

**“VIDEOEX 2003”** International Experimental Film & Videofestival Zurich

Sep. 19 - 21, 2003



PLAY gallery for still and motion pictures is pleased to present on September 19th, 20th, 21st 2003 the winners of the competition together with a selection of the international program of the 2003 Videoex Festival (May 16-25).

VIDEOEX is an experimental film and video festival held every year in Zurich, Switzerland in mid May. The VIDEOEX festivals' purpose is to promote experimental video and film work.

The festival started in 1998 and it includes an international and a Swiss competition. For the 2003 edition more than 1200 works from 50 countries have been submitted for the international competition. Beside the competitions the festival presents each year different retrospectives and special programs. In the year 2001 retrospectives of Bruce Conner, Pat O'Neill and Nam June Paik were presented. The 2000 edition included a special section dedicated to Japanese works with retrospectives on Ito Takashi, programs of 16 & 8mm Japanese experimental films, and two programs with new motion graphics and digital productions. In 2003 the retrospective was dedicated to the late Stan Brakhage. Two programs with films by him were shown.

A highlight of the VIDEOEX 2003 was the central program with the theme „Urban Lights“. Well-known curators from various different metropolis around the globe (Craig Baldwin from San Francisco, Yann Beauvais from Paris, Kaspar Stracke from New York and Mike Hoolboom from Vancouver/Toronto) put together works exclusively for the festival, which in one way or another convey a feeling for what makes up their city. The program was concerned with the question whether we still need cities or not. Have cities lost their cultural significance? Are they only centres of trade and consume (also cultural consume)? Are those places that used to be the metropolis, not only by their size but because they produced new cultural meanings, obsolete? Is the compressing of people, influences, ways of thinking, which was able to create new strings of thoughts and positions, no longer necessary?

The 2003 jury of the International Competition was made up of Yann Beauvais (Paris), Susann Buchan (London), Kaspar Stracke (New York). Following works were awarded: First prize went to „White Balance“ by François Bucher. Three special prizes ex aequo went to:

“From the Home Front” by Asil Bothuhn, “Rock in the Video Age” by Niclas Dietrich and “Unternehmen Paradies” by Volker Sattel. The winner of the Swiss competition was: „Black Milk“ by Max Philipp Schmid and Beat Brogle.