 2012

JANI RUSCICA: *Scene Shifts in six movements*

Hilary Crisp presents *Scene Shifts in six movements*, a new film conceived and directed by Jani Ruscica – the artist's first solo exhibition with the gallery.

In Jani Ruscica's "Travelogue" (2010) the studio is a blank canvas that has the potential to morph itself into any place through narration. Drawing on both contemporary and historical texts about the city of London, from travel guides and blog travelogues to 19th century fiction, Ruscica's film deconstructs the idea of the travelogue itself as romanticized history, factual document and idealized experience. The film distances itself from subjectivity.

Words create and shape our impressions and histories. 'Scene Shifts in six movements' (2011) is a fragmentary film, portraying different locations and time periods. The piece begins with a film set representing a generic European urban architecture from the late 19th century. An image of Cold War Paris is drawn through texts written by Ivorian Bernard Dadié. Images selected by the artist gain new meanings through narration and music created by others. Like 'Travelogue' (2010), 'Scene Shifts in six movements' (2011) is fundamentally concerned with portrayals of place, and the different media used to create imagery and their historical layers.

Ruscica's works reveal or essentially strip images of their meanings, and at the same time are assigned new meanings through a layered use of source materials. Typical of our time is the consumption of truths, meanings, signs and images distributed by others. Everything is a copy of something, a "simulacrum", whether this "something" has ever existed or not, as sociologist and philosopher Jean Baudrillard has stated. Ruscica's works remind us that it is not important how much we see or consume things, but that we look at and listen to them carefully. Only then can we encounter reality from new perspectives. Equally this doesn't require constant movement or travelling, but the ability to stop and understand reality and its construction.

-Marita Muukkonen, Curator – Forum Box, Helsinki

***Scene Shifts in six movements* (2011) was debuted at Forum Box, Helsinki; the project at Hilary Crisp, London is the film's UK debut. Late January, *Scene Shifts in six movements* (2011) will be premiered at the 41st International Film Festival, Rotterdam.**

For more information please contact: mail@hilarycrisp.com

Jani Ruscica (b. 1978; FI) received an MFA at the Finnish Academy of Fine Arts, Helsinki and has attended various institutions including Cite Internationale des Beaux Arts, Paris and De Ateliers, Amsterdam. Recent solo exhibitions have included Forum Box, Helsinki and Camden Arts Centre, London. Group exhibitions have included Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, Kitchener; Casino Luxembourg – Forum d'Art Contemporain, Luxembourg; Hilary Crisp, London; The Liverpool Biennial, Liverpool; The Nordic Biennial, Moss; Temple Bar Gallery & Studios, Dublin; Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm. Screenings have included KIASMA Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki; Tate Modern, London; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Museum Ludwig, Cologne; MoMA, New York.

Exhibition kindly supported by:

FRAME
Finnish Fund for Art Exchange

Scene Shifts in six movements (2011)

HD video, stereo sound, single channel projection; 13:00 loop

Conceived and Directed by Jani Ruscica

Cinematography Anu Keränen

Performers

Pape Sarr , Tanhoe Bertin
Maryam Hamadon, Maryam Hamadon
Denise Akar, Egypt
Jorma Hellström, Elias
Svend Christianssen, Harpsichordist

Tanhoe Bertin monologues adapted from Bernard Binlin Dadié *Un Nègre a Paris* (1959) Paris: Présence africaine
Bernard Binlin Dadié *La Ville ou Nul ne Mort* (1968) Paris: Présence africaine

Translations Bernard Binlin Dadié *An African in Paris* (1994) University of Illinois Press, Translated by Karen C. Hatch
Bernard Binlin Dadié *The City Where No One Dies* (1986) Three Continents Press, Translated by Janis A. Mayes

Maryam Hamadon monologue adapted from Maryam Hamadon *Salomo* (2011), julkaisematon / unpublished

Photographs Maryam Hamadon

Egypt monologues written by Beth Baron / Middle East and Middle Eastern American Center

Translations of Egypt monologues Nadia Ayoub

Original illustrations of Egypt Abu Nadarra 18, 1894, Al-Kashkul 14, December 1923

Egypt Animations Kim Helminen / Animaatiokopla

Maynard Massachusetts Postcard Written by Elias (Sini Pelkki's archives)

Archival footage Film Audio Services / Getty Images

Set design Berliner Strasse / Studio Babelsberg AG, Potsdam

Editing Tiina Aarniala, Jani Ruscica

Sound design and sound recording Anne Tolkkinen

Harpsichordist (recording) Assi Karttunen

Sheet Music Francois Couperin *Les Chinois, Extrait du 27e Ordre, 4e Livre*, Edition Classique A. DURAND & Fils

Grip Copenhagen Rune A. Egegaard / FilmGEAR ApS

Grip Potsdam Hannes Tröger

Still photography Anu Keränen, Sini Pelkki

Titles Henri Tani

On-line Antti Peltoranta / Generator Post

Color timing Pasi Mäkelä / Generator Post

Subtitles Jarno Kivelä / Skarvi oy

In co-operation YLE Yhteistuotannot Sari Volanen

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