

KINO SIEMENSSTADT

THE IMAGE OF THE CITY IN THE CINEMATIC SPACE

**Film program with
contributions by:**

Filipa César
Ofir Feldman
Nina Fischer & Maroan el Sani
Andy Graydon
Dani Gal
Claire Hooper
Nina Könnemann
Korpys/Loeffler
Knut Klassen & Carsten Krohn
Sophie Nys
Anja Kirschner & David Panos
Mario Pfeifer
Anri Sala
Amie Siegel
Verena von Beckerath
Shingo Yoshida
Tobias Zielony

From May 29 till August 21, 2020 in
weekly rotation at www.scharaun.de

Curated by Olaf Stüber
and Jaro Straub



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In a twelve-week online program, the series KINO SIEMENSSTADT engages with the question of how the themes of space and architecture are reflected in artists' films and video art today. How does contemporary art succeed in translating urban history and stories into moving images and to what extent can it further the current discourse on (historical) architecture, even and particularly when its intentions reach beyond the purely documentary?

The title KINO SIEMENSSTADT refers to the former film theatre at Nonnendammallee 96 in the direct vicinity of SCHARAUN – Interdisciplinary Project Space for Art and Architecture. As one of two cinemas in Berlin Siemensstadt, it was one of the few entertainment facilities for Siemens workers and their families from 1931 to 1962. Films are no longer shown here today. Like so many cinemas, it had to make way for other purposes: presently, the textile discount chain KIK offers its goods there.

The scenario of endangered or even perishing cinemas has existed longer than Corona. Even before the pandemic, movie theatres were reporting striking declines not only regarding the numbers of visitors but also the quality of films. Over its course, the shutdown seems to have amplified this trend in recent weeks: some of the new productions didn't even take the "detour" via cinemas but opened directly as streams on Netflix and Co instead. The Siemensstadt cinema will certainly not be the last of its kind forced to yield to discount chains.

Meanwhile, the art scene and not least SCHARAUN with KINO SIEMENSSTADT are opening up to new experimental realms in the face of restricted access to real-world exhibition spaces and the no longer existent movie theatre, in an attempt to determine whether the presentation of art is also possible on the Internet as a simulation of cinema. The moving image – artistic film and video – seems particularly appropriate, seeing that consumers have grown increasingly accustomed to streaming services in recent years. Nonetheless, the question remains: does this really work in the art context?

To find out, Jaro Straub, director of Project Space SCHARAUN, invited Olaf Stüber to collaborate on programming a series with a special – and obvious – focus on architecture and the city.

The series opens on Friday 29th May at 6 pm with two films by Anri Sala. "Long Sorrow" from 2005, filmed on the 18th floor of a residential build-

ing in Berlin's Märkisches Viertel, creates a cinematic sightline to Berlin-Siemensstadt's modernist settlement architecture where SCHARAUN is based. The films will be available online at www.scharaun.de for six days, before the countdown to the next program sets in.

Films by Filipa César, Ofir Feldman, Nina Fischer & Maroan el Sani, Dani Gal, Andy Graydon, Claire Hooper, Anja Kirschner & David Panos, Nina Könnemann, Knut Klassen & Carsten Krohn, Korpys/Loeffler, Sophie Nys, Mario Pfeifer, Anri Sala, Amie Siegel, Verena von Beckerath, Shingo Yoshida and Tobias Zielony are scheduled to follow in a weekly cycle until the end of August.

At the end of August 2020, SCHARAUN will present a selection of the works previously featured online in a "real space" installation setting. Including its own space, the Infostation Siemensstadt and various other locations, the online experiences will thus be reflected upon against the backdrop of a presentation with a physical audience, a collective viewing experience and direct encounters with the represented works.

KINO SIEMENSSTADT runs from 29 May 2020 – 21 August 2020

About Scharaun

SCHARAUN is an interdisciplinary project space for art and architecture in Berlin-Siemensstadt. The exhibition space was founded in August 2017 by the visual artist Jaro Straub and is located in a 1930s housing estate planned and built by the Berlin architect Hans Scharoun for workers of the surrounding Siemens factories.

Scharoun himself lived and worked in an apartment in the building from 1930 to 1960. As part of the so-called "Ringsiedlung", the residential complex has been recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site for ten years and is widely considered as a model of Neues Bauen.

SCHARAUN is currently funded within the framework of the Berlin Senate's two-year basic funding for project spaces.



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About Olaf Stüber

Known through the video and artist film series VIDEOART AT MIDNIGHT, which he has been running together with the collector Ivo Wessel for more than ten years, Olaf Stüber is one of the most profound experts of the Berlin video art scene. For more than twenty years he has been active in the art world as a gallery owner, curator, editor and speaker. In 2003, he began focussing on the moving image in his gallery programme, making him one of the few gallery owners at the time to take on artists' films and videos.

www.olafstueber.de

About Jaro Straub

Jaro Straub is a visual artist, working in the fields of photography, installation and architecture. Since 2017 he has been the artistic director of the project space SCHARAUN in Berlin-Siemensstadt featuring exhibitions on art and architecture. Straub organised the series "Kunst/Kino" - Art/Cinema with Gregor Stemmerich at the UdK Berlin (1999), he was an artist-in-residence at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, Los Angeles from 2002 to 2003. Jaro Straub initiated the exhibition series "Verschollene" (collages by Hannah Höch) together with Martin G. Schmid at Scharaun (2018), the Shedhalle Zurich (2019), the MEWO Kunsthalle Memmingen (2019/20) and the Kunstverein Pforzheim (2021).

www.scharaun.de