

TATE FILM

ASSEMBLY: A SURVEY OF RECENT ARTISTS' FILM AND VIDEO IN BRITAIN 2008-2013

Territories I & II

Tate Britain, Clore Auditorium

I: Sunday 26 January 2014, 15.00–17.00

II: Monday 27 January 2014, 19.00–21.00



Neil Henderson, *Three Studies in Geography* 2011, video still
Courtesy the artist. © Neil Henderson





Andrew Kötting, *An History of Civilisation*, HD video, 2010, 7 min Courtesy the artist and Gary Parker. © Andrew Kötting

From an aerial view of the desert to the hand-held close-ups of daily life, these films explore landscapes and journeys, both topographical and political.

**JANANNE AL-ANI, SEAMUS HARAHAAN,
NEIL HENDERSON, PATRICK KEILLER,
ANDREW KÖTTING, MIRANDA PENNELL,
MAGALI REUS**

Assembly: A Survey of Artists' Film and Video in Britain 2008–2013 is curated by Stuart Comer, formerly Tate, now chief curator Media and Performance, MoMA; George Clark, Tate Modern; and Melissa Blanchflower, Tate Britain; with independent curators Simon Payne and Andrew Vallance.

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Bilge Ogut-Cumbusyan & Haro Cumbusyan

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Thoughts, comments, reviews?
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The discussion following Territories II
will be chaired by writer Owen Hatherley

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ASSEMBLY: A SURVEY OF RECENT ARTISTS’ FILM AND VIDEO IN BRITAIN 2008 – 2013

Assembly is a major survey of internationally acclaimed single-screen artists’ film and video. Including more than eighty artists, the list is drawn from thirty-six leading international film specialists who were invited to nominate outstanding recent works. Screenings take place at Tate Britain in the Clore Auditorium: on Sundays, feature length films are shown, and on Mondays curated programmes of shorter films are followed by discussions with invited speakers and the artists. Each weekly theme suggests a contested area of practice and prompts a dialogue that continues from one screening to the next, encouraging discussion and debate about contemporary film and video.

The popularity of film and video has surged during the last decade, with screenings occurring in numerous venues from galleries to film festivals, from television to online. The development of digital technology has particularly impacted the distribution, aesthetics and accessibility of artists’ cinema. Reflecting this expanded field, *Assembly* is a unique opportunity to consider what is being produced here and now, throwing into relief and celebrating differences across various artists’ practices in the medium.

PROGRAMME NOTES

**TERRITORIES I
Sunday 26 Januray 2014**

From picturesque Oxfordshire to the idiosyncratic panorama of a family funfair in the shadow of the City of London, this pairing contemplates sites of pleasure and tension in the natural and built environment.

**AN HISTORY OF CIVILISATION
Andrew Kötting, 2010
HD video, 7 min**

Opening on a May Bank Holiday fun fair in Southwark Park, the imposing skyline of Canary Wharf’s hub of financial and corporate services looms in the distance. With Mao Tse Tung quotations read by Martin Donegan, *An History of Civilisation* conflates both a bygone era and our imminent future.

Andrew Kötting (born 1959, Kent)
Kötting’s work has been shown widely in Europe and America. Awards and commissions include FilmFour, Channel 4, The British Film Institute.

**ROBINSON IN RUINS
Patrick Keiller, 2010
35mm transferred to video, 97 min**

“When a man named Robinson was released from Edgecote open prison, he made his way to the nearest city and looked for somewhere to haunt...” So begins the third instalment of Keiller’s series of feature-length ruminations – preceded by *London* (1994) and *Robinson in Space* (1997) – on everyday Englishness in rural and urban contexts

Patrick Keiller (born 1950, Blackpool)
Lives and works in Oxfordshire
Since the 1980s, Keiller’s work has been screened both in the UK and internationally, and includes commissions from the Arts Council, the British Film Institute, the BBC and Channel 4. Footage from *Robinson in Ruins* was included in Keiller’s Tate Britain Commission exhibition *The Robinson Institute* (2012).

**TERRITORIES II
Monday 27 January 2014**

**THREE STUDIES IN GEOGRAPHY
Neil Henderson, 2011
16mm transferred to video, 23 min**

Encompassing three previously distinct films made over a ten year period, *Three Studies in Geography* brings together the themes of water, land and sky.

Neil Henderson (born 1973, Worcester)
Lives and works in Whitstable
Henderson’s films have been shown widely including screenings at Animator Festival, Poznan, Poland, Diversions Film Festival, Edinburgh, Kettle’s Yard, Cambridge and the 19th Onion City Film Festival, Chicago.

**COLD OPEN
Seamus Harahan, 2012
Video, 13 min**

Cold Open is a non-narrative work based on a series of six interactions in public spaces where the subjects remained unaware of their being filmed. Shot by Harahan from his signature telephoto vantage points, the sequences were compiled over the course of one year.

