

ATLANTIC

Jeanette Ehlers

November 14, 2009 – January 24, 2010

With the exhibition *Atlantic* Jeanette Ehlers uses digitally manipulated photographs and video installations to take a close look at the Danish triangular trade and the associated slave trade, capitalism, nationalism and globalization. For *Atlantic* Jeanette Ehlers has produced a number of works on the basis of material collected in connection with her travels in Ghana and the West Indies, where as a daughter of a West Indian father she has been examining the history of the plantation slaves as well as her own background.

In this way Jeanette Ehlers is a direct product of the triangular trade across the Atlantic, which included the Golden Triangle between Denmark, the Gold Coast and the West Indies – and started with human beings and ended with sugar in Copenhagen. In the photographs from the West Indies and Ghana Jeanette Ehlers has removed herself and left only a shadow behind as a solemn reminder of her own heritage in this gloomy and overlooked chapter of Danish history. In the photographs she presents her identity as a fleeting trace, which has almost been erased but now has been called to life by means of her physical meeting with the historical localities.

At *Atlantic* the history of the Golden Triangle and its relation to Jeanette Ehlers herself is staged in a large video installation shaped as a triangle and consisting of video recordings of the ocean filmed from respectively the coasts of Ghana, the West Indies and Denmark. In this more poetic work the historically burdened coastlines are presented as peaceful, violent, infinite and maybe even wistful scenarios by means of images as well as sound. It was the (Atlantic) ocean that created the trade routes between Denmark and the two colonies, and in this way the ocean plays an important role for the Golden Triangle. Here we are presented with a personal look at the three oceans, Jeanette Ehlers' own.