

OVER YOUR CITIES GRASS WILL GROW



OFFICIAL SELECTION
OUT OF COMPETITION
FESTIVAL DE CANNES



A FILM OF THE WORK OF ANSELM KIEFER

AN AMOEBIA FILM, KASANDER, SCIAPODE PRODUCTION OF A FILM BY SOPHIE FIENNES WITH ANSELM KIEFER DIRECTOR SOPHIE FIENNES DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY REMKO SCHNORR
EDITOR ETHEL SHEPHERD SOUND DESIGN RANKO PAUKOVIC LINE PRODUCER NATASCHA TEUNISSEN PRODUCED BY SOPHIE FIENNES, KEES KASANDER, EMILIE BLÉZAT

WWW.OVERYOURCITIES.COM

Synopsis

In 1993 Kiefer left Buchen, Germany for La Ribaute, a derelict silk factory near Barjac. From 2000 he began constructing a series of elaborate installations there. Like a strange, sprawling village, La Ribaute extends over 35 hectares and is composed of old industrial buildings and working studios that link to a network of underground tunnels dug out by Kiefer, which run underneath pavilions built to house paintings and installations. An underground pool at the cul-de-sac of a tubular iron tunnel is embedded within a crypt which backs onto a 20 m tiered concrete amphitheatre. There are caves and woods, an open landscape of concrete towers – assembled like so many card houses – and secluded, private spaces. Traversing this landscape, the film immerses the audience in the total world and creative process of one of today's most significant and inventive artists.

Shot in cinemascope, the film constructs visual set pieces alongside observational footage to capture both the dramatic resonance of Kiefer's art and the intimate process of creation.



Tourné en cinémascope, le film de Sophie Fiennes alterne déambulation visuelle et quête observationnelle, pour capturer à la fois la résonance dramatique de l'art de Kiefer et l'intimité de son processus de création. Cette polarité d'échelle, de sensibilité, de temps, anime le film et crée une narration multicouche, qui nous fait naviguer dans les espaces complexes de La Ribaute.

Ici création et destruction sont interdépendantes ; le film trempe dans les matériaux bruts qu'utilise Kiefer pour construire ses peintures et sculptures : plomb, béton, cendres, acide, terre, verre et or. OVER YOUR CITIES GRASS WILL GROW est une vision unique et privilégiée des derniers jours de Kiefer à La Ribaute, à l'aube de son déménagement pour Paris, où il vit et travaille à présent.

OVER YOUR CITIES GRASS WILL GROW BEARS WITNESS TO GERMAN ARTIST ANSELM KIEFER'S ALCHEMICAL CREATIVE PROCESSES AND RENDERS AS A FILM JOURNEY THE PERSONAL UNIVERSE HE HAS BUILT AT HIS HILL STUDIO ESTATE IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE.

Synopsis

En 1993, Kiefer quitte Buchen en Allemagne pour La Ribaute, une soierie abandonnée près de Barjac. Depuis 2000 il y construit une série d'installations très élaborées. La Ribaute s'étend sur plus de 35 hectares, comme un village étrange et tentaculaire, composé de vieux bâtiments industriels et d'ateliers, reliés par un réseau de souterrains creusés par Kiefer, qui courent sous 48 pavillons abritant peintures et installations. Le film déambule dans ce lieu d'accumulation et plonge dans son gigantesque labyrinthe. Il dévoile une piscine souterraine nichée au fond d'un tunnel en métal, entourée d'une crypte adossée à un amphithéâtre de 20 mètres de long, construit de containers encastrés dans du béton. Il traverse grottes et forêts pour aboutir sur un large paysage parsemé de tours de béton assemblées comme autant de châteaux de cartes... Le film immerge le spectateur dans le monde unique et le travail d'un des artistes les plus signifiants et inventifs d'aujourd'hui.

This polarity – in terms of scale, sensibility and time – animates the film, creating a multi-layered narrative through which to navigate the complex spaces of La Ribaute.

Here creation and destruction are interdependent; the film enters into direct contact with the raw materials Kiefer employs to build his paintings and sculptures - lead, concrete, ash, acid, earth, glass and gold. OVER YOUR CITIES GRASS WILL GROW gives privileged access to Kiefer's last days at La Ribotte prior to his move to Paris, where he now lives and works.