Seamus Harahan (born 1968)
Lives and works in Belfast
Selected solo and group exhibitions include Gimpel Fils, London (2013), *Holylands*, Wolverhampton Art Gallery (2010), *Nought to Sixty*, ICA, London (2009) and *LONELY AT THE TOP sound effects #1*, Museum van Hedendaagse Kunst, Antwerp (2008).

**BACKGROUND
Magali Reus, 2009
HD video, 9 min**

Six men, dressed in what are suggestive of military uniforms, move in a series of choreographed exercises within a rocky terrain littered with metallic sculptures of the artist’s own making. Reus’ work considers masculinity, material and the Post-Minimalist concept of the site and “Non-Site.”

Magali Reus (born 1981, The Hague, Netherlands). **Lives and works in London and Amsterdam**
Selected solo exhibitions include *In Lukes and Dregs*, The Approach, London (2014) and *Highly Liquid*, Galerie Fons Welters (2013). A forthcoming group exhibition includes David Roberts Foundation, London (2014) Reus’s work has been screened at *59th International Film Festival Oberhausen* (2012).

**SHADOW SITES I
Jananne Al-Ani, 2010
16mm transferred to video, 15 min**

Composed from a series of aerial views taken above seemingly unpopulated Middle Eastern locations, *Shadow Sites I* reveals an ambiguous terrain of occupied landscapes. The film was developed as one element of the artist’s project “The Aesthetics of Disappearance: A Land Without People” and derives its title from the archaeological phenomenon of the low-setting sun casting

shadows on otherwise undetectable buried remains. The film is a testament to resilience and memory, recurring themes in Al-Ani’s practice, and a refutation of the Orientalist fantasy of the Middle East as uncharted desert.

Jananne Al-Ani (born 1966, Kirkuk, Iraq)
Lives and works in London, UK
Solo exhibitions include forthcoming Hayward Project Space (2014), Beruit Art Centre (2013) and Art Now, Tate Britain (2005). Select group exhibitions include *Mom, am I Barbarian?*, 13th Istanbul Biennial (2013) and *all our relations*, 18th Biennial of Sydney (2012). Al-Ani was awarded the Abraaj Capital Art Prize in 2011.

**WHY COLONEL BUNNY WAS KILLED
Miranda Pennell, 2010
HD Video, 28 min**

Comprised of still images taken on the North West frontier of India under British colonial rule, Pennell’s exploration of a medical missionary’s memoirs from service along the Afghan borderlands raises questions of what truths lie behind images.

Miranda Pennell
Lives and works in London
Pennell’s work has been shown widely including the Glasgow Short Film Festival (2011), the Oberhausen Kurzfilmtage, Germany (2011) and the London International Film Festival (2010). *Why Colonel Bunny Was Killed* was awarded Best International Film/ Video 2011 at the Courtisane Festival of Film, Ghent.

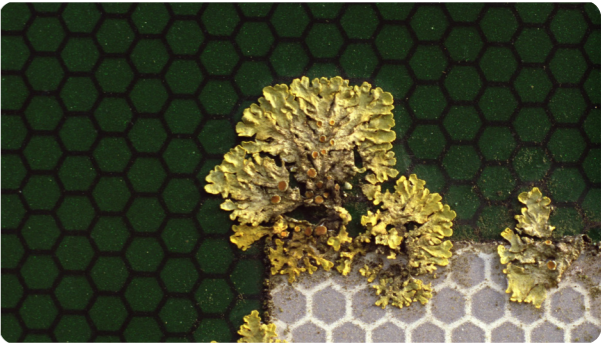
**UPCOMING ASSEMBLY SCREENINGS
CLORE AUDITORIUM
TATE BRITAIN**

Assembly: Testaments I
Sunday 2 February 2014 15.00

Assembly: Testaments II
Monday 3 February 2014 19.00

Assembly: Close at Hand I
Sunday 8 February 2014 14.00

Assembly: Close at Hand II
Monday 9 February 2014 19.00



From Top:
Patrick Keiller, *Robinson in Ruins* 2010: *Xanthoria parietina* on road sign, March 2008, video still. Courtesy the artist. © Patrick Keiller
Magali Reus, *Background* 2009, HD video still
Courtesy the artist and The Approach, London. © Magali Reus
Seamus Harahan, *Cold Open* 2012, video still
Courtesy the artist and Gimpel Fils, London © Seamus Harahan
Jananne Al-Ani *Shadow Sites I* 2010, production still
Courtesy the Artist © Jananne Al-Ani
Miranda Pennell, *Why Colonel Bunny Was Killed* 2010, video still
Courtesy the artist. © Miranda Pennell