

GalerieFrancescaPia

The Art of the 20th Century

Films presented by Olivier Mosset

With Ben Vautier, Sylvie Fleury, Tony Morgan and Olivier Mosset

Opening on Thursday, January 27, 6-8 pm, Galerie Francesca Pia, Limmatstr. 257, 8005 Zürich

Nocturne on Friday, January 28, 10.30 pm, Uto Kino, Kalkbreitestr. 3, 8003 Zürich

With contributions by Serge Bard and Olivier Mosset

I have said once, that movies were the art of the 20th century ("L'Art c'est l'Art", Musée d'ethnographie, Neuchâtel, 1999, p.180). I guess, I was thinking about the industry and these directors, Lang, Renoir, Hitchcock, Wells, Fellini, Godard, Fassbinder who made it happen. Those interested in visual art could not ignore that industry.

Daguerrotype photography has not ended painting, but it had an effect and it is symptomatic that the impressionists showed at Nadar. Moving images too had an impact, on the art and the art scene. That famous "Nude descending a staircase" could have been a response to Muybridge's "Women walking down stairs".

You have these directors interested in painting, "Passion", "La Belle Noiseuse", "Une Visite au Louvre", writers who made films, Isou, Debord, Genet, Beckett and these filmmakers who have been adopted by the art world such as Jack Smith, Kenneth Anger, Tony Conrad. Everybody knows what movies are and artists had to deal with this situation. You cannot ignore the 7th art, masterpieces or film noir, Westerns, road movies, even vampires, aliens and Mickey Mouse. Artists have not. Even if painting has a unique status as high art, painters like Leger, H. Richter, Breer or Warhol made movies. Nam June Paik, Bruce Nauman or Michel Auder made videos and video art became a legitimate art form. Today, films and videos are shown in galleries and in museums. They are part of that world; they are art.

There are millions of books written on cinema, and maybe some on the relationship between painting and cinema. These couple of words on this subject I don't really know well, are not going to tell you anything you don't know. As Serge Bard has said, talking about his movie "Here and Now": "Cinema is always somewhere else and before." The thing is, we have to deal with that, here and now.

The exhibition at Galerie Francesca Pia

We talked about this because I have been close to this movie thing all my life; in the sixties with the Zanzibar productions, with the New York underground scene of the eighties (Amos Poe, Eric Mitchell) and today with Amy Granat and Drew Heitzler.

Of course this show is a swiss affair. Ben is a Swiss Occitant living in Nice, Daniel a Rumanian Swiss who lives in Italy and Sylvie lives in Geneva, a city which often seems not to want to be Swiss. And they are all international artists. What we did, was, you know, think global, act local. Thank you, Francesca!

Olivier Mosset

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