

Of A People Who Are Missing

On films by Danièle Huillet & Jean-Marie Straub

Tentoonstelling en Ciné-club

13/11 – 20/12/2009

The 'Straubs', as Danièle Huillet and Jean-Marie Straub are often called, are among the most outstanding, and yet widely unknown contemporary filmmakers in the history of cinema. Jean-Marie Straub and Danièle Huillet worked together for over 40 years until Danièle Huillet's death in October 2006. Since the early 1960s their radical approach towards filmmaking allowed them to create almost 30 very diverse films; they treated and transformed literature by Kafka, Pavese and Hölderlin, as well as the paintings of Cézanne, cantatas by Bach and operas by Schönberg.

The filmmakers constantly questioned the possible transformation from one medium to an other, such as literature, painting and music into film, as a process of re-reading, re-inventing or readjusting of meaning. If there is such a thing as a 'Pédagogie straubienne' (as Serge Daney once hinted), the project *Of A People Who Are Missing* follows the question: what can be learned from their films today? Is it possible to translate their precision which seems so deeply connected to and conditioned by the methods of analog film production, into what is usually conceived as the age of digital image production, and if so, under what terms?

Huillet and Straub categorically refused to offer any kind of interpretation that might ease or facilitate access to the artwork or so-called original. Instead, their focus on the act of speaking, always in very specific circumstances, opens up a multitude of possible interpretations; this marks precisely the peculiarity of their films. Through the speech-act the moving images change one of their most essential properties and they become no-one's property.

No-one's property is the opposite of what pretends to belong to everybody - no matter whether it is communicated, participated in or otherwise shared. In this sense one can also understand the remarks that Gilles Deleuze repeatedly put forth in his books on cinema: the films of the 'Straubs' are made for a people who are missing. 'A people' needs to be invoked rather than represented or addressed. 'The people no longer exist, or not yet...'

The phrase 'a people who are missing' is taken from the only public lecture Paul Klee held in 1924 in the Kunstverein Jena: *Uns traegt kein Volk*. Instead of embellishing the splendid isolation of the artist, such a people who are missing need to be understood literally and Jean-Marie Straub once suggested dedicating his movie *The chronicle of Anna Magdalena Bach* to the Vietcong.

Of A People Who Are Missing will open in Extra City from 12 November to 20 December as a platform for both the viewing and making of films. The exhibition space will be structured around five studios which will act as showrooms as well as independent production spaces. Each studio is to be used in a different configuration of archive material, film excerpts, actual footage and the critical discourse around it. Every Thursday to Saturday, one studio will host invited guests and contributors for a series of screenings, lectures and debates.

Among the contributors are: Chantal Akerman, Pietro Bianchi, Manon de Boer, Robert Bramkamp, Vanessa Brito, Giulio Bursi, Rinaldo Censi, Anna Fiacciarini, Jack Henrie Fisher, Peter Friedl, Kim de Groot, Romano Guelfi, Tim Liebe, Armin Linke, Laura Malacart, Ines Schaber, Sally Shafto, Eyal Sivan, Benoît Turquety, Barbara Ulrich, Klaus Volkmer, Susanne Weirich.

Detailed program at: <http://ofapeoplewhoaremissing.net>

Of A People Who Are Missing is a collaboration of Extra City – Kunsthal Antwerpen and Jan van Eyck Academie, Maastricht, in cooperation with University of Fine Arts Hamburg, Multitude e.V. and Time Festival, Ghent.

Curated by Florian Schneider and Annett Busch.

Special opening hours: Thursday - Sunday 14:00 - 19:00

OPENING

12 november 2009

19:00 *Moses and Aaron*, Danièle Huillet & Jean-Marie Straub, 1975

STUDIO 1: TOO SOON, TOO LATE

20 november 2009

18:00 Annett Busch en Florian Schneider: Property relations

20:00 *Chronik der Anna Magdalena Bach*, Danièle Huillet & Jean-Marie Straub, 1967

21 november 2009

15:00 *Too soon / too late*, Danièle Huillet & Jean-Marie Straub, 1981

17:00 Benoît Turquety: *Objectified Vision - Landscape, History, Poetry, Film*

STUDIO 2: MOUNTAINS ON FIRE

26 november 2009

18:00 *Proposta in quattro parti* (Proposal in four parts), Danièle Huillet & Jean-Marie Straub, 1985

20:00 Rinaldo Censi: *All seems to flicker*

27 november 2009

18:00 *Une visite au Louvre* (A Trip to the Louvre), Danièle Huillet & Jean-Marie Straub, 2004

19:00 *Paul Cezanne*, Danièle Huillet & Jean-Marie Straub, 1989

20:00 Sally Shafto: *Artistic encounters*

28 november 2009

14:00 Jeanne Jeanne Dielman, 23 quai du Commerce, 1080 Bruxelles

Chantal Akerman, Belgium/France 1975 DVD screening

17:00 Anselm Franke in gesprek met Chantal Akerman.

20:00 *Antigone*, Danièle Huillet & Jean-Marie Straub, 1992

STUDIO 3: THE HOMELESS ARCHIVE

3 december 2009

20:00 Robert Bramkamp

4 december 2009

19:00 *Itinéraire*, Jean Bricard, Danièle Huillet & Jean-Marie Straub, 2008

20:00 *Der Tod des Empedokles - Oder wenn der Erde Grün von neuem euch erglänzt*, Danièle Huillet & Jean-Marie Straub, 1986

5 december 2009

15:00 *Operai Contadini*, Danièle Huillet & Jean-Marie Straub, 2000
20:00 Anna Fiacciarini: *Translating the Archive*

STUDIO 4: A THROW OF DICE

10 december 2009

Laura Malacart: *Suffering the Language: Translation and Estrangement in Straub/Huillet*

11 december 2009

20:00 *Toute révolution est un coup de dés*, Danièle Huillet & Jean-Marie Straub, 1977
Studio talk (Deel 1). Gast: Ines Schaber

12 december 2009

20:00 Studio talk (Deel 2). Gasten: Eyal Sivan en Manon de Boer

STUDIO 5: ACT OF RESISTANCE

17 december 2009

18:00 Giulio Bursi: *On the three versions of Operai Contadini*

19:00 *Quei loro Incontri* (These Encounters of Theirs), Danièle Huillet & Jean-Marie Straub, 2006
J'ecoute, Giulio Bursi, 2006

Gesprek met Giulio Bursi en Pietro Bianchi

18 december 2009

19:00 Romano Guelfi: *Necessity and Change - On Straub's working method*

19 december 2009

16:00 *History Lessons*, Danièle Huillet & Jean-Marie Straub, 1972

18:00 *Fortini/Cani*, Danièle Huillet & Jean-Marie Straub, 1976

20:00 Peter Friedl: *Secret modernity*