

STEFAN DEMMING

PORTFOLIO

works 2012 - 2007

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Artist statement

Jungle camp (INSTALLATON, 2012)

The seesaw chamber (INSTALLATON, 2011)

The smallest show on earth 2 (INSTALLATION / INTERVENTION, 2010)

Greenhouse (INSTALLATION, 2008-2010)

The edge of the city (PROJEKT: VIDEO / INSTALLATION, 2007-9)

Camping Ensemble (GENERATIVE INSTALLATION, 2009)

Low Resolution Cinema (INSTALLATION IN PUBLIC SPACE, 2005-2007)

CV, EXHIBITIONS

Stefan Demming

Artist statement

When we discover ,magic‘ within the daily grind, we mix the authentic with imagination.

Within this ambivalent and contrary sphere I would like to challenge people’s perception aesthetically and emotionally, as well as on a cognitive level.

My research and related projects develop into staged installations and performative spaces. Their dramaturgy is made of light and audiovisual events.

As spaces of experience, they provide the opportunity for discoveries through uncertainty and sensitizing, following a logic of the poetical.

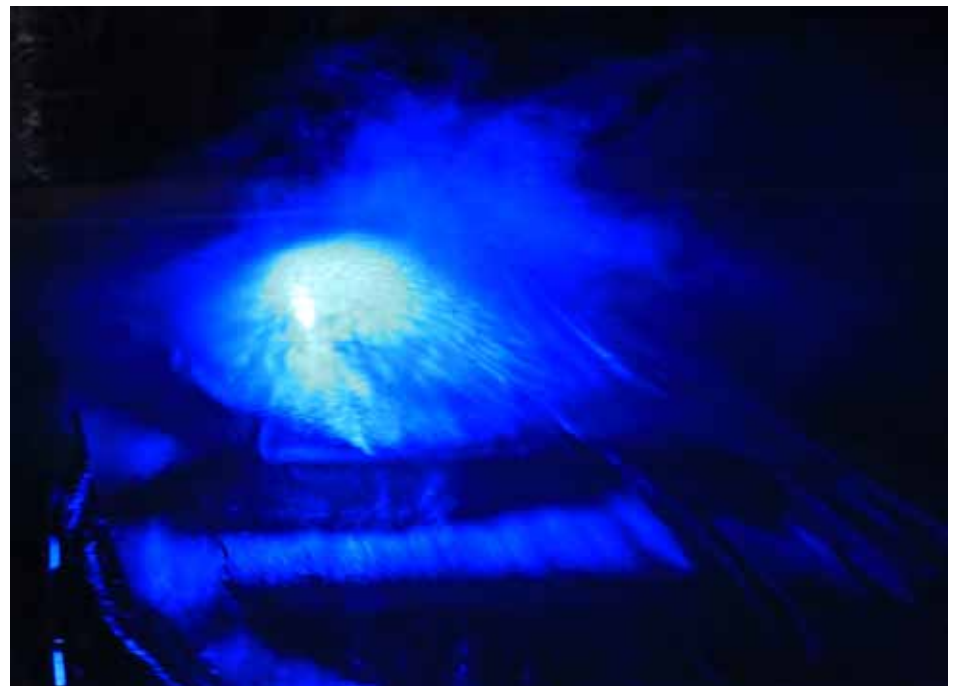
JUNGLE CAMP

site specific multi media installation in an industrial museum,
2012

12-channel-audio, video double projection, 6 blowers, inflatables, textile materials, lights, fog machine, light controllers; custom software, duration: 13'13"

„Jungle Camp“ is a sculptural media landscape of textiles and synthetics hosted in a building from the former textile industry.

This „instant-jungle“ evolves and devolves as a technical biotope, performing the reappropriation of an industrial space by nature. The artificial landscape changes by changing light settings and the movements of inflatables. Sounds of growing, vivid flora and fauna create a polyphonic soundscape.







