

Press Release

MAK NITE LAB 01/12

Program for January 2012

Tuesday, 31 January 2012

**8.30 p.m. MAK NITE Lab: Performing Architecture
MAIX MAYER *raumradar***

Film screening

With *raumradar* [spatial radar], German photographer and conceptual artist Maix Mayer opens the newly conceived event series MAK NITE Lab, now featuring free admission and slated to take place on one Tuesday evening each month.

The MAK NITE Lab event *Maix Mayer raumradar* on 31 January 2012 is directly linked to the exhibition *Envisioning Buildings: Reflecting Architecture in Contemporary Art Photography* (until 22 April 2012, MAK Exhibition Hall) and to other works by the artist, some of which are presented in the exhibition. These works can be experienced as a “performing architecture” of sorts, as moving images in a cinematic context with the architecture at the center and the viewers themselves being viewed as they watch. In his films, Maix Mayer takes up the theme of urbanity, posing questions as to how it is perceived. MAK NITE Lab will be presenting Mayer’s films *habitat* (2008) and *canyon* (2006).

The 2008 film *habitat* (HDV / 22’3”) plays on two islands which belong to two different continents with two different cultures. These embody the two complimentary partial habitats of the Northern and the Southern Hemisphere. The different locations are linked with one another via real and imaginary journeys taken by the film’s protagonist. An underwater laboratory, an Asian metropolis, the ocean and the solitary architectural works (by Ulrich Müther) of a barely known East German modernism are where the action plays out. The film’s leading actor goes through his searching motions within these zones. The works of architecture used in the film, works capsular and both open and closed, join with the contemporary urban spaces and landscape views to form a complex network of relationships. Elevated perspectives metamorphose into observation decks of the self.

The 2006 film *canyon* (HDV / 8'48") traces works of architecture realized in various countries. In the film, these buildings appear as components of an idealized city and filmic landscape. The selection of shooting locations was done based on the decision to focus on a stance within modern architecture which produces structures without right angles and uses the simultaneity of different perspectives to disrupt and thereby expand the user's accustomed mode of perception.

Maix Mayer lives and works in Leipzig, Germany as a photographer and conceptual artist. Following studies in marine biology, he went on to study photography in the class of Astrid Klein at the Academy of Visual Arts Leipzig. In his projects, which are positioned at various points between the genres of photography, film and installation, Maix Mayer combines found material with his own experience to develop a hyper-real view of the world and observes the transformation of our society using the example of urban spaces. Maix Mayer stages architecture with presence, as an architectonic icon and as a metaphor for social utopias. His most recent works introduce an additional poetic aesthetic into their structure, which is conceptual in nature.

MAK NITE, which during its over ten-year history has progressively developed into a field of applied experimentation for protagonists of the contemporary scene including architects, designers, performance and media artists as well as experimental musicians and fashion designers, has now been re-launched as **MAK NITE Lab** and will be devoting itself to the interdisciplinary theme "For Change." In the context of MAK exhibitions and as part of the preparations for the 2014 Triennial which are to begin in autumn 2012, Austrian and European artists from the most varied disciplines will be invited to introduce central approaches of their work once a month in a lab-like situation. One of the objectives is to make visible new modulations such as design performance and architecture performance. MAK NITE Lab will from now on take place not weekly, but one Tuesday evening a month, and admission will be free. Since the beginning of January 2012, the MAK has been open on Tuesday evenings till 10 p.m., with admission free between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m.

<http://maix.be/>

7 p.m.

Experts' talk

HAL FOSTER *The Art-Architecture Complex*

Hal Foster in dialogue with Simon Rees (to be held in English)

Renowned art and architectural historian Hal Foster will speak with exhibition curator Simon Rees about his most recent book, *The Art-Architecture Complex* (London 2011), and about the transformation that has taken place in architecture under the influence of contemporary art in the context of the theories of

representation which have been applied equally to building construction and art production since the rise of the postmodern.

Hal Foster is the Townsend Martin Professor of Art and Archeology at Princeton University. He is co-editor of the journal *October* as well as of *October Books*, and has also edited *The Anti-Aesthetic: Essays on Postmodern Culture* (2002). His most important works include *Compulsive Beauty* (1983), *The Return of the Real* (1996) and *Design and Crime* (2003).

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