



Peggy Buth: Desire in Representation

PRESS PACK

*Exhibition at the Parc Saint Léger,
French Contemporary Art Center*

February 18 — May 15, 2011

● *Opening reception: February 17th at 6:30pm* ●

Possibility to book a press trip by train, departure from Paris-Gare de Bercy.

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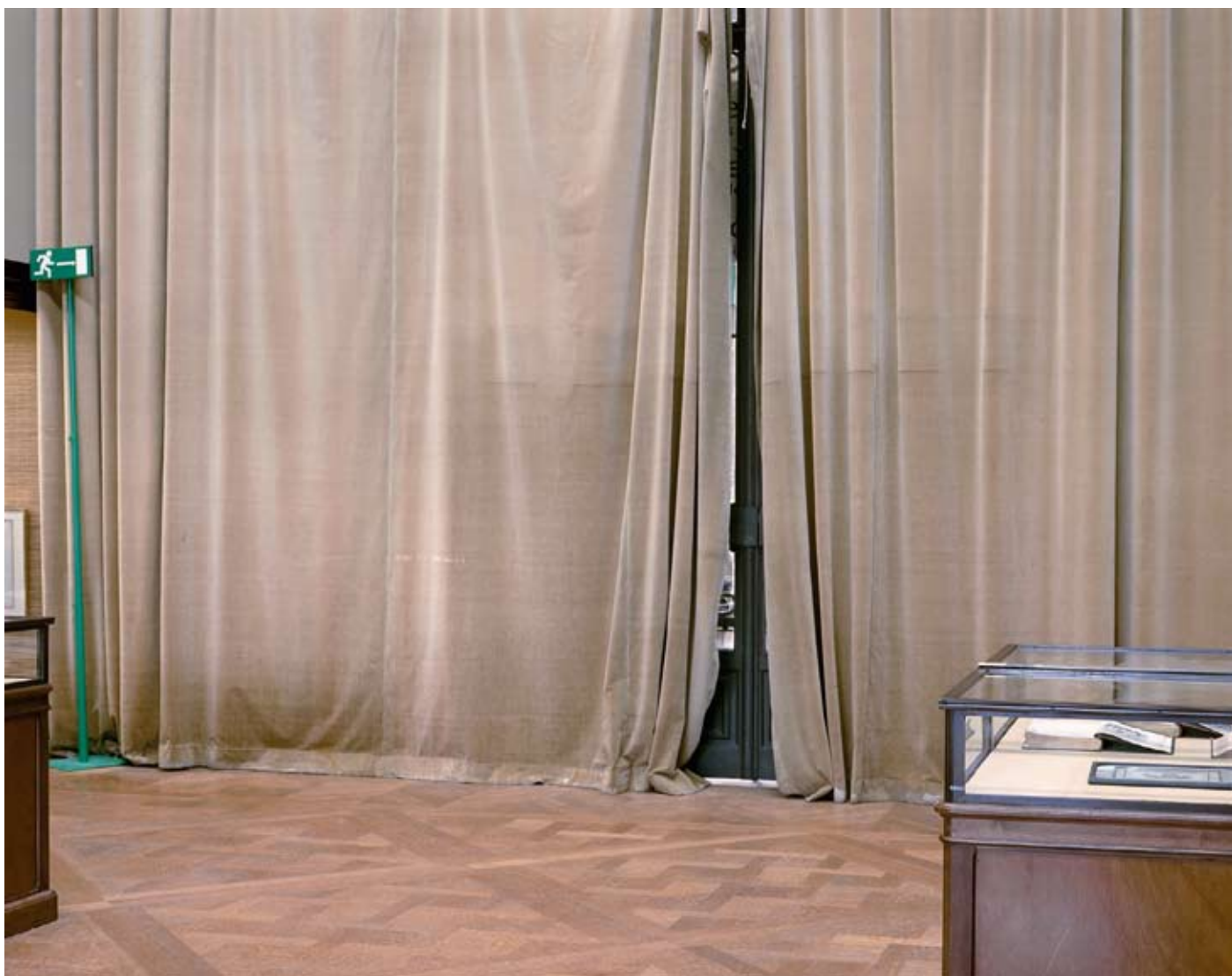
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**Institut für Auslands-
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Peggy Butth, *Desire in Representation*, 2004–2009
Series of 70 photographs
Courtesy : Peggy Butth