THE SEESAW CHAMBER

– scenarios of the sea

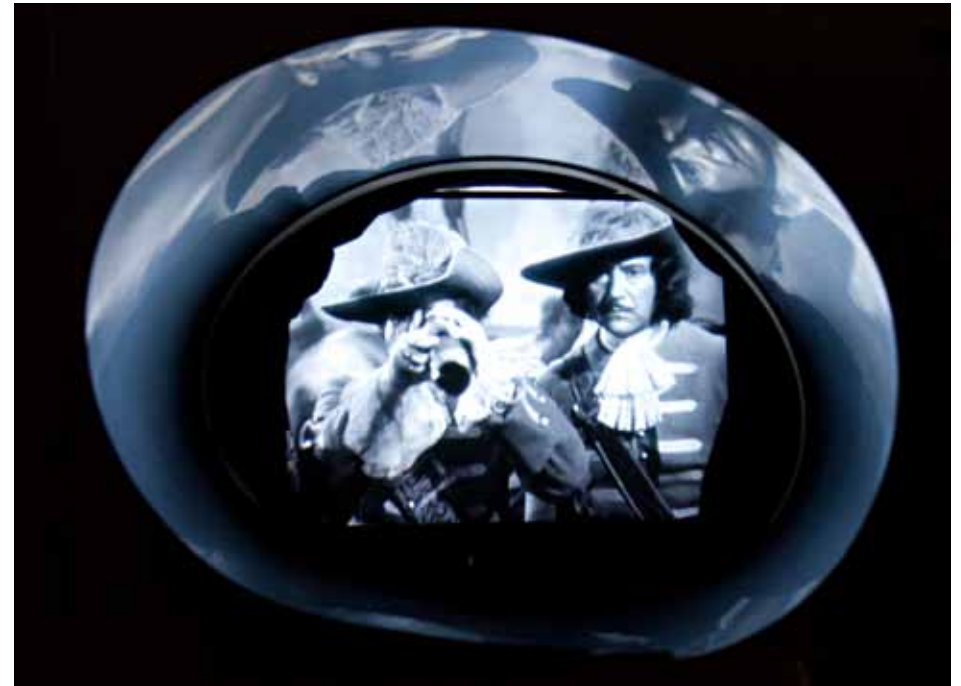
Installation, 2011

1 projection with found footage, 1 videoloop on a monitor,
6-channel-audio, lightcontrollers, spots, computer, 1 ship's bell,
wich, motor, rope, 1 broken mast, fabric, blower, accordion,
wood;

measures 8 x 2,5 x 6 m, duration: 10'30'

A stage showcases a seascape with ships taken from old movies like „Sea hawk“ (1940) that sail for- and backwards.

Corresponding to the events on the screen and the dramatic soundtrack there's temporary actions in the space: a blower shakes a big canvas making waves, a bell is rung before a storm warning is broadcasted, a series of shipwrecks occurs and an accordion plays a long lasting tone.







THE SMALLEST SHOW ON EARTH 2

- a travelling show

Intervention in public spaces with a mobile cinema and a show on a small stage in a tent, since 2010

THE SMALLEST SHOW ON EARTH 2 is travelling to villages and cities. A video in a mobile home shows circus as a real working place. In the tent an absurde spectacle remembers old circus movies. Director and gorilla take care of the show.





THE SMALLEST SHOW ON EARTH 2 ,
in the tent: *The ShowShow* / in the mobile home: *Just journey with them*

THE SMALLEST SHOW ON EARTH 2

1. JUST JOURNEY WITH THEM

HD-video in a mobile home, 30', 2010

Sister Bernard and sister Dorothy are on tour throughout the US with a big circus. They live in a caravan and run a Christian community service they have dubbed the „ministry of presence“ for the more than 300 members of the circus they accompany.



Just journey with them, 2010 (stills)

THE SMALLEST SHOW ON EARTH 2

2. THE SHOWSHOW

Installation in a tent, 2010

1 projection (found footage), animal objects, lights, 6-channel-audio, inflatables, blowers, lightcontrollers, computer, fabric, 1 tent (4 x 6 m); duration: 14' (Loop)

Sampled extracts of older circus movies interact with animals of porcellaine that are illuminated while speaking: nostalgic and absurd moments mingle in the cinematic and the real space.



The ShowShow, 2010 (installation views)



GREENHOUSE

4 blowers, lightcontroller, 9 plastic palms, plastic objects, airtubing, lights, motion detector, installed in a greenhouse, 220 x 400 x 300 cm, 2008-2010

In changing sequences plastic objects are erected by inflation and deflate slowly before they're inflated again ...



