

SOMETHING SIMILAR



MIKA TAANILA, *FUTURE IS NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE*, 2002, 35MM FILM STILL, COURTESY THE ARTIST AND KINOTAR OY, HELSINKI

SCREENING FILMMAKER FOCUS

FUTURE IS NOT WHAT IT USED TO BE

Directed by Mika Taanila

Documentary portrait of Finnish electronic arts pioneer, philosopher, and artist Erkki Kurenniemi.

FEBRUARY 25 7:30PM

A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT



COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

PERFORMANCE

PERADAM

Robert Aiki Aubrey Lowe + Sabrina Ratté

Artists Robert A. A. Lowe and Sabrina Ratté collaborate on *Peradam*, a new audio and visual work utilizing modular synthesizer and the human body to inform modular video synthesis in real time.

JANUARY 25 8PM



SCREENING

FILMMAKER FOCUS

FUTURO: A NEW STANCE FOR TOMORROW

Mika Taanila

TUESDAY JANUARY 21 2014 | 7:30PM

MIKA TAANILA, *FUTURO: A NEW STANCE FOR TOMORROW*, 1998, 35MM FILM STILL, COURTESY THE ARTIST AND KINOTAR OY, HELSINKI

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Mika Taanila

TUESDAY JANUARY 21 2014 | 7:30PM

Finnish filmmaker Mika Taanila's *Futuro: A New Stance for Tomorrow*, uses amateur film and archival footage to investigate the futuristic imaginings of the Futuro House, designed and developed in 1968 by architect Matti Suuronen as a mass produced, mobile plastic housing unit that could be used singularly as a holiday home or multiplied to create a larger, integrated structure of pods. This functionalist and socialist utopian idea, however, was shattered by the 1972 oil crisis, as the use of plastic as building material became unviable. This film expresses and encapsulates the optimism of the post-war era in a joyful but melancholic study on the perceived failure of the 1960s vision of the future.

Futuro: A New Stance for Tomorrow

Directed by Mika Taanila

1998, 35mm transferred to digital video, 29mins

Futuro: A New Stance for Tomorrow is the part of *Filmmaker Focus: Mika Taanila*, a retrospective view of the documentary films of Mika Taanila, who has created acclaimed works of film, video, photography, installation, and sound over the past 20 years. Reflecting on utopian technological innovators across the fields of engineering, architecture, and music, Taanila's films explore unsung genius and delve into the gap between technological progress and society's looming destruction to uncover the successes and failures of a century of progress.

Mika Taanila (b. 1965) lives and works in Helsinki, Finland. Solo and two-person exhibitions include *Mika Taanila: The Most Electrified Town in Finland*, KIASMA Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki; *On The Spot #4*, Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe, Germany; *Zone d'éclipse totale*, Dazibao, Centre de photographies actuelles, Montréal, Canada; *Une histoire saccadée* (with Erkki Kurenniemi), Institut Finlandais, Paris; *Hotel Futuro*, Spacex Gallery, Exeter, UK; and *Mika Taanila: Human Engineering* at Migros Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zürich. Taanila's films and installations have been featured at more than 200 international film festivals and exhibitions, including dOCUMENTA (13), Kassel, Germany.

Filmmaker Focus is devoted to the presentation of a series of works by a single filmmaker whose considerable body of work experiments with the documentary form to investigate the implications of technological development and innovation.

Carl dis/assembling w/ self

Directed by Patricia Lennox-Boyd

Featuring Carl Lewandowski

2013, digital video, 3mins

Prior to *Filmmaker Focus*, EMPAC presents Patricia Lennox-Boyd's film *Carl dis/assembling w/ self*. Produced during her residency at EMPAC in fall 2013, the film is composed of an EMPAC staff member self recording the assembly and breakdown of a Dodge truck engine. The structure of the video—with credits placed at its midpoint—displays a circular, over-literalized logic that is often deployed in Lennox-Boyd's sculptural work. *Carl dis/assembling w/ self* experiments with a performed language of handheld camerawork to play with and against the idea that gesture can be read as a transparent revelation of authorship.

Patricia Lennox-Boyd lives and works in London. She recently finished the LUX Associate Artists program. Her work has recently been included in the 13th Biennale de Lyon and she has had solo exhibitions at Cubitt, London, Ohio, Glasgow and The Vanity, Los Angeles.

Curated and produced in collaboration with *Frieze Foundation* curator Nicola Lees, *Frieze Film* is a series of new short-form moving image works by Petra Cortright, Peter Gidal, Patricia Lennox-Boyd, Oraib Toukan, and Erika Vogt produced for television. The works are broadcast on Channel 4 (UK) as part of Random Acts. The shorts will be screened individually prior to EMPAC screenings throughout Spring 2014.

A Spell to Ward off the Darkness

Directed by Ben Rivers and Ben Russell

Featuring Robert AA Lowe

2013, digital video, 90mins

Accompanying *Futuro*, Robert AA Lowe introduces a special preview screening of *A Spell to Ward off the Darkness*. Directed collaboratively by artist-filmmakers Ben Rivers (UK) and Ben Russell (US), the film follows an unnamed character through three seemingly disparate moments in his life. With little explanation, we join him in the midst of a 15-person collective on a small Estonian island; in isolation in the majestic wilderness of Northern Finland; and during a concert as the singer and guitarist of a black metal band in Norway. Marked by loneliness, ecstatic beauty and an optimism of the darkest sort, *A Spell* is a radical proposition for the existence of utopia in the present.

Starring, EMPAC artist-in-residence, musician Robert AA Lowe in the lead role, *A Spell* lies somewhere between fiction and non-fiction - it is at once a document of experience and an experience itself, an inquiry into transcendence that sees the cinema as a site for transformation.

A Spell to Ward off the Darkness has recently won the Bright Future Award at International Film Festival Rotterdam, the New Vision Award at Copenhagen International Documentary Film Festival and Best International Documentary at Torino Film Festival.

STAFF

Johannes Goebel / Director

Geoff Abbas / Director for Stage Technologies

Eric Ameres / Senior Research Engineer

S. Argeo Ascani / Associate Curator, Music

Eileen Baumgartner / Graphic Designer

David Bebb / Senior System Administrator

Peter Bellamy / Senior Systems Programmer

Michael Bello / Video Engineer

Victoria Brooks / Curator, Time-Based Visual Arts

Eric Brucker / Lead Video Engineer

Ash Bulayev / Curator, Dance + Theater

Michele Cassaro / Guest Services Coordinator

John Cook / Box Office Manager

David DeLaRosa / Production Technician

Zhenelle Falk / Artist Services Administrator

William Fritz / Master Carpenter

Kimberly Gardner / Manager, Administrative Operations

Ian Hamelin / Project Manager

Katie Hammon / Administrative Specialist

Ryan Jenkins / Event Technician

Shannon Johnson / Design Director

Pamela Keenan / Production Technician

CathyJo Kile / Business Manager

Carl Lewandowski / Production Technician

Eric Chi-Yeh Lin / Lead Stage Technician

Stephen McLaughlin / Event Technician

Candice Sherman / Business Coordinator

Avery Stempel / Front of House Manager

Kim Strosahl / Acting Production Administrative Coordinator

Jeffrey Svatek / Audio Engineer

Dan Swalec / Master Electrician

Todd Vos / Lead Audio Engineer

Pete Wargo / Manager, Information Systems

Michael Wells / Production Technician

Emily Zimmerman / Assistant Curator



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