



press release

G2 Kunsthalle
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G2 #3

NARRATION

Thomas Taube

“Leipziger Jahresausstellung” Prize 2015
March 11 – April 3, 2016

In 2015, Thomas Taube was honoured with the Prize of the 22nd edition of the “Leipziger Jahresausstellung”. An expert jury chose Taube’s video installation DARK MATTERS (2014) with the following motivation: “Taube succeeds, in an aesthetically exact as well as suggestive manner, to condense the everyday life of a security guard into a universal symbol of the human condition. With virtuosic concentration the artist links questions of identity, the ubiquity of media and the ambivalence of observing and seeing. In result he creates a poetic as well as precise image of isolation in a connected world.”

In the award exhibition G2 Kunsthalle presents Taube's latest video piece NARRATION from 2016 as 6-channel installation with a length of 115 minutes. The film – featuring Ulrich Matthes in the role of the narrator – will be premiered at the opening of the exhibition at G2 Kunsthalle on 10 March 2016.

With NARRATION the artist, once again, succeeds in realising a project dedicated to a complex as well as universal topic. In NARRATION Taube explores the principle of narration not only in terms of artistic practice, yet also as a form of human communication. NARRATION is divided into six interrelated parts focusing on different aspects of its subject: setting, situation, narrator, approach, past, and construct. The film discusses the elements that make narratives in visual or literal form possible and mark every narrative structure in different ways. All six aspects of the term NARRATION are presented equally and simultaneously, but not in identical form. To emphasise their simultaneity and mutual

connection Taube presents his piece as a 6-channel installation, giving the viewers the opportunity to connect all parts of the film in regard to the images and content themselves, and thus to approach NARRATION in the most adequate form possible: as an exploration of the individual order of things that represent the basis of all fiction.

With NARRATION Taube achieves a work of complex references, that goes beyond the surface of formal, theoretical issues. In a highly focused manner NARRATION links issues of social relevance, such as the systematic exploitation of workers on arab building sites, with questions of awareness and the perception of (constructed) narratives in our everyday lives. Different languages and associated concepts – such as imagination and seeing – are interleaved into a well arranged field of associations. In Taube's work the "flow of images" becomes a symbol for the flux of visual concepts and the impossibility of them ever coming to a halt. The impact of the film is also due to the performance of its protagonists, who, at times far from playing a role, represent and reflect their own actions: the actor comes to represent the narrator on a stage.

The Prize of the 22nd edition of the "Leipziger Jahresausstellung" is awarded by the Sparkasse Leipzig, the Elke and the Thomas Loest Foundation and Doris Günther Foundation. The Prize of the year 2015 is dedicated to the Jewish banker Hans Kroch (1887–1970). The award includes a solo exhibition realized by Thomas Taube – the Prize winner of 2015 – in close collaboration with the G2 Kunsthalle Leipzig. The exhibition is generously supported with technical equipment by the Academy of Fine Arts Leipzig and Kunstkraftwerk Leipzig.



Thomas Taube, born 1984 in Munich, studied Media Arts in Leipzig at the classes of Günther Selichar and Clemens von Wedemeyer and in Braunschweig with Candice Breitz, receiving his degree in 2014. Since September 2014 Taube is "Meisterschüler" (postgraduate) at the class of Clemens von Wedemeyer, Academy of Fine Arts Leipzig; 2015 Prize "Leipziger Jahresausstellung"; 2016 International Studio and Curatorial Program New York fellowship from the Kulturstiftung des Freistaates Sachsen. NARRATION at the G2 Kunsthalle is Taube`s first institutional solo presentation.

Thomas Taube, NARRATION, 2016, 6-channel video installation, ca. 115 minutes (movie version: 86 minutes), actors: Ulrich Matthes, Pina Bergemann, Denis Petković, Hannes Lehmann, Eva Langkabel, Laust Frederiksen, Tjarko Bohlen a.o.

Parallel to the "Leipziger Jahresausstellung" award exhibition held at the G2 Kunsthalle, *maerzgalerie* presents the videowork DARK MATTERS (2014, 20 minutes, Spinnereistr. 7, Halle 6, 04179 Leipzig).

DARK MATTERS is based on audio interviews with night watchmen from Tokio, Kabul, Moscow, Teheran, St. Louis, Tirana, Yaoundè and Monterey. These night time conversations are also the starting point for a book project realized by the artist: Thomas Taube, *The Whirr of the Image Machine*, SPECTOR Books, Leipzig 2015. With texts by Malte Henke, Maruan Paschen, Daniel Pauselius, Thomas Taube and Clemens von Wedemeyer, 99 pages, numerous black-white and colour images, thread-sewn hardcover, German/ English, 16,5 x 24,5 cm, Design: a r c – Joachim Bartsch, 22 Euro.

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NARRATION

Thomas Taube

Leipziger Jahresausstellung Prize 2015

Opening: Thursday, March 10, 2016, 6–9pm

Exhibition Duration: March 11 – April 3, 2016

Venue: G2 Kunsthalle, Dittrichring 13, 04109 Leipzig, Germany

Press-Preview: Wednesday, March 9, 2016, 11am (prior registration)

Press & Media Contact

For registration and further information please contact Ms. Anka Ziefer, email: anka.ziefer@g2-leipzig.de, phone +49 (0)341 35 57 37 93. Please send us a copy of the review or article once it is published. We accept reviews in electronic and/or paper format. Thank you!

Press Images

To aid current press coverage the G2 Kunsthalle provides a selection of images. High-res images of the low-res image proofs as well as more images of the G2 exhibition space are available (free of charge) upon request.

The press images are only approved for one-time usage in features and reviews about the exhibition NARRATION by Thomas Taube at the G2 Kunsthalle Leipzig. Please use the specified caption and credit line for every image. Images cannot be passed on for use by third parties.

Photography and filming for the purposes of press coverage on the current exhibition or event is permitted during press conferences given by the G2 Kunsthalle Leipzig.

G2 Kunsthalle

Selected artworks from the Hildebrand Collection are permanently on view at the G2 Kunsthalle Leipzig. The private collection focuses on the so-called New Leipzig School. The development of the art production in Leipzig after the turn of the millennium is represented through significant artworks and important group of works by the major artists as well as by younger, promising names, including Tilo Baumgärtel, Henriette Grahner, Paule Hammer, Uwe Kowski, Peter Krauskopf, Edgar Leciejewski, Rosa Loy, Neo Rauch, Christoph Ruckhäberle, Julia Schmidt, David Schnell and Matthias Weischer. A second substantial nucleus of the collection consists of other national and international artistic movements represented currently by a selection of art works by Terry Haggerty, Daniel Richter, Tomás Saraceno and Koen van den Broek.

Opening Hours & Admission (Special Exhibitions & Collection)

Wednesday 3–8 pm. Special opening hours: Saturday, March 12, 2016 2–5 pm. Guided tours in German: Thursday–Sunday 3pm & Monday 10am, guided tours in English: Sunday 4pm, Monday 11am (online booking required at www.g2-leipzig.de/en). The G2 Kunsthalle offers special group tours in various languages (German, English, French, Italian and Russian) and school programs free of charge for teachers and students. Individual visits may be scheduled upon request.

Admission fee: 5/3 Euros, students under 27 are eligible for reduced admission (valid ID/Documents required). Students of Fine Arts and Art History, as well as children under the age of 12, enter free of charge. Children must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult.

Further information: www.g2-leipzig.de, Contacts: info@g2-leipzig.de