



Lab 80 film



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MEETINGS: CINEMA AND CONTEMPORARY ART

NATHALIE DJURBERG AND HANS BERG RITES OF PASSAGE

Bergamo, March 9 - 31, 2019

Sala alla Porta Sant'Agostino - Via della Fara

Opening event: Friday March 8, 6.30PM

NATHALIE DJURBERG AND HANS BERG MEET THE AUDIENCE

March 9, 3.30PM

Cinema San Marco - Piazzale della Repubblica, 2

The section of BFM37 dedicated to the contaminations between cinema and contemporary art will offer a close-up look on the work of **Nathalie Djurberg** and **Hans Berg**, a Swedish duo awarded with the Leone d'Argento at the 2009 Venice Biennale. Promoted by the City of Bergamo and curated by Bergamo Film Meeting in collaboration with The Blank and Lab 80 film, the exhibition ***Nathalie Djurberg and Hans Berg. Rites of Passage*** will bring the fantastic worlds of the two artists to life in the sixteenth century spaces of Porta Sant'Agostino.

For the first time, the duo will present a personal exhibition in Bergamo. The partnership between Nathalie Djurberg and Hans Berg began in 2004; their work is presented in large immersive installations, bizarre landscapes populated by people, animals and plants portraying the impulses and contradictions of the human soul.

Curated by Stefano Raimondi and Claudia Santeroni, the exhibition develops around a large projection and, at the same time, shows the sculptural research carried out by the artists in which the works *Sunrise* and *Sunset* emphasize the flow of time and the dynamism of an ordinary day through the use of space, playing with the historical significance of the Porta Sant'Agostino, a place of passage and transit called in time to

mark the moments of the day through the opening and closing of the gate. Within a scenic set-up, which highlights the lighting dimension, the presence of important video works gives the viewer the opportunity to explore the research and evolution of the artistic and cinematographic language of the creative duo. Three videos have been selected by artists and curators, through the inspiration of the Gate. All the videos metaphorically tell *how to find a crossing*: the secret inside the house (*Dark Side of the Moon*, 2017); the maze in the corridors (*One Need Not be a House, The Brain Has Corridors*, 2018); the ritual of the passage (*Am I Allowed To Step On This Nice Carpet*, 2018). The video installations portray the dynamics of contemporary society, attributing animalistic gestures to humans and anthropomorphizing the animal world: an expedient that creates a disturbance in the narrative pact between film and viewer, inevitably triggering a reflection. Like the sculptures on show, the characters in the videos are made by plasticine, clay, iron wire and painted canvas by Nathalie Djurberg: they are continuously shaped and modelled in order to shoot the images that make up the individual frames of the movies, shot according to the stop-motion technique. The contrast between the moldability of the creatures and the stillness of the image frames creates a short circuit that opens the door to that explosion of contrasting sensations that we have witnessed for each of the videos: a disorientation made even stronger by Hans Berg's soundtracks, in which the musical notes are often hypnotically repeated.

Nathalie Djurberg and Hans Berg will meet the festival audience on **Saturday March 9, 3:30PM** at **Cinema San Marco**. During the event, a selection of video works will be available, allowing visitors to learn, through the words of the protagonists, the main implications related to their work.

NATHALIE DJURBERG AND HANS BERG

Nathalie Djurberg (Lysekil, Sweden - 1978) and Hans Berg (Rättvik, Sweden - 1978) live and work in Berlin. In 2009, they participated in the 53rd Venice Biennale "Fare Mondi", winning the Silver Lion. Their works were at the centre of solo exhibitions in the most important artistic institutions, including the Moderna Museet in Stockholm, the Kunsthalle in Frankfurt, the MART in Trento and Rovereto, the Tate Britain in London, the PICA in Perth, the Moscow Garage and the Walker Art Center of Minneapolis. Their works can also be found in public collections such as: Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Kunsthaus Zuerich, Zurich; Malmö Konstmuseum, Malmö; Moderna Museet, Stockholm; MoMA - Museum of Modern Art, New York; Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane; Borås Konstmuseum, Borås; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York.

The exhibition is promoted by the City of Bergamo and curated by Bergamo Film Meeting, The Blank and Lab 80 film. In collaboration with Gió Marconi (Milan) and the contribution of Dielle Ceramiche Spa.

Bergamo Film Meeting

Now at its 37th edition, Bergamo Film Meeting is an international film festival and a privileged place for researching and comparing trends in contemporary cinema with the styles, genres and authors of the past. Every year, the festival offers over 150 films, including tributes, retrospectives and restorations of great classics, which act as a counterpoint to the features of up-and-coming filmmakers, the documentaries, the latest trends in animation cinema. Thanks to the many collaborations, the festival also indulges in forays into other forms of artistic expression, from music to literature, comics and visual arts. Supported and promoted by the European Union through the MEDIA sub-program of Creative Europe, Bergamo Film Meeting is one of the most anticipated cultural events in the city and one of the most important film festivals in the international circuit: an opportunity for interactions and knowledge, analysis and research.

The Blank

The Blank is a cultural association founded in Bergamo in 2010, with the mission of spreading and broadening the passion and curiosity towards contemporary art. The Blank was awarded in 2016 as best independent Italian reality by i7 / MAXXI, National Museum of the XXI Century Arts in Rome and, in 2018, was among the winners of Italian Council, the main project of the Italian Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities. The Blank brings together and promotes the cultural realities of the Bergamo area: institutions, museums, project spaces, artists, collectors, cultural operators. Among the main activities that the association organizes annually are the artist residency project "The Blank Residency" and the ArtDate Festival, recognized for the quality of its program by the European Community EFFE - Europe for Festivals platform. Among the artists with whom The Blank collaborated during these years of activity are: Guido Van der Werve, Jonas Mekas, Brendan Lynch, Adelita Husny-Bey, Salvatore Arancio, Andrea Mastrovito, Josh Tonsfeldt, Jonathan Monk, Cecile B. Evans, Dan Rees, Franco Vaccari.

The collaboration between The Blank and Bergamo Film Meeting began in 2013 with the format *The Blank Kitchen - A dinner with the artist* (which, over the years, offered a variety of culinary meetings with directors **Regina Pessoa, Valentin Hotea, Giacomo Abbruzzese**) and with the screening of several short film selections. On the occasion of its 34th edition, Bergamo Film Meeting in collaboration with The Blank hosted, for the first time in Italy, *Books on Shelves and Without Letters*, an environmental video-installation by Lithuanian artist **Deimantas Narkevičius** and a retrospective dedicated to the video-art works of **Keren Cytter**, from Israel. 2017 featured the solo exhibition of artist **Franco Vaccari** while, in 2018, the two institutions collaborated in the creation of the solo exhibition dedicated to **Jonas Mekas**.

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NATHALIE DJURBERG AND HANS BERG. RITES OF PASSAGE

Bergamo, March 9 - 31, 2019 | Sala alla Porta Sant'Agostino - Via della Fara

From March 9 to 17: Mon. - Fri. 3:30PM - 7:30PM | sat. - Sun. 11:00AM - 7:30PM | Free admission

From March 18 to 31: closed on Monday and Tuesday; same opening hours and admission

Opening event: Friday March 8, 6.30PM

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