

the gallery at night
sketch

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presents

Marcus Kreiss

25 April-21 May 2005

jutojo for DreamSet

23 May-18 June 2005



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'souvenirs from the earth': video-paintings by Marcus Kreiss

Can television one day be something completely different from the content the entertainment industry is currently serving us? Can TV be an 'art terminal' that brings a slow, inspiring flow of funky images into people's homes, a window to a truly different world where nothing ever happens as expected? Can it redeem the promise made in sci-fi films in which the walls are screens, letting people immerse themselves in dreamlike, visually fulfilling atmospheres?

This is the vision of Paris-based artist Marcus Kreiss, who studied filmmaking in Cinecitta, Rome before making art for public spaces and working as a painter. His work is represented in major art collections including those of Deutsche Bank, Fnac (Paris), and

the Lambert Collection in Avignon. For Kreiss, filmmaking, painting and public art eventually melted into a single project: to build a TV channel showing art videos in a clearly defined format. The criteria: slow-moving images, without a story or sound, format-filling, dealing with reality, without computer graphics and without hard cuts. Art videos corresponding to this definition were hard to find, and thus all of Kreiss's own videos have since been created to fit the format, to 'define the format;' every video another attempt at exploring the possibilities of the definition.

The project was presented for the first time at an event at the ICA in London (streamTV, November 1998) and at the 1999 Venice Biennale, invited by the Italian art critics association Oreste. It later evolved into the creation of Kreiss's own production house, 'souvenirs from the earth,' in 2001, specialising in what he calls 'video-paintings' for television and for the luxury industry. Glimpses of this futuristic TV programming can be taken late at night on the German channel HR, and on PinkTV in Paris, and later this year

on public access channels in New York and Los Angeles. sketch presents a specially adapted programme of twenty videos, including the premier of the video 'hardrockparty'.

Marcus Kreiss was born in 1961. He lives and works in Paris, the Provence, and Barcelona. His work has been shown at, among others: the Lambert Collection, Avignon; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Arco, Madrid; Artissima, Turin; Institut français, Cologne (Feinkost 1997); Galeria Luigi Franco, Turin; le sous-sol, Paris; Black-block / Palais de Tokyo, Paris; Tokyoeat / Palais de Tokyo, Paris; ICA, London; Maison européenne de la Photographie, Paris; Festival International de Benicassim; Frac Alsace; Frac Lorraine; Transmediale Festival, Berlin; Totem Gallery, New York; Void, New York; CGAC, Santiago de Compostella; le DOJO, Nice; and Rai Sat-arte, Milan.

For more information about the artist: www.documentsdartistes.org/kreiss

For more information about the television project: www.souvenirsfromtheearth.com