Greenhouse (detail)



Greenhouse
(installation view, Bremen 2009)



THE EDGE OF THE CITY

project with video, installations and sculpture, 2004-9
works (selection):

The edge of the city, SD video, 29', 2007

Where are the Cacos now?, video, 8'18", 2008

De Noche, videoinstallation 2007

Horsedog, videoinstallation 2007

Endless Lights, sculpture 2007 / 2009

Since 2008, more than half of the world's population is living in cities. Together with Wonne Ickx, we were looking for people at the edge of a city that is called endless: Mexico D.F.

Different videos, videoinstallations and a sculpture came out of this project.



Where are the Cacos now?



The edge of the city (videostills)



De Noche, 2007

projection, lightcontrollers, building materials, 1 dog of porcelain, multichannel audio, wood; duration: 6'30' (Loop)

THE EDGE OF THE CITY

Horsedog

HD-videoprojection, 1'55" as a loop / ventilator with attached plastic bag, spot, lightcontroller, 2009

In *Horsedog* a white horse appears above a white dog as if standing on top of it. Sometimes the dog is on the lookout - but nothing happens. A black horse appears behind the white horse and disappears again before it reaches the borders of the image.



Horsedog (installations view)



Horsedog (videostills)



Endless Lights, 2007 / 2009

3 2-way-mirrors, lights, wood, steel, 180 x 200 x 200 cm

CAMPING ENSEMBLE

12 tents, 12 lamps, 12-channel-audio, lightcontrollers, 1 computer, custom software, dimensions variable, at least 500 x 600 x 100 cm, 2009

Camping Ensemble is a sculptural light- and sound-installation that turns moving images like films into a generative composition. A movie is downscaled to 12 pixels on a computer. Twelve tents contain each a lamp that represents the changing lightness of each part of the movie. Parallel to the light, a sine tone in every tent is played in changing intensities. As the sine tones are in a row of connected frequencies, a harmonic, polyhonic composition evolves and the installation becomes an abstract organ.



Camping Ensemble, 2009



Low Resolution Cinema (LRC)

Installation for public spaces: display of films by 12 lights and 1 speaker, 2005-2007

LRC transforms the lightness of films into a matrix of 12 light bulbs. The film thus shines constantly dimmed into public space, the audio becomes a narration on its own. For every location a special film for the performance was chosen.

movies, locations:

235000000 (USSR 1967),

Riga (city center)

Die Kunst geht auf die Strasse (D 1970),

Kunstverein Hannover

Auch die Engel essen Bohnen (I, F, S 1972),

Bohnenstrasse Bremen

City lights (USA 1931),

KAH Bonn

Low resolution monitor: in a closed-circuit to Die Videowächter

(by Nam June Paik, 1993),

Kunsthalle Bremen



Low Resolution Monitor



LRC
left side: Riga
right side: Hannover



Stefan Demming – CV, exhibitions

1973 born in Südlohn (Westphalia), lives and works in Berlin since 2005

1999

Exams in art and history, university Bremen

1999 – 2007

Studies of Fine Art at the *studio for time based arts* with Jean-François Guiton and David Bade at the university of the arts, Bremen (D); Workshops with: Antoni Muntadas, Hoykaas/Stansfield; guest: Stan Douglas, David Lamelas, UdK Berlin

2002-2003

cooperation at V2_institute for the unstable media, Rotterdam (NL)

2005

studies at the Ecole supérieure des beaux arts de Marseille (Jean Claude Rugirello, Eric Maillet (F));

2006

Diploma

2007

master's degree (Prof. Jean-François Guiton, HfK Bremen)

since 2007

works in video / installation and public interventions

Awards / scholarships

2010 Euregio-grant for „The smallest show on earth 2“

2007 DAAD-grant for „The greatest show on earth 2“

2004 Scholarship of the Cusanuswerk

projectgrant from CBK und RKS Rotterdam

2003 Video art award, of the Filmbüro Bremen

2002 OLB-media art award, EMAF Osnabrück

2001 Bremen young artists' prize for fine arts

2000 German video-installation-prize

solo exhibitions

2012 *The Space Space*, Galerie im Turm, Berlin

The smallest show on earth 2 is a guest in Kassel, Berlin and 4 more places

2011 *Schaukelkammer - Szenarien der Meere*, Kunstverein Cuxhaven

2010 *The smallest show on earth 2*, Galerie Mitte, Bremen

2009 *Stattlandschaft*, Kunstraum Tosterglope

2008 *Weltuntergang 2*, Galerie 149, Bremerhaven

2007 *The Edge of the city*, Casa del Lago, Mexico City (Mx)