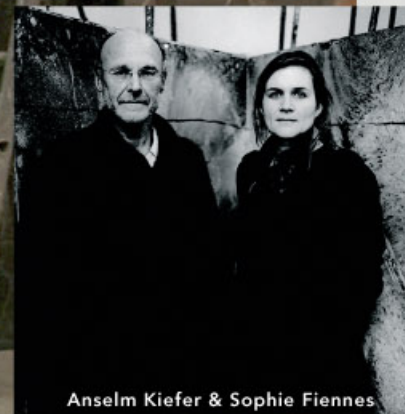


photo: Anton Corbijn

Anselm Kiefer

Anselm Kiefer's monumental body of work occupies a fascinating place in the canon of late 20th Century art. Born in 1945, a son of post-fascist Germany, he initially embarrassed his country through his excavations of the nation's recent past when he photographed himself performing Nazi salutes in the landscape. Kiefer came to prominence in 1980 when he represented his country in the Venice Biennale. His work is now held in museums and private collections internationally.

Recent exhibitions include a retrospective at the Guggenheim Bilbao and Monumenta (2007) at the Grand Palais in Paris. In 2008 the Louvre commissioned a painting for their permanent collection and Kiefer was awarded the Friedenspreis des Deutschen Buchhandels in Germany. His creation at La Ribaute represents his most ambitious work to date in the second half of his career.

L'œuvre d'Anselm Kiefer occupe une place fascinante dans la création contemporaine. Né en 1945, Anselm Kieffer est un fils de l'Allemagne post-fasciste. Dès ses débuts il embarrasse son pays en fouillant le passé récent de l'Allemagne, se photographiant en train d'effectuer le salut nazi au milieu de paysages. Représentant l'Allemagne à la Biennale de Venise en 1980, son travail ne cesse ensuite d'être acheté par les musées et les collectionneurs du monde entier. Il a récemment exposé au Guggenheim Museum de Bilbao et au Grand Palais (Monumenta 2007) qui lui ont dédié une grande rétrospective. En 2008, le Musée du Louvre lui commande une œuvre pour sa collection permanente, et il remporte le prestigieux prix The Friedenspreis des Deutschen Buchhandels. La Ribaute est l'œuvre la plus ambitieuse de la seconde partie de sa carrière.

Complete list of exhibitions / Liste complète de ses expositions: www.whitecube.com/artists/kiefer/texts/43/

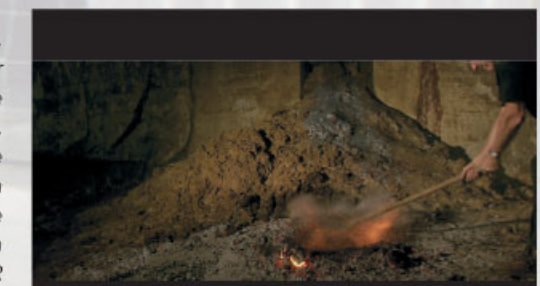
OVER YOUR CITIES GRASS WILL GROW REND COMPTE DU PROCESSUS DE CRÉATION ALCHEMIQUE DE L'ARTISTE ALLEMAND ANSELM KIEFER ET RETRANSCRIT EN UN VOYAGE CINÉMATOGRAPHIQUE, L'UNIVERS PERSONNEL QU'IL A ÉLABORÉ DANS SON ATELIER-COLLINE DU SUD DE LA FRANCE.



