



Media Information – Linz, February 2010

## **CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz 2010**

*Announcement of this year's OK Artist in Residence – Rainer Gamsjäger, the new CROSSING EUROPE Award European Documentary (powered by ORF) to be awarded for the first time in 2010, and the new program section RECLAIMING SPACE in cooperation with the Architecture Forum Upper Austria.*

For one week in April, Linz will again be at the heart of the European festival map. From **20 to 25 April 2010** the CROSSING EUROPE Film Festival Linz presents **European auteur cinema from almost 30 countries in around 130 programs**. In recent weeks, more European and regional film productions have been submitted than ever before, and for the first time in the seven-year history of the second largest international film festival in Austria, the number of entered films has surpassed 600 – a proof of confidence in the programmatic orientation and appreciation of the work of past years for the entire CROSSING EUROPE team.

### **OK Artist in Residence 2010: Rainer Gamsjäger (AT)**

Following Siegfried A. Fruhauf in 2004, with **Rainer Gamsjäger (\*1974)** another young Upper Austrian media artist from the crossover area of film/visual art is welcomed as the **OK Artist in Residence** at CROSSING EUROPE. At the invitation of the OK "Offenes Kulturhaus" Upper Austria, Rainer Gamsjäger is currently working on a **new installation**, which will be publicly presented for the first time during CROSSING EUROPE. After that, it will be shown at five other European media art festivals and biennials in Belgium, Germany, Italy, France and Poland. In addition, Gamsjäger's most recent work, **STATE OF FLUX - WAVE#1 / WAVE#2 / WAVE#3**, will be screened in the cinema in the Local Artists program during the week of the festival. Here Rainer Gamsjäger tests the behavior of the chaotic particle system of water under the conditions of a three-dimensional conception of the information carrier video.

His experimental films are **structural engagements with the medium of video** and are largely presented as **video installations**. He actually works in the old genre of the landscape picture, even if **nature shots only form the starting point for his purely computer-generated works**. Starting from the notion of a digital space that the video forms, the linear sequence can be newly structured by means of self-programmed software. Intervening in the digital structure has a strong, almost **magically alluring effect**. The irritating distortions, however, are also an exploration of the aesthetics of the image of nature and what is "sublime" in the beauty of nature.

### **NEW FESTIVAL AWARD: CROSSING EUROPE Award European Documentary 2010 (powered by ORF)**

The current trend to documentary film will have an impact of this year's festival program as well. In 2010, the introduction of the **new festival award, CROSSING EUROPE Award European Documentary (powered by ORF)**, fulfills a wish, long held by festival director Christine Dollhofer, of focusing more attention on documentary films from Europe in the festival program. In ORF (the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation) CROSSING EUROPE has now found a strong partner for this award, which includes the **purchase of broadcasting rights for the award-winning film by ORF.**

All European long documentaries with a minimum length of 45 minutes that are screened in the CROSSING EUROPE program are eligible. A jury of experts (ORF and CROSSING EUROPE) nominates the award-winning film, the director of which will be awarded during the CROSSING EUROPE Awards Presentation on 24 April 2010.

### **NEW PROGRAM SECTION: RECLAIMING SPACE (in cooperation with AFO)**

CROSSING EUROPE is happy to announce a **newly formed cooperation** with the **Architecture Forum Upper Austria (AFO)** and, with this, the **new program section on the theme of "Architecture and Film"** with the title **RECLAIMING SPACE**, curated by the Austrian artist and filmmaker Lotte Schreiber. At various levels, the three planned film programs explore the **theme of vacant properties, urban waste lands and residual spaces in the context of the demand for a democratization of space.** Within a few years, gentrification processes change the appearance and social constellation of entire urban districts, which is also addressed in one of the documentaries in the program, EMPIRE ST.PAULI – VON PERLENKETTEN UND PLATZVERWEISEN (D 2009, D: Irene Bude & Olaf Sobczak). Questions like, "How do we deal with space becoming available and what role does this play in the value system of our society?" or "Which possibilities of interim use, re-use and subsequent use are there, and which impacts on urban planning and urban development are associated with them?", are the focal point of the films in the program section RECLAIMING SPACE.

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