

## Press Release

25 July 2017

### Tell It to the Stones

#### The Work of Danièle Huillet and Jean-Marie Straub

Exhibition – Film Retrospective – Rencontres – Arnold Schönberg Week

14 September - 19 November 2017

Akademie der Künste, Hanseatenweg

#### Press and Public Relations

Pariser Platz 4  
10117 Berlin  
Germany  
T +49 (0)30 200 57-15 14  
F +49 (0)30 200 57-15 08  
presse@adk.de  
www.adk.de

The Akademie der Künste is dedicating an extensive two-month programme cycle to the oeuvre of Danièle Huillet (1936 - 2006) and Jean-Marie Straub (\*1933). *Tell It to the Stones - The Work of Danièle Huillet and Jean-Marie Straub* opens up new perspectives on the cinematic work of both filmmakers by placing the films in an interdisciplinary context: The two-month **exhibition** highlights their working method, relating it to current artistic positions. To talk about and debate the films had always been an integral part of the practice of Huillet/Straub. During the exhibition, multi-day **Rencontres** will invite the public to take up diverse ways of speaking and forms of debate. The second week of October highlights the references to the composer **Arnold Schönberg** which are of central importance for several films. The programme is rounded off and accompanied by a complete **retrospective** of the films – the first in Berlin since 1990.

In a collaboration lasting almost 50 years, **Danièle Huillet** and **Jean-Marie Straub** created one of the most influential and at once most controversial works of modern cinema. In the 1960s, some saw in its unconventionality the beginning of a new German cinema, while others were appalled by the alleged lack of respect towards traditional cinema.

The oeuvre of Huillet/Straub today encompasses almost 50 films which are, amongst others, based on materials by Böll, Kafka, Hölderlin, and Brecht. The work has been shaped by its discussion on and often also its conflict with the textual source. The films give the texts a new topicality, which, in turn, makes the present acquire new urgency; they not only transform and translate text, but also music (Bach, Schönberg), and painting (Cézanne), as well as clouds, stones, wind, light. With the films of Huillet/Straub, the cinema becomes a space where something happens and becomes present sensually and politically, making film a medium for fundamentally calling into question the present as well as the conventions of cinema and its commercialisation. This makes the films of Huillet/Straub highly topical, and the oeuvre, whose anachronisms had often been intensely polemicised, today turns out to be open, playful, and radically contemporary.

The objective of the two-month-long exhibition is to make visible the work on the films which typically remains invisible. It bears witness to the traces of translation and mediation between an idea and its technical implementation, thereby inevitably placing particular emphasis on Danièle Huillet's contribution to the collaborative work. The exhibition space is structured by Jean-Marie Straub's film *Kommunisten* (2014), a six-part retrospective and compilation of the collaborative oeuvre. Numerous documents from various institutional and private collections introduce the creative processes, specific locations, and a wide network of colleagues, friends, and supporters. At the same time, the exhibition also reflects the contemporary relevance of the oeuvre. Six international contemporary artists have produced new works which take up, continue, annotate, and redirect the aesthetic and topographic journeys in Huillet/Straub's oeuvre.

A programme of the Akademie der Künste, Berlin, curated by Annett Busch and Tobias Hering. In cooperation with BELVA Film, and the Zeughauskino, Brotfabrik, and fsk cinemas. Funded by the Capital Cultural Fund, supported by ifa. Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen, Cineteca di Bologna, Österreichisches Filmmuseum, and University of Gothenburg – Academy of Music and Drama; held as part of Berlin Art Week.

## **Tell it to the Stones**

### **The Work of Danièle Huillet and Jean-Marie Straub**

Exhibition – Film Retrospective– Rencontres - Arnold Schönberg Week

14th September – 19th November 2017

Exhibition opening: Wednesday, 13th September 2017, 7 pm, free admission

Welcoming address: Jeanine Meerapfel, President of the Akademie der Künste and Alexander Horwath, Director of the Austrian Film Museum

9 pm: Opening film *Von Heute auf Morgen (From Today Until Tomorrow, Huillet/Straub, 1996, 62 min.)*, Introduction: Diedrich Diederichsen