Sophie Fiennes

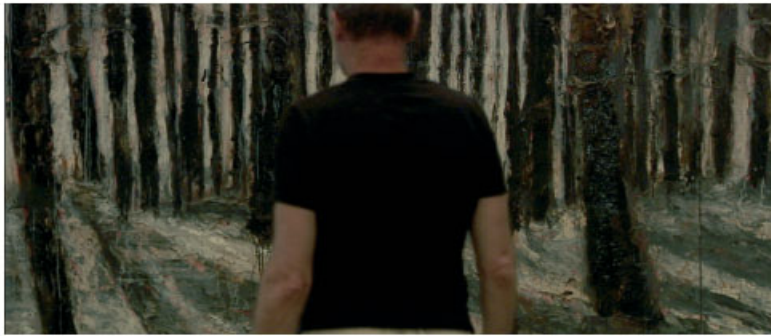
Sophie Fiennes was born in Suffolk, England, in 1967. She attended art school briefly, worked with Peter Greenaway from 1987 to 1992 and managed choreographer Michael Clark from 1993 to 1995. She began making her films in 1998. She is widely acclaimed for her unique observational eye and strong sense of cinematic form. Previous films include her infamous THE PERVERT'S GUIDE TO CINEMA (2006), a film collaboration with radical thinker Slavoj Zizek. She made HOOVER STREET REVIVAL (2002), a feature documentary about a Pentecostal church community in Los Angeles and the sermons of its resident preacher. Kasander co-produced both films with Fiennes. Future projects include GRACE JONES, THE MUSICAL OF MY LIFE, a marathon digital-video feature project with singer and performer Grace Jones, and THE PERVERT'S GUIDE TO IDEOLOGY, her second collaboration with Slavoj Zizek. Fiennes was awarded a NESTA fellowship in 2000 and at Rotterdam's 2008 Cinemart she won the ARTE FRANCE CINEMA AWARD.

Sophie Fiennes est née en 1967 à Suffolk au Royaume-Uni. Elle étudie brièvement les beaux-arts, avant de travailler avec Peter Greenaway de 1987 à 1992. De 1993 à 1995 elle est manager du chorégraphe Michael Clark. En 1998, elle réalise ses premiers films. Elle est largement reconnue pour sa capacité d'observation unique, et son sens de la forme cinématographique. Parmi ses projets récents, le célèbre THE PERVERT'S GUIDE TO CINEMA (2006), en collaboration avec le penseur radical Slavoj Zizek ; HOOVER STREET REVIVAL (2002) sur une communauté religieuse pentecôtiste à Los Angeles et son prédicateur époustoufflant, tous deux coproduits avec Kees Kasander. Elle prépare actuellement : GRACE JONES, THE MUSICAL OF MY LIFE, un film marathon avec la chanteuse et performeuse Grace Jones, et THE PERVERT'S GUIDE TO IDEOLOGY, sa seconde collaboration avec Slavoj Zizek. Elle a reçu la bourse NESTA en 2000 et le Prix ARTE France Cinéma au Cinemart 2008 pour soutenir son approche innovatrice de la réalisation.



FILMOGRAPHY SOPHIE FIENNES

- VSPRS Show and Tell (documentary) 2007
- The Pervert's Guide to Cinema (film essay) 2006
- Hoover Street Revival (feature documentary) 2003
- Because I Sing (documentary) 2001
- The Late Michael Clark (documentary) 2000
- Lars from 1 – 10 (short) 1998



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Kasander

KEES KASANDER set up Kasander Film for the purpose of structural European crossover productions. He is mostly known for his work with Peter Greenaway; THE COOK, THE THIEF, HIS WIFE AND HER LOVER (1989), PROSPERO'S BOOKS (1992) and THE PILLOW BOOK (1995). His newest feature film FISH TANK written and directed by Andrea Arnold premiered at the Cannes Film Festival 2009 and received the Jury Prize. On top of that FISH TANK was rewarded with a BAFTA award for Best Outstanding British Film in February 2010.

Sciapode

EMILIE BLÉZAT founded SCIAPODE in 2003 to produce European films by strong, generous and ambitious filmmakers. These artists – Wim Vandekeybus, Andrew Köttling, Florent de La Tullaye & Renaud Barret, Jan Lauwers, David Dusa, Wayn Traub... – developed a huge piece of work in other media (visual arts, choreography, theatre, photography...) to bring to cinema new skills in dramaturgy, narrative and visual story telling. Latest productions include VICTOIRE TERMINUS by de la Tullaye and Barret (Berlinale 2008, Grierson Award at the BFI London IFF), FLEURS DU MAL by David Dusa (Cannes 2010, Acid, Cinemart), IVUL by Andrew Köttling (Locarno IFF, Pusan IFF, London IFF), BLUSH by Wim Vandekeybus (Best choreography for film by the Directors' Guild of America, Cannes Festival).

OVER YOUR CITIES GRASS WILL GROW DIRECTED BY SOPHIE FIENNES

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Sophie Fiennes

PRODUCED BY
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Kees Kasander
Emilie Blézat

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Ensemble Number X**

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by György Ligeti
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Cello Concerto, First Movement
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An Amoeba Film, Kasander, Sciapode
Production

A Film By Sophie Fiennes

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