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

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

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Bilge Ogut-Cumbusyan & Haro Cumbusyan

tate.org.uk/film
Thoughts, comments, reviews?
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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.

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The discussion following Territories II will be chaired by writer Owen Hatherley
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 revealing differences across various artists’ practices in the medium.

PROGRAMME NOTES

TERRITORIES I
Sunday 26 January 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 Denean, 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 Edgectoe 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 Edgectoe (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

Encircling 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 works 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 exhibitions include Sixty, The Robert Emmet Centre (2013), the Oberhausen Kurzfilmtage, Germany (2011) and the London International Film Festival (2010). Harahan was awarded Best International Film/Video 2011 at the Courtisane Festival of Film, Ghent.

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 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 resistance and memory, running through 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 the Glasgow Short Film Festival (2011), the Oberhausen Kurzfilmtage, Germany (2011) and the London International Film Festival (2010). 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 and includes 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

Miranda Pennell, Why Colonel Bunny Was Killed 2010: video still

Courtesy the artist © Jananne Al-Ani

Seamus Harahan: Robinson in Ruins 2010: Production still

Courtesy the artist © Magali Reus

Patrick Keiller: Robinson in Space 1994: Production still

Courtesy the Artist © Patrick Keiller

Neil Henderson: Shadow Sites 1 2010: Production still

MIRANDA PENNELL

AMY COOKE

KARL HEATHERIDGE

JOHN ROBERTS

EVA-LOUISE HALL

SEAN WARD