Akademie der Künste, Hanseatenweg 10, 10557 Berlin, Tel. +49 (0) 30 200 57-2000

## **Events:**

Wed, 13 Sept 17                      Exhibition opening

Fri – Sun, 15 -17 Sept 17    Rencontre 01 – talks, lectures, film programme

Arnold Schönberg Week

Sat – Sun, 7/8 Oct17            *The Moses Complex*, Workshop with Ute Holl on  
*Moses und Aron (Moses and Aaron, film and opera)*

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Wed, 11 Oct 17	<i>Refuse Collection</i> by Ming Tsao, public rehearsal, Kammerensemble Neue Musik Berlin, conductor: Stefan Schreiber
Thu, 12 Oct 17	<i>Refuse Collection</i> , premiere, concert + film
Sat, 14 Oct 17	<i>Refuse Collection</i> , concert + film
Sun, 15. Oct 17	Opening of the retrospective
Fri – Sat, 10/11 Nov 17	Rencontre 02 – talks, lectures, film programme
Sat, 11 Nov 17	New Composers Collective / Astrid Ofner premiere, music performance

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**Exhibition with works by:**

Danièle Huillet and Jean-Marie Straub

as well as

Harald Bergmann (filmmaker)

Renato Berta (cinematographer)

Wilfried Böing (photographer)

Robert Bramkamp (filmmaker)

Rinaldo Censi (film historian)

Pedro Costa (filmmaker)

Harun Farocki (filmmaker)

Luisa Greenfield (artist)

Louis Henderson (artist)

Mike Jarmon (filmmaker)

Michael Klier (filmmaker)

Jan Lemitz (photographer)

Armin Linke (photographer)

William Lubtchansky (cinematographer)

Volker Pantenburg (film scholar)

Maggie Perlando (photographer, filmmaker)

Ekko von Schwichow (photographer)

Oraib Toukan (artist)

Barbara Ulrich (philosopher and film producer)

Antonia Weiße (photographer)

Ala Younis (artist)

**Rencontres and film programme**

**Guests and contributors:**

Manfred Bauschulte (writer and translator)

Renato Berta (cinematographer)

Manfred Blank (filmmaker)

Giulio Bursi (curator)

Barton Byg (film historian)

Paolo Caffoni (publisher)

Christophe Clavert (cinematographer)  
Marcus Coelen (psychoanalyst)  
Pedro Costa (filmmaker)  
Diedrich Diederichsen (cultural theorist)  
Ted Fendt (filmmaker)  
Nida Ghouse (curator)  
Michael Girke (film journalist, curator)  
Luisa Greenfield (artist)  
Louis Henderson (artist)  
Ute Holl (media scholar)  
Rembert Hüser (film scholar)  
Volko Kamensky (filmmaker)  
Peter Kammerer (sociologist and translator)  
Claudia Lenssen (journalist)  
Armin Linke (photographer)  
Mikhail Lylov (artist)  
Elke Marhöfer (artist)  
Markus Nechleba (film scholar)  
Peter Nestler (filmmaker)  
New Composers Collective (Andi Toma, Jan St. Werner, Michael Rauter, Matti Gajek) (musicians)  
Astrid Ofner (filmmaker)  
Patrick Primavesi (theatre scholar)  
Werner Rehm (actor)  
Jean-Claude Rousseau (filmmaker)  
Susanne Sachsse (actress)  
Wim Schlebaum (film scholar and philosopher)  
Florian Schneider (filmmaker, curator)  
Rudolf Thome (filmmaker)  
Oraib Toukan (artist)  
Ming Tsao (composer)  
Barbara Ulrich (philosopher and film producer)  
Ala Younis (artist)

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Further information on the programme at [www.huilletstraub-berlin.net](http://www.huilletstraub-berlin.net). Press material and photos can be downloaded on the website of the Akademie der Künste, [www.adk.de](http://www.adk.de), as well as at [www.rische-pr.de](http://www.rische-pr.de).

**Press contact** on behalf of the Akademie der Künste:  
rische & co pr, Claudia Rische, Tel. +49 (0) 30 679 282 69, [mail@rische-pr.de](mailto:mail@rische-pr.de)