

THE ARTS+ III

in cooperation with
Biennial of the
Moving Image 2019

B3/THE ARTS+ 2019: Focus REALITIES In search of Reality

(Frankfurt/Main, September 9, 2019)

Moving images are with us everywhere and at any time. According to recent studies, people in Germany spend an average of more than five hours a day with moving images. On YouTube, more than a billion hours of video footage are viewed worldwide every day. In addition to media and communication, moving images are increasingly conquering public space and the arts.

Every two years since 2013, the B3 Biennial of the Moving Image in Frankfurt Rhine-Main has devoted itself precisely to these developments, becoming a central international hotspot for creative minds from the fields of art, TV/film, web, games, VR/AR and artificial intelligence. Art exhibitions, installations, screenings and conference programs at B3 have since attracted around 800,000 visitors worldwide, including those reached at international offshoots.

Within a new framework, the B3 2019 will once again comprehensively document the current state and future of the moving image industries - technologically and artistically, but also in regards to their socio-political relevance and economic perspectives. The B3 and THE ARTS+ are entering a strategic cooperation, tailoring their programs during the Frankfurt Book Fair in order to complement one another. For example, the renowned leading exhibition, the heart of B3, will find its place in the middle of the THE ARTS+ area in Hall 4.1. Exclusive film premieres, special screenings and previews on the REALITIES theme will take place in Frankfurt's movie theater CINEMA, the official B3 festival cinema at Rossmarkt.

The cooperation also involves a change of schedule: B3/THE ARTS+ takes place annually.

As the world's largest media fair, the Frankfurt Book Fair is a powerful multiplier, offering the new creative duo the best conditions for the dissemination and professionalization of knowledge, even beyond its core industry. With its modules Festival, Parcours, Leading Exhibition, Film Program, Market and Campus, the B3 in turn presents a broad range of events that promote the discourse and networking of experts and young talents from the fields of art, film, virtual and augmented reality, technology, science and related fields.

As the B3s most prominent supporter, the Hessian Ministry of Science and the Arts welcomes these new developments. Says Minister Angela Dorn, "Every October, Frankfurt becomes the hub of the media world, so to speak. Top events such as the Frankfurt Book Fair, the Hessian Film and Cinema Prize and the new highlight B3/THE ARTS+ are a powerful proof of this. Multifaceted and profound, they draw attention to Hessen as a prime location for the arts and the media, boosting the reputation of the state's unique infrastructure in the fields of arts and science. Individuals and companies are invited to conduct research here, to develop ideas and products, to produce them, exhibit the results, invest in existing businesses and start new ones. When the world's most creative minds meet in Frankfurt, they set free a lot of energy that can also benefit local artists and media professionals."

Professor Bernd Kracke, President of Hochschule für Gestaltung (hfg) Offenbach and Artistic Director of the B3, sees a great potential for development: "B3/THE ARTS+ sees itself as an international platform for important artistic and socio-political debates on the major issues of our time. The B3 expands the scope of the festival by including artistic positions, analyses and visions. This alliance will create transdisciplinary synergies for participants from the fields of art, culture, technology, science, politics and business. Further, new networks and projects are going to grow. Last not least, a more complete view of the (digital) future will emerge."

B3 /THE ARTS+

October 15 to 20, 2019

Focus REALITIES

Video art, film, immersion, games and XR, KI

B3 leading exhibition and B3 festival

Frankfurt Book Fair, Hall 4.1.

B3 film program

B3 festival cinema CINEMA Frankfurt

B3 Leading Exhibition REALITIES

The B3 leading exhibition is the heart of the B3 Biennial of the Moving Image. This year, the makers of the B3 have developed various program sections under the guiding theme REALITIES, illustrated in the categories immersion, VR, film and artificial intelligence. As part of the leading exhibition, various B3 cooperation partners will also present their programs. FILM LONDON presents this year's contenders for the JARMAN AWARD as well as newcomers from the FLAMIN PROGRAMM. The GENEVA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL shows a number of outstanding VR premieres.

Selected Highlights

World Premiere: 5 MEDITATIONS ON DEATH

The 5-channel film installation *5 MEDITATIONS ON DEATH* is an artistic and very personal exploration of the theme of death by German filmmaker Nico Weber – a poetic narrative composed of five chapters, disturbing and tender at once.

