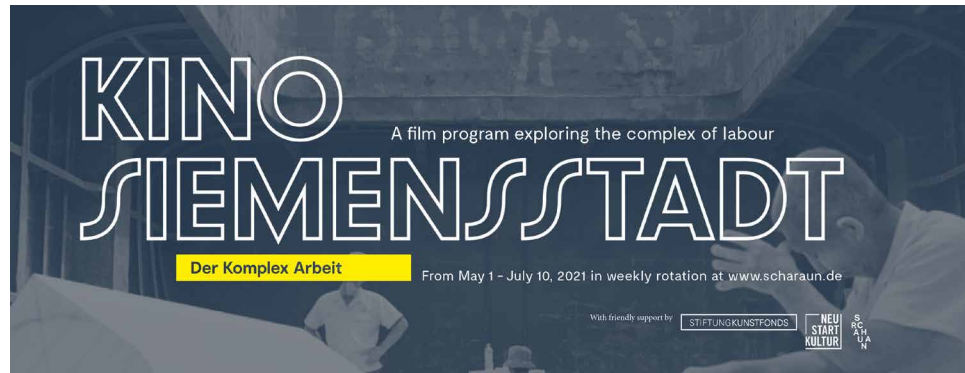


Scharaun presents:



Filipa César
Chen Chieh-jen
Melanie Smith
Wendelien van Oldenborgh

The ten-weeks online series KINO SIEMENSSTADT - The Complex of Labour gives artists the opportunity to reflect on the subject of 'work' through selected films and videos:

Celine Berger, Hartmut Bitomsky, Chen Chieh-jen, Chto Delat, Jeremy Deller, Justine Emard, Antje Engelman, Harun Farocki, Alex Gerbaulet, Assaf Gruber, Hulda Rós Gudnadottir, Laura Horelli, Mikhail Karikis, Eléonore de Montesquiou, Hira Nabi, Wendelien van Oldenborgh, Adrian Paci, Cora Piantoni, Anette Rose, Romana Schmalisch & Robert Schlicht, Melanie Smith, Caspar Stracke, Jean-Marie Straub & Danièle Huillet, Pilvi Takala, Clemens von Wedemeyer, Ina Wudtke and more

Program #8
19 June – 26 June, 2021

www.scharaun.de

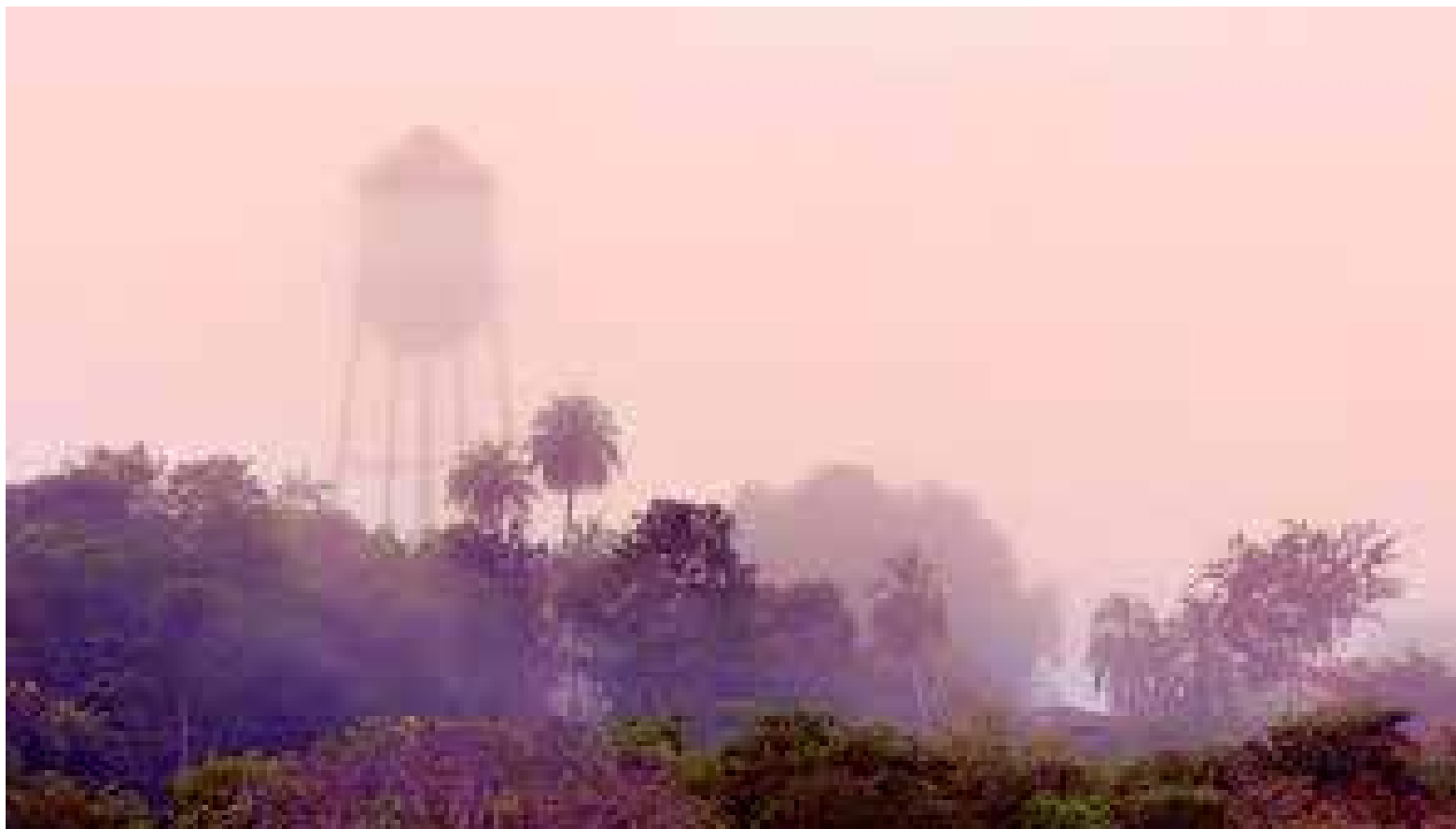
In program #8 *KINO SIEMENSSTADT The Complex of Labour* the four films are leading once around the globe and demonstrate on the basis of selected stages, both the impact and conditions of the textile industry and the West African cultural technique of weaving, Wendelien van Oldenborgh and Filipa César as well as the decline and decay of the rubber industry and textile factories in Brazil, Melanie Smith and in Taiwan, Chen Chieh-jen. In the 1920s, Henry Ford established a rubber industry on the Tapajos River in the Brazilian Amazon, that was doomed to failure due to the harsh natural conditions. The artist Melanie Smith visited this place almost a hundred years later and captured the relationship between industrial and natural landscape in striking images in her film *Fordlandia* (2014). *Pertinho de Alphaville* (2010) by Wendelien van Oldenborgh was made in collaboration with a group of women who work in various capacities in a jeans factory near Alphaville São Paulo. The background of the film project are the massive strikes in the industries of São Paulo in the late 1970s and the reflections of the female textile workers on their working conditions. Filipa César's 40-minute film *Quantum Creole* (2020) combines the West African cultural technique of weaving in Guinea-Bissau with their particular ability to weave encoded messages of resistance against the languages and technologies of the colonialists into textiles. Today, the face of colonization manifests itself as a digital image: the new Terra Nullius is an ultra-liberal free trade zone on the Bissagos archipelago. The 16-mm silent film *Factory* (2003) by Chen Chieh-jen from Taiwan portrays a group of female workers reenacting their tasks in an abandoned garment factory where they were formerly employed. Factory was filmed after many industries were relocated overseas to reduce labor costs and the workers were illegally laid off, with no severance pay or pension benefits.

