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GALLERY HOP AROUND TOWN WITH HONG-AN TRUONG

That Which Cannot Be Remembered Stalking with Stories: The Pioneers of the Immemorable

Apexart

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Croatian curators Antonia Majaca and Ivana Bago present a group of schematically representational works that challenge the role of narrativity in remembering the past. Katerina Seda's project, *It Doesn't Matter* (2005), includes a film and a thick volume of drawings created by her grandmother, who recalls and re-creates from

memory over 650 goods and prices from her lifetime of work as the manager of a tool shop in a small village in Moravska during socialism. In this collection, history and memory is replaced with classification, a kind of order beyond temporality, a hermetic world at once full and singular. Felix Gmelin's, *Farbtest, Die Rote Fahne II*, (Color Test, The Red Flag II), (2002), is a



small scale dual projection using an original film depicting the artist's father running through the streets of West Berlin in 1968 waving a red flag to assemble activists, and a recreation of that film shot in present day Stockholm. The two films in tandem discredit one another as irony and nostalgia collide: they are both original and fake, real and not-real. The artist's knowingly futile attempt to recover this specific historical moment reveals its own political idealism and failure. Artur Zmijewski's haunting video, *Lisa* (2003), portrays a German woman living in Israel who believes, quite simply and intensely, that she is the reincarnation of a boy killed during the Holocaust after seeing photographs of the atrocities. She lives in self-imposed exile in the promised land, a paradox that resonates powerfully the ways in which political, cultural, and personal memory are intimately bound up, its meanings shifting between history and fantasy. The exhibition title refers to a kind of resistance to that which cannot or will not be remembered, and the works in this show reveal memory as a crucial method of empowerment. It is a longing for an historical place, and the complex relation of dependency between fantasy and the experience of an alienated reality.