European Premiere: Immersive Stage from New York

The central focal point of the 800 square meter exhibition area is the walk-in large-scale installation by New York artist collective *3-Legged Dog*. Up to 90 spectators can be present simultaneously in the approx. 150 sqm. immersive installation. For the first time in Europe, three international artists from the 3-Legged Dog pool will present their current works on this interactive performance platform.

Dirtscraper is a room-sized virtual reality game by digital media artist Peter Burr (USA). It simulates a post-apocalyptic future in which people live in a huge, multi-layered underground complex whose life is determined by the strange moods of artificial intelligence.

In his generative installation *analmosh*, artist Matt Romein (USA) creates a dynamic audio-visual landscape in which images, sounds, colors, and graphics are repeatedly distorted and remixed under program control.

Esperpento (Monstrosity) by Victor Morales (USA) is a digital 3D performance inspired by the aesthetic vision of the Spanish painter Francisco Goya. Using VR and AR techniques, a visually charged digital mediation about the rejection of the other and the dehumanization of the stranger emerges.

KI Reveals Identities

Chinese artist Fei Jun, Associate Professor at the Digital Media Lab of the China Central Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA) Beijing, is presenting his interactive installation *Interesting World* (2019) for the first time in Germany. It celebrated its premiere in the Chinese Pavilion at this year's Venice Biennale and is based on an AI-controlled categorization system developed by Fei and a group of engineers that uses information from Google Maps. The AI captures the emotions and faces of the audience to derive elements of their identity.

Lena Chen & Molly Barber – A Struggle for Identity

She was one of the first victims of so-called "revenge porn". In 2007, her boyfriend posted intimate photos of her on the Internet, resulting in years of stalking, cyber-bullying and mental anguish for feminist artist and blogger Lena Chen. Years later in Berlin, she has created a new life as her alter ego, Elle Peril. Working as a nude model, spoken word artist and performer, she attempts to regain sovereignty over her body and her identity.

When au pair and photographer Molly Barber arrives to Berlin and finds Lena Chen on the verge of a mental breakdown, a friendship forms based on mutual artistic endeavours and longing for estranged lovers. Witnessed by the queer female gaze, this jointly produced memoir challenges the power relations between men and women, artist and muse, voyeur

and exhibitionist, perpetrator and victim. As each character grapples for control of the narrative, *Expose Her* reveals how lies of omission can conceal the darkest of truths.

World Premiere: Cyril Tuschi – Interactive and Social

The new XR technologies VR, AR, and MR are massively changing our ways of storytelling and our understanding of stories, films, and games. Director and VR entrepreneur Cyril Tuschi is presenting his project *Vonderland* at B3. Its goal is to merge prime film and games content with VR and AR story worlds across all media platforms via *Vonderland Dreamdecks*, thus creating interactive adventures for the whole family. Tracked objects, full body avatars, warmth, wind and smells will be used in order to create an ideal immersive experience to be shared with others.

B3 Film Program Features Many Premieres

The films shown during the B3 deal with the focus of REALITIES in a variety of ways. A total of 12 feature films and selected TV series, including numerous German premieres, will be judged by the audience and a professional jury. All screenings will take place at Cinema Art-house Frankfurt. Renowned film journalist Knut Elstermann will host the film program and talk with directors and actors who are present at the screenings.

On October 15, opening night of the B3, we will screen *Out Stealing Horses*. The film version of Per Petterson's bestseller of the same name was part of the Berlinale's main competition and won the Silver Bear.

Selected Highlights

B3 Opening Film "Out Stealing Horses" (Norway 2019)

Director: Hans Petter Moland

November of 1999. Trond Sander is 67 years old. After the death of his wife, he has retired from Oslo to a small village in the east of Norway. The millennium is coming to an end and with it, it seems, also Trond's life. One winter night he suddenly recognizes his neighbour Lars, an old acquaintance from his youth. The encounter brings back memories of 1948. Amidst the breathtaking mountain and river landscape between Norway and Sweden, Hans Petter Moland stages a drama about love, loss and disappointment, about lifelong traumas and feelings of guilt. Based on Per Petterson's award-winning novel, the film also addresses the Norwegian Nazi past. The oscillation between collaboration and resistance has also influenced private decisions and is an indelible part of Trond's childhood memories.

