

Press release
Zurich, 5 December 2012

Kunsthaus Zürich presents a solo exhibition by Haris Epaminonda

From 15 February to 5 May 2013, the Kunsthaus Zürich will be presenting the first solo exhibition in Switzerland by the young Cypriot artist Haris Epaminonda. At its centre is a new film which combines mysterious landscapes, architecture, people and rituals to create a visually striking composition that conjures up multiple associations. The film is receiving its premiere at the Kunsthhaus.

FIRST SOLO PRESENTATION IN SWITZERLAND

For her first solo show in Switzerland, Haris Epaminonda (*1980) is producing her most elaborate film to date, which will be shown for the first time at the Kunsthhaus Zürich. The Berlin-based artist is filming the new work in Cyprus. The film is produced in collaboration with 'Point,' a recently established centre for contemporary art in Nicosia, Modern Art Oxford and the Fondazione Querini Stampalia in Venice. In the past she has used found film material, which she combined and re-edited. As with 2010's 'Chronicles' series, she is directing the new film herself, and has also commissioned the soundtrack. For Epaminonda, sound is an essential medium for conveying a sense of floating, timelessness and placelessness. Visitors can expect to encounter a universe of melancholic beauty, staged by Haris Epaminonda together with curator Mirjam Varadinis.

A MYSTERIOUS UNIVERSE: FILMS, COLLAGES, OBJECTS, PHOTOGRAPHS

Since 2010, when Haris Epaminonda was initially invited for an exhibition at the Kunsthhaus, her work and her career have progressed at breathtaking speed. Her appearance at the most recent documenta (13) as part of a duo with German artist Daniel Gustav Cramer, with an installation that occupied an entire building in the north wing of the Kulturbahnhof in Kassel, signalled her breakthrough onto the international stage. Visitors entering the building found themselves plunged into a fascinatingly mysterious universe of films, collages, objects and photographs. Each space resembled a small museum. Drawings, seemingly old-fashioned landscape photographs of mountain ranges, waterfalls and lush palm groves as well as valuable-looking objects had been arranged to produce a richly suggestive overall installation in which sound played a central role. Broadcast throughout the building, it guided visitors in an almost siren-like way from one room to the next. In tune with the exhibition's title 'The End of Summer,' the vaguely wistful soundtrack by the musical duo Part Wild Horses Mane On Both Sides also recalled oriental compositions, hinting at a vast range of potential associations and stories.

CONTEMPORARY, TIMELESS, PLACELESS

This 'in-between' state is entirely characteristic of Haris Epaminonda's work. She creates pieces that consciously defy precise categorization and instead open up quite different perspectives and readings. The photos, films and collages appear contemporary, topical and yet also timeless. For widely travelled audiences, they revive memories of apparently familiar landscapes that are nevertheless impossible to locate geographically. In the series of Polaroids that she began in 2008 and intends to continue until Polaroid film ceases to be available, Epaminonda photographs images of different cultures and regions of the world from books. These are then 'coloured' to match the time and context of the book, in terms of both image quality and ideological background. Epaminonda focuses on clichéd depictions and representations of the unfamiliar, repeatedly interrupting the sequence with wholly abstract pictures of details. In so doing, she creates space for new interpretations, giving rise to a work that oscillates between travel diary and anthropological research.

ART EDUCATION ACTIVITIES ON THE FILM AND PHOTOS

The Kunsthaus Zürich recognized Epaminonda's potential at an early stage and has already acquired some of the photos from the 2008 series 'Untitled' from the Vereinigung Zürcher Kunstfreunde – the association of patrons that assists the Kunsthaus in purchasing new works. During public guided tours of the exhibition, visitors will therefore learn not just about the genesis of the new film and its message, but also about the importance of the works obtained for the collection. The tours (in German) take place on Sunday 17 February at 12 midday and Thursday 21 March at 6 p.m. Private guided tours by arrangement.

Supported by Swiss Re – Partner for contemporary art.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Kunsthaus Zürich, Heimplatz 1, CH-8001 Zurich

Tel.: +41 (0)44 253 84 84, www.kunsthhaus.ch.

Exhibition opening hours: Sat, Sun, Tues 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Wed, Thurs, Fri 10 a.m.–8 p.m. For public holiday opening see www.kunsthhaus.ch.

Admission: CHF 15 / CHF 10 (concessions). Children and young people up to the age of 16 free of charge.

ADVANCE SALES

SBB RailAway combination ticket, with discount on travel and admission: at stations and by phoning Rail Service: 0900 300 300 (CHF 1.19/min. by land line), www.sbb.ch.

Zurich Tourism: Tourist Service in Zurich main railway station, tel. +41 44 215 40 00, www.zuerich.com.

Magasins Fnac: sales points in Switzerland: Rives, Balexert, Lausanne, Fribourg, Pathé Kino Basel, www.fnac.ch; France: Carrefour, Géant, Magasins U, 0 892 68 36 22 (EUR 0.34/min), www.fnac.com; Belgium: www.fnac.be.

MEDIA CONTACT

Visual material is available for download at www.kunsthhaus.ch under Information > Press.

The press preview will be held on Thursday 14 February at 11 a.m.

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