



Newton's Archives of Time Work

video project in progress

"How long is the moment? The moment is like the twinkling of the eye." (Talmud)

Newton's Archives are a store of still lives: scenes, observations of details, experiments with the direction, the duration and the speed of time.

Video is the time machine which enables Newton to investigate the experience of time through different aspects: subjective duration, objective length, acceleration, retardation.

Static states and courses of events are exclusively filmed with a stationary camera setting.

The scenes are picked from everyday life and show symbolic arrangements, conditions of work or observations of animals. They refer to motives and contents of painting - the „memento mori“ of a still life, the moving silence of a landscape, the noisy motion of work. However, whereas painting represents eternity, video is a fast aging medium. DVDs and hard discs will have become useless within a few years.

There is a big and permanently growing collection of sequences representing time.



Frontpage: "das Haus / rosegarden", Basel, DV PAL, 30min, 2008

"Bebbisägg / garbage bags", Basel, DV PAL, 16min, 2005





IV Work

Work is measured in units of time.
Machines accelerate the work that can be done
within one unit.



“Achtung Baum fällt / timber”, DV PAL, 10min, 2005



“Langholz / timber ”, DV PAL, 15min, 2005



"le poissonier / the fishmonger", DV PAL, 60min, 2009





“der Hausmetzger / the butcher ”, DV PAL, 60min, 2008

craftsmen

Observing work in real time shows the beauty of experienced motion and craft skills.



VII History

Sewing Reality of Globalisation

A Senegalese tailor at work in his little shop in the centre of Marseille in a surrounding of colorful traditional westafrican wax print fabrics. He patches up worn out jeans, while he is discussing with a friend in Wolof and receiving his clients, such as a young muslim wearing an Adidas tracksuit, who brings him black synthetic fabric and explains him, how to sew a womans burka out of it.

The small shop measures only a few square meters but becomes a packed image reflecting global and political dimensions of textile culture. History of colonialisation and slave trade is represented as well as migration and search for identity in the globalized market.





“le couturier/the tailor”, Marseille, 2009



VIII Moments Encounters

The interactions of people are short moments standing out of the continuous flux of time.

A smile during a short encounter or the amorous glance in a worker's eyes changes the functional atmosphere of industrial work.



“smile”, mineral water plant, Mongrando, 2002



"charm", soap manufacture, Marseille, 2009

IX Factories

Video still lives are an instrument to analyze daily culture. Like market and kitchen still lives in the paintings of the 16th and 17th century the factory still lives are arranged in industrial environments. You can see the interaction of machines and workers in the background.





Raeber Konfitüren 2004
left: canning plant
right: kitchen

„Tavola dell Orso“ Biella, Italy, 2002

Cittadellarte, Fondazione Pistoletto, Biella 2002

6 video still lives reflect two esthetical aspects of high-class products from the Italian Piemonte:

The background permits a view into the condition of industrial production with its repetitive movements and its functional design.

An organic still life in the foreground shows these products in a nostalgic way as it is commonly used in advertising. This part of the image is continued by a real still live arrangement of cheese, salami etc. in the exhibition.



“il piccolo forno”, 25.5.2002



“Salumificio di Vigliano”, 24.5.2002





“Siletti, Mongrando”, 23.5.2002



X Telling Stories I „concrete and flowers“, Switzerland 2009

„concrete and flowers“ is a documentation and an interactive installation telling stories about cheese production in Switzerland.

The dramaturgy of the documentation is realized by the juxtaposition of 12 TV-monitors with video still lives representing the different steps of production. The working processes can just be observed in real time and full duration - like views through the window into factory halls.

The center of the installation is a table with a real piece of cheese. It offers to the visitors the possibility to enter into a conversation with us, to hear the stories linked to the images and to tell their own stories out of their lives.

The project was supported by the Fachausschuss Multimedia Baselstadt/ Baselland and the Ernst Göhner Foundation.



bacterial colonies responsible for the taste are stored and provided to the swiss cheese factories by a federal institution since 100 years. ALP, Bern

view from Salvisberg to the nuclear plant of Mühleberg



milking robot, BZG Wiler, Seedorf



milk transporter in the area of Beromünster





sliced and packed for the supermarket, Emmi, Kirchberg

surveillance of technical parameters, Neudorf



Emmentaler cheese for Japanese gourmets, Neudorf



maturing cheese in a former military shelter, Giswil





milking goats, Stans

“concrete and flowers”, installation view, RadialsystemV, Berlin, schweizgenössisch 2009





installation view, RadialsystemV, Berlin, schweggenössisch 2009

XI Exchange „conditions of work“

Exhibition, Kaskadenkondensator Basel, Mai 2010

A selection of several video still lives documents working situations.

Their arrangement in some kind of „parcours“ allows the visitors to observe working people in real time.
A line of six montors is dedicated to the relation between humans and machines. Three projections which are part of the project „das Haus“ illustrate the similarity between movements in dance and demolition of a house.
In a corner the beauty of a butchers profession can be followed in real time and real size.



humans and their machines, exhibition view, 2010

die Fabrikarbeiterin, 2003



der Uhrmacher, Basel 2010



der Melkroboter, Seedorf, 2009



der Lagerist, Giswil, 2009



der Scheider, Marseille 2008



der Jacquardwebstuhl, 2002





Conductor



Dance



Rosegarden



Das Haus, video installation, 2008, exhibition view, 2010



der Hausmetzger / the butcher, 2008, exhibition view, 2010
(Foto: Martina Gmür)



Exchange

„conditions of work“ - Gespräche über Arbeit

Host Club, by Marcel Schwald, 1.5.2010

Kaskadenkondensator Basel



Conditions of Work, Host Club (exhibition view)
(Fotos: Martina Gmür, Marcel Schwald)

„conditions of work“ - conversations about work 5-1-2010

„Host Club“ is the name for an interactive project, which was developed by Marcel Schwald in the context of theater using the table talks as medium. There is a setting with five or six small tables, two hosts at each of them starting a conversation the visitors of the event are invited to join.

In the Kaskadenkondensator there were small monitors additionally posed next to the tables, each of them showing a video still live with a working situation. These images catalysed the conversation in some way. One of the hosts at each table was a person either represented in the video or closely related to its context.



der Uhrmacher

top: Videostilleben (Copa & Sordes)

bottom: Host Club, conversations (foto by Marcel Schwald)





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Copa & Sordes

Sierenzerstrasse 83

CH-4055 Basel

T/F: ++41 61 301 56 22

copaetsordes@swissonline.ch

www.xcult.org/copaetsordes