German Premiere „God of the Piano“ (Israel 2019)

Director: Italy Tal

Upon learning that her baby son is deaf, concert pianist Anat succumbs to extreme measures hoping her child can survive in her musically-savvy family and grow up to become the famous composer her father has always dreamed of. Both a moral parable and a thriller, the Israeli film *God of the Piano* tells of false parental ambitions, abuse, and an overpowering father.

German Premiere „The Wall of Mexico“ (USA/Mexico 2019)

Directors: Magdalena Zyzak, Zachary Cotler

This political comedy is set in small-town America, with the only Mexican family in town happening to be also the richest. To keep the neighbors from stealing water from their well, the family wants to build a big wall around their farm.

German Premiere „ADAM“ (USA 2019)

Director: Rhys Ernst

Clumsy Adam Freeman (Nicholas Alexander) has just finished his first year at high school - in 2006. When his cool older sister Casey (Margaret Qualley) suggests he can visit her in New York for the summer, Adam dreams of meeting a girl and finally gaining some life experience. His fantasy doesn't come true as expected. Casey lives happily amidst Brooklyn's young LGBTQ community and invites Adam to follow her to queer bars, rallies for equal marriage and other events. When Adam meets Gillian (Bobbi Salvör Menuez), a clever, beautiful young woman in this new crowd, she falsely suspects he's trans. Drunk and in love, he unfortunately responds to her confusion, leading to an increasingly complex comedy - and tragedy - of situations Adam wasn't prepared for.

German Premiere „My little one“ (Switzerland 2019)

Directors: Frédéric Choffat, Julie Gilbert

Alex and Bernardo, both fortyish, receive an urgent call from Jade - an American woman they both loved to the point of madness. The two friends, who had parted ways long ago, suddenly find themselves in the middle of the Navajo area in the USA. While Frida, Jade's wild and cheeky daughter, confronts them with the harsh reality of the Arizona desert, the two men do not suspect that their perception of love, life, and death will change forever.

B3 Premiere „TITO“ (Canada 2019)

Director: Grace Glowicki

Tito is trapped. He has black hair, sideburns, and an emergency whistle dangling from his neck. He is so scared that cold shivers run down his back. Every attempt to go out is met with the danger of elusive predators chasing him relentlessly. Tito yearns for food and safety, his terrorizing existence threatens to overwhelm him - until the sudden arrival of a happy intruder offering breakfast and shelter... TITO is a story about robbery, friendship and fear, told through a wildly inventive and expressive new vision.

B3 Premiere „Glossary of Broken Dreams“ (Austria 2018)

Director: Johannes Grenzfurthner

In his essay documentary, self-described *Lumpennerd* Johannes Grenzfurthner uses a variety of aesthetic forms to reflect on political concepts. Everyone talks about freedom! Privacy! Identity! They palaver about resistance! The market! And the left! But Grenzfurthner can no longer bear all these ignorant and factually offensive comments on the Internet! Supported by the writer Ishan Raval he explains and evaluates the golden calves of the political discourse anew - perhaps to sacrifice them in the end.

B3 Focus on VR

VR_PARK Features Many Premieres

The B3 leading exhibition purposely addresses the trend theme of VR. Against the background of the B3 guiding theme REALITIES, narration and emotion, illusion and simulation meet in this medium in a special way, digitally challenging our understanding of reality. The majority of the 20 works shown are world, European or German premieres. The main partner for the VR_PARK is European cultural broadcaster ARTE, presenting a selection of works on surprisingly new readings of well-known works of art and art movements as well as on immersive sound experiences. In addition, there are projects that address contemporary history and social issues. Further participants of VR_PARK are the Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences and the Zurich University of the Arts ZHdK. The B3 VR_PARK is supported by [experimente#digital](#) - a cultural initiative of the Aventis Foundation.

Projects by ARTE

Accused #2 Walter Sisulu

Recently, valuable recordings from the Rivonia process were rediscovered and digitized by the French Institut National de l'Audiovisuel (INA). The recordings, a total of 256 hours of material, bring the political struggle of Nelson Mandela and his eight co-defendants back to life. The film focuses on the statements of Walter Sisulu, defendant no. 2, who became a hero of the anti-apartheid movement. The 360° documentary with illustrations by Oerd Van Cuijlenborg and impressive surround sound is based on these original sound recordings. The audience experiences the disputes between defendants, prosecutors and judges from the audience bench of the courtroom.

