

BFI GALLERY PRESS RELEASE

JULIAN ROSEFELDT

American Night

BFI Gallery, BFI Southbank, London, SE1

10 September – 7 November 2010

Private view: Thursday 9 September, 6.30-9pm

Admission free

www.bfi.org.uk/gallery



Still from *American Night* © Julian Rosefeldt

Berlin-based artist Julian Rosefeldt (b.1965) has made a name for himself with lavishly produced, moving image multi-screen installations.

American Night is one of his most complex works to date - a five channel film installation. In it he uses the stylistic devices of the Western genre, to deconstruct the myth of the founding of America and relate it to the ambitions of recent US foreign policy. **Julian Rosefeldt: American Night** opens at the BFI Gallery on 10 September and runs until 7 November 2010. Admission is free.

American Night (2009) is a homage to the medium of film and reflects on the construction of fictional narratives using cinematographic and iconographic references. Shot on a Sergio Leone film set in southern Spain and on the Canary Islands on 16mm film transferred onto HD, it uses the stylistic devices of the Western genre to take on political issues.

The installation offers a complex, simultaneous interweaving of several dimensions of reality: for example, one of the screens shows five cowboys gathered around a camp fire, musing on the American conception of freedom and speaking a language entirely made out of quotations from film, US politicians' speeches and rap music lyrics. On another screen, viewers see a puppet show performed in a saloon with George W. Bush and Barack Obama as the protagonists, while, in reference to a certain US foreign policy, another scene shows a helicopter landing and armed US troops rushing out to occupy a deserted Western town.

As in François Truffaut's famous film *La Nuit Américaine*, Rosefeldt's film installation is an homage to the process of filmmaking itself. The title 'American Night' refers to a filming technique that allows the shooting of night scenes during the daytime (often used in Westerns). Rosefeldt alludes on the one hand to that filming technique (which he also uses here) and on the other, metaphorically to 'the approaching end of the American empire'.

About Julian Rosefeldt

Born in Munich in 1965, Julian Rosefeldt studied architecture in Munich and Barcelona. He has participated in many group exhibitions, including recently at: Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Royal Academy of Arts London, MuKHA Antwerp, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden Washington, Hayward Gallery London, Kunstverein Hannover, MUSAC Léon, International Biennial of Contemporary Art in Prague, São Paulo Biennial, Centre National Georges Pompidou Paris, Kunsthalle Basel, and at P.S.1 New York. Solo exhibitions at DA2 Domus Artium Salamanca (2010, forthcoming), Berlinische Galerie Berlin (2010), Kunstmuseum Bonn (2009), Galería Helga de Alvear Madrid (2008), BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art Gateshead (2004), KW Institute for Contemporary Art Berlin (2004), Museum Franz Gertsch, Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart Berlin (2002), ZKM Karlsruhe (1999) and Kunstsammlung NRW Düsseldorf (1998). He has exhibited his work several times at Arndt & Partner Berlin / Zurich and at Max Wigram Gallery London and his work is in public and private collections. Since 1999 he has lived and worked in Berlin.

There will be an 'In Conversation' with the curator and writer David Thorp and Julian Rosefeldt on Friday 10 September at 6.20pm in the BFI Studio.

Julian Rosefeldt is represented by Max Wigram Gallery London (www.maxwigram.com) and Arndt Berlin. © all images: Julian Rosefeldt.

About BFI Southbank

BFI Southbank (located between the National Theatre and the Royal Festival Hall) has the only London art gallery specifically dedicated to commissioning and showcasing artists' films and videos and the moving image in its most contemporary forms. There's more to discover about film and television through the BFI. Its world-renowned archival collections, cinemas, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire everyone.

Listing details:

BFI Gallery, BFI Southbank, Belvedere Road, London, SE1 8XT

Gallery admission free

Exhibition open Tuesday to Sundays (and Bank Holiday Mondays): 12 noon - 8pm

Tel: DAILY INFO: 020 7633 0274 BOX OFFICE: 020 7928 3232

Tube/BR: Waterloo www.bfi.org.uk/gallery

Currently showing at the BFI Gallery until 30 August:

John Akomfrah: Mnemosyne

Next exhibition at the BFI Gallery:

Yvonne Rainer, 26 November 2010 – 23 January 2011

For further press information about the BFI Gallery and images, please contact Alison Wright

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