

July 31, 2023

Press release:

HALLE

titre provisoire - *A cold case or happiness*

August 6 – September 24, 2023
Wed – Sun, 2 – 6pm

Opening: August 5, 2023, 6-9pm

The “good life”—what is it supposed to mean, for each one of us, for all of us? As a pursuit, the good life is an integral part of political debates on social justice and participation. Yet it remains intangible, only to be experienced. In the film *A cold case or happiness*, the pursuit of the good life becomes palpable—in interpersonal interaction, in the loss of human bodies, in modernist architecture. Shot in Los Angeles during spring of 2023, the film draws on a year’s research into the work of writer and filmmaker Erika Runge (*1939 in Halle an der Saale). Out of the present-day’s sense of urgency, the artists ask the question: what does the good life mean, for all and not for just a few?

Through the format of the interview, Erika Runge’s work as a journalist aimed to uncover the good life in everyday life. An intersubjective cross-section of her research and interview practice exposes the larger contexts of her interest: capitalism, analysis, and solidarity. These themes were explored through interviews with German and migrant workers, women, and communists, among others, and touched upon topics such as changing the work sphere; family, sex and relationships; gender issues; racism and anti-racist resistance; East/West Germany; nuclear disarmament; and the feminist struggle. While intersecting, Runge observed these struggles throughout the 1960s and 1970s. The cut-up technique that Runge developed in her writing practice enabled her to tell parallel stories, let lives coexist, and to connect historical and contemporary narratives.

“The destruction of communication skills has become part of the system in which we live,” Runge wrote in her 1976 essay *Überlegungen beim Abschied von der Dokumentarliteratur / Reflections Upon Saying Farewell to Documentary Literature*. The actors in *A cold case or happiness* move through this associative space, come together, move apart again, live an everyday life, where commonplace actions become metaphors, and in which understanding and being understood can no longer be assumed but has to be worked through.

titre provisoire is an artistic collaboration between Cathleen Schuster and Marcel Dickhage. Alumni of the Whitney Independent Study Program and the Leipzig Academy of Visual Arts, their work has been shown at the 2019 Singapore Biennale, Sharjah Art Foundation, after the butcher Berlin, Taxispalais Kunsthalle Tirol, Kunstverein Harburger Bahnhof Hamburg, Berlinische Galerie, GfZK Leipzig, Ludlow 38 New York, Kunsthalle Düsseldorf, SAVVY Contemporary, and the 2015 Kyiv Biennale. Most recently, they initiated the publication and screening program *Coincidences in Prepositions* in collaboration with Renan Laruan, the Vargas Museum Manila, and the Harun Farocki Institute Berlin. The film project *A cold case or happiness* was realized during a residency at the MAK-Schindler program in Los Angeles in the spring of 2023.

**FÜR
KUNST**

LÜNEBURG

As part of the exhibition at Halle für Kunst Lüneburg, Erika Runge's essay *Überlegungen beim Abschied von der Dokumentarliteratur / Reflections Upon Saying Farewell to Documentary Literature* will be translated into English for a forthcoming publication.

The annual program and the exhibition at Halle für Kunst Lüneburg e.V. is funded by the Ministry for Science and Culture of Lower Saxony, Lüneburgischer Landschaftsverband, and Hansestadt Lüneburg. The educational program at Halle für Kunst Lüneburg e.V. is funded by the Ministry for Science and Culture of Lower Saxony. The exhibition is supported by Stiftung Niedersachsen, and Akademie der Künste, Berlin, with funding from the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media as part of the NEUSTART KULTUR program.

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Film credits:

Title *A cold case or happiness*

Performer

BO Michelle Sui

LOU Izzy Rojas

SKY David Blindauer

DOOR Nathaniel Whitfield

PARTY GUEST Sophia Berman

Director of Photography Laurie Robins

Location sound recordist Anisa Hosseinnezhad

Choreography Alexsa Durrans

Production Assistant Sophia Berman

Musical composition Wibke Tiarks

Sound design Adam Asnan / Wibke Tiarks

Audio mixing Adam Asnan

Compositor Alexander Kersting

Proof reading Grace S. Phillips

Location Coordinator Karen Hernandez

Film Permit Coordinator Melony Light, California State Parks & Recreations, Malibu Lagoon Beach

Southern CA Parks Permits Coordinator Tiana Reynolds, California Film Commission

Film Coordinator Eddie Robinson, City West Hollywood Film Office

Director / Editor / Colour Grading / Written by titre provisoire

With special thanks to

Erika Runge

Thanks / Film

Allie Smith

Angelica Fuentes

Ann-Kathrin Eickhoff

Bettina Runge

Christopher Richmond

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Elisa R. Linn
Ellen Schernikau
Jia Yi Gu
Joe Riley
Juergen Ruelicke-Runge
Julia Tcharfas
Julian Irlinger
Karen Hernandez
MAK Center for Art and Architecture
Marusa Sagadin
Miljohn Ruperto
Nathaniel Whitfield
Research team and library of the Akademie der Künste Berlin
Rob Rice
Rosario Talevi
Sam Richardson
Tim Ivison
Virgil Taylor

Thanks / Installation

Andree Wochnowski
Dave Walker
Dyballa & Lyra
Eidotech
Elisa Wenk
Joerg & Sven Schuster
Julius Langer
Larissa Humbert
Le Thuc Anh Mai
Magnus Hvidtfeldt
Maria Zamel
Monique S. Desto
Przemyslaw Lonczyk
Simone Curaj

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