

## Films & Windows I-IV

07.06. - 25.08. 2012

Films & Windows (IV)

### Nina Koennemann & Flame

Opening Reception: 09.08.2012 / 19.00 - 22.00 CET

Nina Koennemann

#### *Bann*

They come from behind the wall: the so-called smokers. Nina Koennemann observes them as if they were the last - or newly discovered - specimens of their kind. Their shoes, their lair, the way in which they separate ash from ember and how they dispose of waste. The traces that they leave behind in the cityscape; a cityscape in which they themselves appear only in traces.

A granite block and a film frame, in which visible and invisible dividing lines of the various quadrants, zones and outskirts overlap each other, forming the city as a semi-transparent area.

The era of the cigarette, which began with the rise of industrial production and mass consumption, their ordering of time into brief intervals-the length of a smoke-is shown here entering its last phase.

The semi-worldliness of smoking, last bound to bars and juke joints, finds the reverberation of a waking dream in the reflections of people, their body parts and passenger cars in the granite surface. This can mean the bisection of the world in the exact doubling of the material factors, or it's interpreted as a means of escape, an extension of space.

-Katha Schulte

#### Flame

In May 2012 over a thousand computers in countries in the Middle East were infected by Flame malware. The virus is the latest in a series of cyberweapons (following Stuxnet in 2010, Duqu in 2011 and Mahdi in February 2012) and, because of its large and expensive scale, is speculated to be designed by governments for espionage purposes rather than hacker or cybercriminal activity. The virus was leaked because an infected computer reported a glitch to anti-virus experts at Symantec who were then able to capture Flame's self destruct command before it could eliminate its trace.

Flame is a toolkit with a number of functions. It downloads a computer's hard-drive. Within the Windows operating system, Flame intercepts the microphone, captures screenshots, switches on the camera, Bluetooth and Skype as well as snatching IM bots and emails. Flame sniffs network traffic. It jumps from computer to computer mining information, using a checklist, it locates signs of target activity. It then feeds the data back into a number of mainframes based in several different stations around the world.

-Flame

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