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Athens Partahhiana

Anja Kirschner – The Processed and the Possessed

artist talk

room 115, UMPRUM, nám. Jana Palacha 80, Prague 1

Thursday 10 March, 3 pm

Drawing on material from her recent feature film *Moderation* (GR/IT/EG/UK, 2015, 149 min) Anja Kirschner will talk about certain tendencies in horror cinema from cold-war Europe, Infitah-era Egypt and post-junta Greece, that refused to naturalistically represent lived experience or to sublimate it by recourse to the irrational. Rather, the 'irrational' became a means to externalize and to de-subjectify what 'haunted' the protagonists, in order to reground the possibility of rational agency operating at it's limits.

Moderation, set in Egypt, Greece and Italy, revolves around a female horror director and her collaborators, whose latest project is haunted by encounters with its 'raw material' and the way horror traverses the realities of their lives on and off screen.

"What the films I was drawing on have in common is that in them 'horror' seeps through the limits of rational analysis, connecting it materially and affectively to the trauma of the recent past and it's repression and reactionary stabilization in the present.

Departing from this material I have been asking myself if critical recourse to the horror genre could constitute an actual revolt of reason, in a desire to ultimately prevail, albeit in a heightened and by then barely legible state?

The result is *Moderation*, which seeks to answer the question through the prism of the film-making process itself."

(Anja Kirschner)

Anja Kirschner (lives and works in Athens and London) is an artist known for her narrative films that create genre hybrids from pop culture references, factual research and literary sources. Her new feature film *Moderation* (2015), which draws on the horror genre to reflect on the way psychological, historical and material realities are connected across the Mediterranean, premiered at the Berlinale film festival in February 2016. In 2011 she received the Jarman Award (with David Panos), which recognises artists working in the moving image. Her films have been widely exhibited internationally, including recent solo shows at Secession, Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, Extra City Antwerp, Kunsthall Oslo and Staatsgalerie Stuttgart and were included in the 2nd Athens Biennale, the British Art Show 7 and the Liverpool Biennial 2012. From 2008-2016 she was an Associate Lecturer at the University of Arts, London, and currently is a mentor at Circuits and Currents, the student-run project space of the Athens School of Fine Art.

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