

LYNNE MARSH

Born in Vancouver, 1969. Lives and works in Montreal, Berlin and Hertfordshire, UK

Plänterwald 2010
HD video installation
17:50 mins.
edition of 5
Purchased 2011

Exhibited: *Manif d'art 6*, Quebec City (2010);
Screenings: *Live Weekend 1*, ICA, London (2010); *Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin/Madrid*, CentrePompidou, Paris, Auditorium of the Ministerio de Cultura, Madrid and Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin (2010); *European Media Art Festival*, Osnabrueck, Germany (2010)

Plänterwald was filmed on the site of a former GDR amusement park built in 1969 and abandoned after reunification. Its rollercoaster and ferris wheel sit motionless at the edge of the city of Berlin. After being closed to the public for almost a decade, the rides and fairground structures – once providing a distraction from everyday realities – are left to a gradual process of decay and overgrowth. Paradoxically this derelict site is patrolled and protected by security guards who attempt to maintain its separation from the public sphere and contemporary life as they situate it in the present social and economic conditions.

The video stages a journey in, over and through this delimited park evoking the exceptional conditions of its persistent existence. Positioning the security guards as the guardians of a “dead” space, the work plays on the absurdities of the use of force and the notion of property in relation to the decay and obsolescence of the site.

Plänterwald explores a world held together by an internal logic and quietly, yet relentlessly – like the defunct rollercoaster – echoes the potentially explosive rumbles of deep social and political fault lines.

Lynne Marsh, 2012
Lynne Marsh received her MA from Goldsmiths, London (1998) and her BA from Concordia University, Montreal (1992).

Curator's Statement

Through her work, Marsh examines the role architecture plays in the creation of meaning, focusing her lens on culturally and historically loaded spaces and terrain. *Plänterwald* was originally commissioned for the 5th *Manif d'art 5* Québec City Biennial in 2010. Discarded, but clearly not forgotten, *Plänterwald* park suggests an enduring power of the past and points to that which lingers below the surface of social status quo.

Plänterwald is the first work by Lynne Marsh to enter the collection and strengthens the museum's holdings of contemporary female artists associated with Quebec. The video resonates with other works in the collection that explore architectural relics of the not-so-distance past including Montreal artist Pascal Grandmaison's videos *Soleil Différé* (2010) and British filmmaker Tacita Dean's *Fernseturm* (2001). As an exploration of failed or neglected political concepts, Marsh's work also resonates with numerous sculptures in the Gallery's holdings including Damian Moppett's *Endless Rustic Skateboard Park (Bacchic Peasant Version)* (2002); Alex Morrison's *Provisional Structure* (2007) and *The Poetics of Grey (no. 4)* (both 2004); and Hadley + Maxwell's multifaceted installation *1+1-1* (2007-09).