2005 *Visitors of the strawheart* (Duo mit L. IJsendoorn), Galerie im Park, Bremen

2004 *Die halbe Wahrheit*, Städtische Galerie im Buntentor, Bremen

2003 *Videokunstförderpreis*, Neues Museum Weserburg Bremen

group shows (selection)

2012 *Licht*, Darmstädter Sezession

artmuse, Industriemuseum TextilWerk Bocholt

2011 *Follow the broken*, Kreuzberg Pavillon Neukölln, Berlin

Landmade, Otto-Lilienthal-Centrum, Stölln

2010 *Der offene Garten*, Städtische Galerie Nordhorn

EuropeanMediaArtFestival, Kunsthalle Dominikanerkirche, Osnabrück

Looking at the stars, Riga art-space, Riga (Lt)

Paula-Modersohn-Becker-Kunstpreis, Kunsthalle Worpswede

2009 *Contested Ground*, Projectspace 176, London (UK);

Unantastbar, Kulturkirche Stephani Bremen

Spring! Güterbahnhof Bremen

Neuenburger Medienkunstwoche, Zetel

Digitales Freiland, Schlachthof / öffentlicher Raum, Bremen

2008 *Bitte schön!*, Ausstellungshalle für zeitgenössische Kunst, Münster;

Light garden, NOASS / öffentlicher Raum, Riga (Lt)

European Media Art Festival, Osnabrück

Mulhouse 008, Mulhouse (F)

2007 *KunststudentInnen stellen aus*, Kunst- und Ausstellungshalle der BRD, Bonn

Weltuntergang, Galerie Crystal Ball, Berlin

Sammlung 16, Städtische Galerie, Bremen

2006 *Stadt-Rand-Fluß*, Lothringer 13, München

Die beste Methode einen Löwen zu erlegen, Kunsthalle Bremen

Herbstausstellung, Kunstverein Hannover

2005 *Baltic drift* (GAK-Satellit): Waterpieces, Riga (Lt), Galerija Akademia, Vilnius (Li)

Nordwest-Kunst, Kunsthalle Wilhelmshaven

2004 *Screen Spirit*, Städtische Galerie Bremen

2003 *l'art video, l'art interactief*, Villa des arts, Casablanca (Marocco)

2001 Kunstverein Köln-Hürth, KV Wiesbaden, Neues Museum Weimar (show:)

2000 *German Video-Installation-Award*, Skulpturenmuseum Glaskasten Marl

bibliography

- Johannes Ismaiel-Wendt, *Schaukelkammer - Szenarien der Meere*, im gleichnamigen Katalog, Revolver-Verlag, Berlin 2011
- Dirck Möllmann, *Unterwegs mit Video*, in: Die kleinste Show der Welt 2, Bremen 2011
- Rainer Bessling, *Artefakte vertreten Artisten: die ShowShow*, in: ebd.
- Ruth Estévez, *The Edge of the City*, in: Stadtlandschaft, Ausstellungsdokumentation Berlin 2009
- Mona Schieren, *Das Ereignis und der grosse Bluff*, in: Stemming Ste van de Mming
- Stefan Demming, Meisterschülerkatalog, Bremen 2007
- Ursula Frohne, *Fragmented Sight*, in: LRC, Katalog/Leporello zum GAK-Satelliten „Baltic Drift“, 2005
- Elke Bippus, *Intermediale Reflektionen und die Wahrheit der Bilder*, in: Die Halbe Wahrheit, Katalog, Bremen 2004
- Frauke Ellßel, *Die Halbe Wahrheit, 50 mal pro Sekunde*, in: ebd.
- Sabine Maria Schmidt, *Die Bremer Stadtmusikanten zu Gast in Casablanca*, in: Casa Blanca, Ausstellungskatalog, Bremen 2003