

Press release: 23 June 2010

Travelogue: online premiere of new film by Jani Ruscica



Travelogue, Jani Ruscica

Animate Projects is proud to announce the online premiere of *Travelogue*, a beautiful and haunting new film by Finnish artist Jani Ruscica.

Shot on 16mm, the eight-minute film was shot on location at Camden Arts Centre. A moving panorama unravels, but its blank white screen reveals nothing, and subtitled texts from a variety of historical and contemporary sources allude to London - a city only glimpsed from the window as the camera pans the rows of empty seats, for an audience that has not arrived.

In an essay commissioned to accompany the presentation of the film at CAC, Malin Ståhl wrote how Ruscica's approach is like that of "an anthropologist or sociologist, posing questions about our very being in the world... places, culture identities, and how we define and communicate personal belonging."

Ruscica deconstructs the idea of the travelogue itself as romanticised history, factual document and idealised experience. *Travelogue* reflects on the nature of displacement and cultural difference, and in asking how much we can ever know of an 'other' place, implicates the idea of 'artist's residency' and the sometimes tension between the need for space, time and isolation to create work, and the desire to engage and connect.

Travelogue is co-commissioned by Animate Projects and Camden Arts Centre, with support from Arts Council England, the Finnish Institute in London and FRAME. The film was presented at Camden Arts Centre from 31 March-4 April 2010.

Notes to editors:

Travelogue is available to watch online at animateprojects.org/films.

About the artist – Jani Ruscica:

Jani Ruscica is a Finnish artist working with film, video, photography and other media. Working collaboratively, his interest lies in how one defines one's location, one's placement in the world, and how this definition changes – continuously, if necessary – according to personal, cultural, representational or even scientific factors.

Recent exhibitions include 5th Momentum Biennial, Moss, Norway 2009, 'Tracking traces' KIASMA Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki, 2009, 'Life Forms' Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm, 2009, as well as screenings in institutions such as Centre Pompidou, Paris, TATE Modern, London and MoMA, New York.

Ruscica is based in Helsinki and studied at Chelsea College of Art and Design in London and the Academy of Fine Art in Helsinki. Visit janiruscica.com

About FRAME:

FRAME is the Finnish Fund for Art Exchange, acting as an expert body in international exchanges relating to the visual arts. Established in 1992, FRAME works within the Finnish Fine Arts Academy Foundation and is primarily funded by the Finnish Ministry of Culture. Visit frame-fund.fi

About The Finnish Institute in London:

The Finnish Institute in London is a London-based private trust. Its mission is to identify emerging issues in contemporary society and to facilitate social change. Working with artists, researchers, experts and policy makers in Finland, the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, the Institute promotes strong networks in the field of culture and social studies. Visit finnish-institute.org.uk

About Camden Arts Centre:

Camden Arts Centre is a world-class contemporary visual arts space, dedicated to engaging with the highest calibre artists from across the international arts scene. Placing the artist at the centre, Camden Arts Centre strives to involve members of the public in the ideas and work of today's artists, and the artists who inspire them.

The exhibition and education programmes are developed with equal importance, and are continually intertwined. The changing programme includes exhibitions, artist residencies, off-site projects and artist-led activities, ensuring Camden Arts Centre remains a dynamic place for seeing, making and talking about art. Visit camdenartscentre.org

About Animate Projects:

Animate Projects is a cultural producer, enabling artists to make work that explores the relationship between contemporary art and animation for broadcast, gallery, cinema and digital exhibition. Over 100 groundbreaking films can be viewed on animateprojects.org, alongside interviews with artists, essays and other background material. Recent projects include: Primitive, a multi-platform project by Apichatpong Weerasethakul; Shudder, new works for gallery and online by artists Edwina Ashton, Ann Course and Barry Doupé, co-commissioned with The Drawing Room; and AP Engine, an online magazine supported by the UK Film Council.

Animate Projects is funded by the National Lottery through Arts Council England. Visit us at animateprojects.org

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