



# Newton's Archives of Time or 100 Moments to Explain Time

## 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: "Atem / breath", Kartause Ittingen (CH), DV PAL, 1min33, 2006

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





## I Animals

Filming animals means to catch singular moments.

Nothing can be controlled or reproduced.

And the speed of time is not the same for any species.

Slowing down and speeding up the video makes it possible to experience motions in a human dimension. By the reduction from 45 to 2 minutes you even may identify something resembling kisses in the sexual act of slugs.



“Schneckenporno /slug porn”, DV PAL, 2min, 2006

## II Infinity

### Water, a long-term observation

The fountain at the „Wolkenhof“ is a magic place.

It has been documented by video since 1999.

An increasing number of still lives shows the passage of time in simultaneity.

You witness the different seasons, people passing by, children playing and growing up while water runs and drips infinitely.

1999/04/03



2001/08/18



2003/04/19



## resampling

The single videos are showing no full shots but details of the fountain.

Installations with several monitors resample an image of the reality in its spacial dimensions.

A time range of several years is shifted to simultaneousness.



“Brunner/ fountain”, installation, St. Peter & Paul, Bern, 2008

2003/08/08

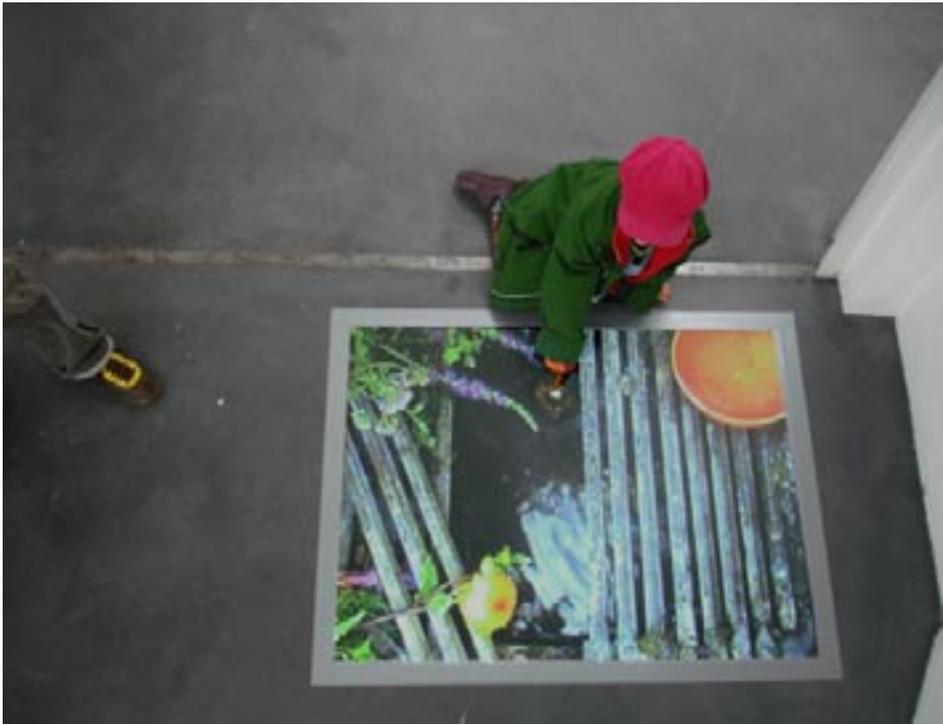


2004/01/02



2004/07/24





"Gulli / drain", projection, Kunsthaus Baselland 2008

2006/07/28



2007/05/20



2008/05/04



“Zimmerbrunnen / indoor fountain” installation, 2003



1999/04/03



### III Rest

How long is the duration of an hour - facing a motionless image.  
Does it make a difference to observe a dead bird, a sleeping child  
or a woman posing for a painter?



“the starling” 2004, “ingres” 1999, “cupido sleeping”, 2005, DV PAL, 60min



“Jagdbeute / good bag”, Wolkenhof, Murrhardt, 60min, 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 poissonnier / 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.



# V Life

## Markets, Paris 2001/02

The multicultural background of Paris is an ideal base for the analysis of market situations and cultures of presentation in an intercultural context.

The video still lives show different markets of Paris. They are simultaneously real time documentation and artifact. Objects like bags, towels, knives etc where designed and arranged in connection with the specific atmosphere of the place.

The project was supported by a grant of the „Film- & Videokredit Basel“.



“Joinville”, suburban market, Paris, 9.9.2001

“la ruche a miel”, Arab café, place de l’Aligre, Paris, 4.7.2001





"Ledru Rolin", italian traiteur, Paris, 21.1.2002

"Boulevard Raspaille", all organic, Paris, 15.7.2001





"Boulevard Saxe", Paris, 8.12.2001



## Newton's Archives of Time

ARK - Ausstellungsraum Klingental, Basel, 2007

9 Monitors - integrated into an installation of Martin Blum and Haimo Ganz - show 9 still lives from the archives of time. They describe a wide ark of human conditions from intimate situations as a sleeping child to an anti-war demonstration in a public place.



## VI Painting The last painting of the century - a painting of the new century.

Two video still lives show in parallel arrangements typical situations of presentation und consumption on opposite sides of the globe: the main market of Port Vila, Vanuatu at the last day of the millenium, 1999 and the fruit display in the shopping mall of the Migros headquarter in Zurich, Switzerland, 2000. The tablecloth is the link between the two settings.



“Last penting blong sentori” Port Vila, 1999



“a painting of the new century”, Zürich, 2000



installation view, Museum der Kulturen, Basel, 2001

## 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 mesures 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 girl interacts with the camera and uses it for her own performance.

The amorous glance in a worker's eyes changes the functional atmosphere of industrial work.

“Kinder stören / kids disturbing”, Bastille market, Paris, 2001





"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



"Newton explains time", performance, Blickachse, Worms, 2006



## XI Telling Stories II Newton explains time performance

Conversation as public performance. Equipped with a portable DVD player Newton offers his time to a single person or a small group of people. He invites them to sit down and to discover time on the little monitor.

The confidential setting enables real discussions. It might be in the shadow of a tree - as in the park of the „Hernsheimer Schloss“, Worms (D), or for teatime in the middle of an exhibition with last century paintings - Kunst Raum Riehen (CH).

“Newton explains time”, performance, Kunst Raum Riehen (CH), 2007





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