-22.7°C - A Sound Experience from the Eternal Ice

-22.7°C is an immersive experience inspired by a journey of French musician Molécule to the Arctic Circle. The spectators witness a creative process in a region of extremes and discover an inhospitable world of mystical sounds and vibrations in the Arctic.

I Saw The Future - A Voice from the Air

In 1964, British physicist and science fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke drew his picture of the future in a BBC television programme. Clarke, who co-wrote Stanley Kubrick's screenplay for *2001: Odyssey in Space*, predicted the upheavals of the digital revolution with amazing accuracy. Clarke's futuristic visions and the BBC's archival images have been processed into a fascinating journey through time in this 360° film. The immersive experience is available in the ARTE360 VR app for Android, iOS and GearVR.

The Sun by Edvard Munch

The pictures by Norwegian painter Edvard Munch pay homage to "the eternal forces of life". While he explores the dark side of human existence in his world-famous painting *The Scream*, Munch traces his fascination for light as the source of all life in his masterpiece *The Sun*. This VR project reveals the story behind the artwork, telling of Munch's enthusiasm for light and light experiments and conveying his "almost religious relationship to light".

The Scream

The Scream by Edvard Munch is omnipresent: The face distorted by despair and anguish of the soul occupies people so much that it has even become the emoji for fear. But do you really know the cult painting? VR glasses allow viewers an unprecedented confrontation with the famous painting, which becomes a spectacular immersion into the tormented soul of the artist.

Das Totale Tanz Theater 360 - 360° Music Video Celebrates 100 Years of Bauhaus

The question of the role of man in the mechanized age was discussed artistically and experimentally at the Bauhaus 100 years ago. *Das Totale Tanz Theater* addresses the issue by exploring the relationship between man and machine in the digital age in the form of a virtual reality dance experience. Inspired by the stage experiments of Oskar Schlemmer and Walter Gropius' ideas on total theatre, with a choreography by Richard Siegal. A project of the Interactive Media Foundation and Filmtank in cooperation with ARTE/ZDF, co-created by Artificial Rome, supported by the "Fonds Bauhaus heute" of the Kulturstiftung des Bundes and the Medienboard Berlin Brandenburg.

Reasons to Stay - The Struggle of the Nuba in Sudan

In the remote Nuba Mountains of Sudan, a whole generation of young men and women are growing up in the midst of a war ignored by the West. Thousands have already fled the war. This is the story of those who have remained.

Additional VR works

INCITEMENT (Netherlands/France 2019, Director: Wiebe van den Ende)

A little insight into the life of the endearing protagonists Sara and Luis. We discover their inner thoughts that hide behind what is spoken. Virtual reality is the ultimate medium to enable the viewer to truly experience the intimacy of this couple from a person's perspective and to hear their inner thoughts.

GYMNASIA (Canada 2019, Directors: Chris Lavis, Maciek Szczerbowski)

FELIX AND PAUL, one of the world's largest VR studios from Canada, presents the project *GYMNASIA: A Deep Dive into Stop-Motion Animation in Virtual Reality*. The six-minute VR experience mixes stereoscopic 360-degree footage with stop-motion animation and computer-generated graphics. Viewers enter the ruins of a school where they are confronted with ghostly memories of a lost childhood. The VR film is supposed to appear like a "dark dream". Further works by FELIX AND PAUL will be shown in a small retrospective.

B3 Festival: Revolution, Innovation and Realities

Under the motto "Revolution, Innovation and Realities", the B3 Festival conference program will address key issues such as financing and creativity or the influence of XR technologies on moving image narration.

Currently, four events are planned that deal with economic issues, both for the computer games industry and for other media genres. Among others, Michael Liebe (Booster Space), Jeremy Chan (Aurora Media), Jeremy Sim (Mistletoe) and film producer Sten Saluveer (EST) will discuss whether the increasing dependence on financial support, whether public or private, will not ultimately reduce creativity and restrict artistic freedom.

Games experts Malte Behrmann and André Bernhardt will provide information on the opportunities and risks of state funding and targeted marketing. Behrmann is Professor of Business Communication at the BWL University in Berlin and author of the highly acclaimed textbook *In der Innovationsfalle: Überlegungen zu einer zukunftsfähigen Innovationsförderung (In the Innovation Trap: Considerations on Sustainable Innovation Promotion)*. Bernhardt (IndieAdvisor & Company) has been advising and supporting young studios that are capable of development with know-how and a network in terms of financing, marketing, professionalisation and visibility for years.

