



THE PARALLEL

Soso Dumbadze, 2015

2-Channel Video Installation | 2 Pedestals | Red carpet
Video SD | Color | 4:3 PAL | Sound | 3:40' (Loop)

APPLICANT INFORMATION

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APPLICATION FOR A VIDEO INSTALLATION

Title The Parallel
Year 2015
Online Link <http://vimeo.com/118160164>
Vimeo Password Saakashvili-Putin

SHORT DESCRIPTION

»The Parallel« shows TV images dealing with the representation of power of the post-Soviet state leaders in media. Shots »opposed« to each other create parallels. Some connections between the video sequences can be directly perceived, others are alluded to.

CONTEXT OF IMAGES

In 2003, in Georgia, a bloodless »Rose Revolution« takes place. The opposition leader Saakashvili storms the parliament building and forces president Shevardnadze to step down. Saakashvili is elected president with 96 % of the popular vote. In 2005, US president Bush visits Georgia and calls it a »beacon of liberty«. In the night from 7th to 8th August 2008, Saakashvili orders Georgian soldiers to open fire in the South Ossetian region. Within hours, South Ossetia is supported militarily by Russia; a war begins. It lasts for five days. In 2015, President of Ukraine Petro Poroshenko appointed Saakashvili as the governor of the Odessa region in southwest Ukraine. Saakashvili held this position until 2016.

CONSTRUCTION

The video installation is composed of two monitors, standing horizontally side by side. Both show elements in a loop. The duration of represented images varies on each monitor.

TECHNICAL DATA

Video SD | Pal 4:3 | Sound | Color | 3:40' (Loop)

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

2 monitors (Hantarex MGG 28“) | 1 simultaneous Media-Player | 1 sound mixer | 2 headphones Switch-Ethernet | 2 headphones | 1 black pedestal, height 1,20 m | red carpet (the length depends on the installation space)

NOTES

This video installation has been acquired by the Cultural Department of the City of Cologne, curated by Dr. Barbara Engelbach, Ludwig Museum

EXHIBITIONS


Trinity Church Cologne | Art Cologne | Haus am Lützowplatz, Berlin | The Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany (short, the Bundeskunsthalle), Bonn

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Titles

Screenshot

Image description

<p>On the left: Moscow, Russia, May 7, 2004 Ceremony: Vladimir Putin's second inauguration</p> <p>On the right: Tbilisi, Georgia, January 25, 2004 Ceremony: Mikheil Saakasvhili's first inauguration</p>		<p>The installation is comprised of two monitors. The monitors stand side by side on a pedestal. Two video images are playing simultaneously in a loop.</p> <p>The right image shows the former Georgian president Saakasvhili's inauguration on January 25, 2004. The ceremony was broadcast live by various Georgian television stations.</p> <p>The left image shows the Russian president Putin's inauguration after his re-election on May 7, 2004. The ceremony was broadcast live by the Russian state television.</p> <p>Both scenes show their festive procession on the red carpet, on their way to the pedestal where they will swear the presidential oath. Both images have a timecode, counting the distance they cover. Saakasvhili reaches his pedestal by 1:50 minutes, Putin reaches the pedestal by 3:20.</p> <p>The original sound of each scene (music by an orchestra) can be heard simultaneously in the headphone.</p>
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Haus am Lützowplatz, Berlin 2015-2016



Arrangement plan for installation objects



BIOGRAPHY

Soso Dumbadze (1981) lives in Cologne, works in Cologne and Tbilisi. From 1998 to 2002 he studied TV and film directing at Tbilisi State University and from 2004, at the Academy of Media Arts Cologne where he received a diploma in 2011. His works were presented at the following exposition spaces and exhibitions: The Art and Exhibition Hall of the Federal Republic of Germany (short, the Bundeskunsthalle), Art Cologne, New Talents – Biennale, Haus am Lützowplatz Berlin and others. His video installation *The Parallel* (2012), which analyzed the media representations of power on the example of the inaugurations of presidents Saakashvili and Putin, was acquired by the Culture Department of the City of Cologne, under the curatorship of Barbara Engelbach from the Ludwig Museum. The videoinstallation *A Yellow Bus* (2017) addressing homophobia in Georgia using materials depicting the events of May 17, 2013 in Tbilisi was covered by Frieze and Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung. His diploma film *Sunny Night* (2017) about the Georgian Orthodox Church and its power within the political landscape of Georgia, co-directed with Lea Hartlaub, premiered at Dok-Leipzig festival. In parallel, Dumbadze has been working on his PhD project, *The Georgian Silver Age* (working title), at the University of Fine Arts of Hamburg, which examines Georgian-Russian and European avant-garde cinema and its meaning for the political essay film, for which he has been awarded the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation scholarship. In 2006 Soso Dumbadze founded Sazogadoebrivi Gamomtsemloba Sa.Ga. (Publishing for Society), which he has lead ever since. Since its founding Sa.Ga. has published 15 books, including works by authors such as Theodor W. Adorno and Walter Benjamin, Sergei Eisenstein and Dziga Vertov, Pier Paolo Pasolini, as well as Harun Farocki, Chris Marker and others.

Filmography Soso Dumbadze (selection)

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| 2017 | »A yellow bus«
15-channel video installation
Color 16:9 Sound Loop
Exhibition: 2.6.2017-15.7.2017, »alpha nova & galerie future« Berlin; 8.6.-10.6.2018 Vachnadze-Street Tbilisi, Gallery »Fabrika«, Tbilisi
Funded: Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Equality Movement, Women's Initiatives Supporting Group; Propaganda.network.; Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation |
| 2017 | »Sunny Night«
Found Footage Essayfilm, Realisation
85' 2D DCP Master Farbe, SW 4:3
Eine Gemeinschaftsarbeit von Lea Hartlaub
In Collaboration with Blinker Filmproduktion GmbH und Meike Martens
Festivals: Dok-Leipzig 2017, CinéDOC-Tbilisi 2018, Apricot Tree Ujan International Film Festival, Armenian 2018
Funded: Georgisches Nationales Filmzentrum
Awards: Special Mention, CinéDOC-Tbilisi 2018 |
| 2014 | »A candle«
4-channel video installation
Video SD Color, BW 4:3 PAL Loop
Exhibition: New Talents – Biennale Cologne 2014
Funded: TBS-Bank Georgia |