

FLORA FAIRBAIRN
PROJECTS

DUNKELHEIT



Curated by Annabelle Moreau and produced by Flora Fairbairn Projects

Alice Anderson • Kate McGwire • Liane Lang • Wolfe Lenkiewicz • Aishleen Lester
Petra Lisiecki • Annabelle Moreau • Nicola Pucci • Duncan Whitley

In 1959, the French director Marcel Camus relocated the Orpheic myth to modern day Brazilian Favelas for his celebrated Cannes debut, 'Black Orpheus'. Energized by the totally fresh rhythms of bossa nova, the film- set at the time of Carnival - presented an irresistible cinematic feast of sound, colour and image, promoting the idea of irrationality and instinct over reason, phantasy and imagination over reality.

The title of the exhibition comes from the German expression for darkness and obscurity, the inspiration being the Underworld of Greek mythology; the celebrated poem of Orpheus and Euridice and the 'total conceptual' vision of Wagnerian Romanticism which is itself based on the Greek ideal of the unity of music, colour, text and motion.

Alice Anderson's photographs display a Freudian imagination to convert themes of fairy-tale and myth into dark psychological journeys. Kate McGwire uses everyday objects to reflect the complexity of human life within the twilight zone between attraction and revulsion, reason and superstition. Annabelle Moreau's Zeusian starbursts entice the viewer into an illusionary world beyond the surface of painting. Aishleen Lester combines the language of mechanical objects with delicate subterranean forms - skins or 'husks' made of fabric and resin. Liane Lang's installation and photographic work makes use of life-like rubber dummies and props to examine the anatomy of the photograph for traces of the real and fictional. Wolfe Lenkiewicz's drawings combine religious symbolism and contemporary graphic vocabulary to create a deeply personal iconography. Petra Lisiecki's images are at home in the muddy gloom of St Pancras Crypt- her subtle operatic subjects draw, in stark *chiaroscuro*, an oppressively intense atmosphere from live performance. Nicola Pucci's paintings create an ironic tension between animal and human behaviour. Adapting material from a collaborative project with James Wyness, Duncan Whitley's sound installation emanates from beyond the walls of the crypt, creating an alternative dimension within the atmosphere of the other elements.

Stepping down into the labyrinth of St. Pancras Crypt these nine artists come together in *Dunkelheit*. The subterranean underworld brings to the surface the irrationality of the night - the supposed 'wolf hours' which inspire the same unencumbered atmosphere conjured by Wagner's romanticised and thoroughly impossible idyll and Camus' celebration of life.

Notes to editors:

Venue: The Crypt, St Pancras Church, Euston Road, London NW1 2BA (Dukes Rd entrance)

Private View: Monday 8th October, 6 – 9 pm

Exhibition dates: Tuesday 9th – Saturday 27th October 2007

Opening hours: Wednesdays to Saturdays, 12 – 6pm and also by appointment.

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