B3 Parcours: Places of Longing and Illusory Worlds

With its B3 Parcours, the B3 is expanding its sphere of activity into the Rhine-Main region. Here, important cultural institutions participate with their own contributions to the REALITIES focus. The B3 Parcours has been supported by the Kulturfonds Frankfurt RheinMain since 2013. 2019: Cinema Frankfurt, Kunsthalle Darmstadt, Museum Sinclair-Haus, Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden as well as the Cluster of Excellence "The Formation of Normative Orders" at the Goethe University Frankfurt/Main will participate.

Museum Sinclair-Haus, Bad Homburg

In the exhibition *Illusion Nature. Digital Worlds* from 10 November 2019 to 2 February 2020, artists are approaching the theme of "nature" with digital compositions, creating virtual places of longing. They explore the boundaries between reality and image, questioning human perception of the world. What is real? One of the questions to which the guiding theme of the B3 Biennial of the Moving Image 2019 REALITIES gives ample room. As part of the B3's Parcours program, a discussion with Wolf Lieser of DAM (Berlin), and Bianca Schwarz of hr2-kultur will take place at the Museum Sinclair-Haus on 27 November 2019.

Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden

As part of B3, the Nassauischer Kunstverein Wiesbaden is showing Rachel Maclean's first solo exhibition in Germany. In three video and VR installations, Maclean comments on the political and social situation in Great Britain in the context of his impending departure from the European Union. In her cinematic and photographic works, current political and social problems are transferred into satirically exaggerated, colorful illusory worlds. Maclean works with green screens, computer animations, digital post-production and collage-like use of audio material from popular culture in a playful confrontation with current challenges.

Kunsthalle Darmstadt

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary program of the Bauhaus, the international group exhibition *Bauhaus and Photography. On a New Vision in Contemporary Art* (29 September 2019 - 01 January 2020) examines how the experimental visual language of the Bauhaus artists continues to influence the further development of artistic strategies, especially photographic strategies. On show are works by thirteen established contemporary artists as well as students from the Darmstadt University of Applied Sciences and the Technical University of Nuremberg, which formally and content-wise tie in with the works of New Vision.

On October 17, filmmaker Nico Weber will be showing excerpts from her film series *Bauhaus Women* which was nominated for the Grimme Prize. Following the screening, she will meet Professor Anja Baumhoff, a pioneer of gender research who examines the distribution of gender roles at the Bauhaus.

Exzellenzcluster „The Formation of Normative Orders“

We live in a time of profound changes in normative orders - keywords are migration, climate change, populism, digitalization. How can such orders react to these challenges, and what does this mean for questions related to social cohesion, the future of democracy and international cooperation? The research network *Normative Orders* at the Goethe University Frankfurt am Main places the phenomena in a larger context of historical and transregional lines of development as well as normative considerations. For the B3, the two speakers of the interdisciplinary network, which cultivates a close connection to the arts and their own cognitive power, will devote themselves to the field of tension between reality, fiction and false consciousness. "Ach! About real fiction and fictional reality" is the title of Prof. Klaus Günther's lecture on 16 October, in which the jurist and legal philosopher talks about art as a place where the distinction between reality and fiction is played with in an irritating way. On 17 October, the political philosopher Rainer Forst will address the topic "In the Cave. On Reality and Power" and thus also the fight against ideological delusion.

B3 Biennial of the Moving Image

Since 2013, the B3 has become one of the central European hotspots for moving images, contemporary media art, innovative media developments and scientific discourse. In 2019, the B3 will take place for the first time in strategic cooperation with "THE ARTS+" at the Frankfurt Book Fair and at other selected venues in Frankfurt and the Rhine-Main region. Moving image and media professionals from all over the world will present their projects, works and views in exhibitions, screenings, conferences and other events from 15 to 20 October 2019 under the theme "REALITIES". The aim of the Biennial is, on the one hand, to create a broad interdisciplinary and cross-genre alliance for the moving image and, on the other hand, to offer the international creative and cultural industries an overarching platform for professional exchange. The organizer of the B3 Biennial of the Moving Image is the Hochschule für Gestaltung Offenbach (HfG). The B3 is supported by the Hessian Ministry of Science and Art (HMWK).

The latest information on the program and participants of the B3 can be found [here](#).

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