

Art and Music III

Viktor Alimpiev – Two Songs

Wie heisst dieser Platz?, 2006

My Breath, 2007

Cinema version

Opening: Friday, 29.06.2007, 8pm

The exhibition runs: 30.6.-22.7.2007, Saturdays to Sundays 2-6pm

Viktor Alimpiev (*1973, Moscow), whose work *Summer Lightings* was shown at the 4th Berlin Biennale in the Former Jewish Girls' School, combines different artistic fields in his cinematic work: visual arts, music, theater and dance. In his films he has worked with the human body and more recently with song and speech. During the 2005 Venice Theatre Biennale he directed the play *We're Talking about Music* in Italian language together with Marian Zhunin. In Linz in 2006 he created the video *Wie heisst dieser Platz?* in German.

As part of the exhibition series "Art and Music" Art Laboratory Berlin is pleased to show two recent works, where the medium of film visualizes a full framework of references about speech, song and bodily movement, within which the concept of *sculpture* plays a vital role.

In his video work ***Wie heisst dieser Platz?, 2006***, Alimpiev uses language in the form of singing and speaking as artistic plastic material. A group of eleven women and men stand close to one another in the middle of an empty room. One person, though, is standing with her face to the crowd. "So, what is the purpose of this speaking? What really is the value of this play?" are the first phrases of the woman's *sprechgesang*. But her question remains unanswered, a dialogue does not take place.

"In my work I want to refer to the 'talking on the square'", said Alimpiev about this work. "Here it is German speech about space, about the place of one person. About the possibility, to name the earth under one's foot." The square/place as a social space provides a basis for the opposition of the crowd and the individual; it also locates the individual within the crowd. Alimpiev consciously makes use of void and fullness: The vastness of the place, which is expressed in the *sprechgesang*, stands in opposition to the over-fullness of the crowd.



Wie heisst dieser Platz?, 2006, filmstil

The most recent work ***My Breath*** from 2007, which Alimpiev has dedicated to the well-known Moscow conceptualist Andrey Monastyrsky, is a study about the condition of speech and song. We see a close-up of two female faces, who, standing cheek-to-cheek, look past one another. They sing a duet in a calm and concentrated manner. At first glance it seems like a classical singing exercise. In the course of the performance, however, it develops into an idiosyncratic presentation about breath, breathing and speech. An essential aesthetic aspect in this piece is the self-referentiality, which is reflected in both the singers' text on breathing and in the physical act of breathing during song.



My Breath, 2007, filmstil

Regine Rapp

Selected solo exhibitions 2007 *Victor Alimpiev* S.M.A.K. – Stedelijk Museum for Actuele Kunst, Gent **2006** *Wetterleuchten*, Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe | *Victor Alimpiev* O.K center, Linz **2005** *Shining* Contemporary City Foundation, Moscow | *Sweet Nightingale* Regina Gallery, Moscow **2004** *The Far Off Fight* Guelman Gallery, Moscow **Selected group exhibitions 2006** 4. berlin biennale | *5 Tage bis zum Ende der Kunst*, Kunsthalle Fridericianum, Kassel **2004** *Manifesta 5* Donostia, San Sebastian | *Body Display* Secession, Vienna **2003** *Individual Systems* 50. Biennale di Venezia