Melanie Smith - Fordlandia, 2014, 30 min

Wendelien van Oldenborgh - Pertinho de Alphaville, 2010, 23 min

Filipa César - Quantum Creole, 2020, 40 min

Chen Chieh-jen - Factory, 2003, 31 min, without sound



Melanie Smith - Fordlandia, 2014, 30 min.

Fordlandia is a small settlement on the River Tapajos in the Brazilian part of the Amazon, where Henry Ford set up a rubber industry in the 1920's. Mainly due to the resistance of nature the project failed and was abandoned some twenty years later. The film *Fordlandia* (2014) is a voyage of (de)colonization whereby the drifts and detours of modernity in uncertain places are highlighted, turning away from whatever their historical imaginaries were. The tensions between industrial and natural landscape are leveled off in a certain horizontality of hierarchies between form and content, and at the same time the animal resignifies possibilities for the community of the living.



Wendelien van Oldenborgh - *Pertinho de Alphaville*, 2010, 23 min

In *Pertinho de Alphaville* (2010) by Wendelien van Oldenborgh the massive strikes in the São Paulo industries of the late 70's form a background for reflecting today's changing conditions of labour and the effect this has on the contemporary "self". As its point of departure, the film takes the circular relationships between women, labour, public voice and cultural production. *Pertinho de Alphaville* is made in collaboration with a group of women with various roles within a jeans factory near Alphaville SP. Their stories, readings and performance are shared and filmed on location in Teatro Oficina and in the Wearplay Factory. Video material from this active encounter has been transferred to slides and edited into a montage of interrelating dialogues and scenes.



Filipa César - Quantum Creole, 2020, 40 min

The installation *Quantum Creole* by Filipa César, first shown at the Forum Expanded of the Berlinale in 2020, combines the West African cultural techniques of weaving with their unique possibility to weave encoded messages of resistance against the languages and technologies of the colonialists into textiles. The 40 min film *Quantum Creole* (2020), in its title a reference to the smallest physical unit in any interaction - the quantum, uses various forms of imaging and research to read the subversive potential of weaving as a creole code. Today, the face of colonization manifests itself as a digital image: the new Terra Nullius is an ultra-liberal free trade zone on the Guinea-Bissau Bissagos archipelago. It marks the continuation of the violence that erupted there centuries ago with the creation of slave-trading posts, when the place was still called Rivers of Guinea and Cape Verde.



Chen Chieh-jen - *Factory*, 2003, 31 min, without sound

The silent 16mm film *Factory* (2003) by Chen Chieh-jen captures a group of women workers reenacting their duties in an abandoned garment factory where they had formerly been employed. The work was made after many industries were moved abroad to reduce personnel costs and workers laid off unlawfully, without severance or pension payments. Intercut with clips appropriated from propaganda ads, *Factory* scrutinises the expressions and gestures of the women as they work, as well as the sculptural assemblies of dusty tables, chairs and other objects lingering in the space.