

“Das andere Amerika / The other America a video essay” by Angela Zumpe

Nov. 29th - Dec. 2nd



The documentary video installation *Das andere Amerika / The other America* (2004) by the media artist Angela Zumpe will be shown at Play_gallery for still and motion pictures in Berlin from 27th November to 2nd December 2004.

Since 11th September 2001, criticism is no longer directed at US politics alone: Fundamental reservations against America itself have become visible. Yet, in the daily media this is often not differentiated. Therefore, a new dimension of engaging with American culture and with the image of America is to be explored and developed. Starting point of this 38-minute installation is a series of interviews with young people from high schools in Duisburg, concerning their image of themselves as Germans. Angela Zumpe also asked the pupils about their ideas about America and their attitude to the war in Iraq.

In the second part, political scientists, artists and historians have their say as “experts”. They are not the usual talk show guests, because they also hold unpopular views or take into account the labour-intensive historical and psychological background.

Then third part presents the opinions of Americans: How do Americans, who directly experienced the effects of 11th September, perceive the situation of their own country?

It is the aim of this documentary video essay to highlight the ambivalence of the discussion and to distil different viewpoints from the daily media coverage.

The visual language of this installation is consciously distinguished from that of television. There is no know-all commentary underlying the images, but they are contextualised by cuts and split screen elements. A juxtaposition of statements is possible and intended. Ideally, an exciting and developing culture-theoretical debate will be brought before the public.