Peggy Buth: Desire in Representation

The Parc Saint Léger is pleased to announce the first solo exhibition in France of German artist, Peggy Buth. Taking place from February 17 to May 15, 2011, the exhibition builds on her acclaimed solo show at the Kunstverein Stuttgart for which Peggy Buth gained international recognition in 2009.

Through various media such as video, photography, installation and sculpture, Peggy Buth investigates power structures, domination balance, and the overall notion of identity. Interested in the history of Feminism and Post-Colonialism, Peggy Buth questions the different roles and rules assigned by traditions in a society, as well as the common scheme of self-representation and the latent violence they contain. Her work appears as half way between fiction and documentary, or myth and reality and offers an exciting reflection on the notion of the Other and how its representation has been exploited by political powers through history. Her reflection on the singularity of a subject within a *national identity* echoes in a particular way with current issues.

The point of departure for the exhibition at the Parc Saint Léger is a project entitled «Desire in Representation», which is based on three years of extensive research conducted by the artist on the collection of the Royal Museum for Central Africa in Tervuren, Belgium. The museum, which opened in 1910 following the suggestion of King Leopold II, has served as a showcase for Belgian colonial history. Over the decades the representation of this history, particularly relating to the African man, has dramatically evolved, especially with the decolonization initiated during the 1960's. However, the process of conceptually reorganizing the display of the museum and its collections only began in 2004 and is still going on today. The rereading of this aspect of Western history is occurring only in the museum one room at a time. A room is temporarily closed, while the others remain open, and only a few objects are gradually taken out.

The project «Desire in Representation» initially consists of two artist books. The first volume presents photographic documents and references telling the history of the colonial museum. The second volume is based on the writing of Henry Morton Stanley, an explorer who worked on behalf of Leopold II. Morton Stanley is an emblematic figure of the white adventurer, supposedly bringing knowledge to Africa, and whose accomplishments have been largely depicted in children books and 1950's Hollywood movies. Peggy Buth's book narrates the explorer's particular relationship, tinged with homosexuality, that he maintains with his black slave Kalulu.

Peggy Buth's exhibition at the Parc Saint Léger builds on the questions explored in her two books. Through her videos, photographs and sculptures, she exposes this particular part of our history and its resonance with our current way of representing the Other.

Sandra Patron, Parc Saint Léger Director

Peggy Buth was born in 1971 in Berlin and she currently lives and works in Berlin, Germany. She is represented in Germany by Klemm's Gallery. This exhibition is supported by IFA (Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen).



Peggy Buth, *O, My Kalulu*,
Five-channel video production, 2009,
Production shots
Photos: Max Schröder, Markus Georg
Courtesy: The artist



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Peggy Buth, *Desire in Representation*, 2004–2009
Series of 70 photographs
Courtesy : Peggy Buth

Peggy Buth, *Fireworks on the Day of Their Arrival, After the Welcoming Speech*, 2007
Courtesy : Peggy Buth

Peggy Buth, *Untitled, (Portrait, Portrait, Portrait,)*, 2007
Courtesy : Private collection, Berlin



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Series of 70 photographs
Courtesy : Peggy Buth



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Peggy Buth, *Desire in Representation*, 2009
Württembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart
Exhibition view
© by Peggy Buth and KLEMMS, Berlin



Peggy Buth, *Monument*, 2005
Courtesy : Frac Alsace



Peggy Buth, *Found Footage (Monument)*, 2007
Courtesy : Peggy Buth



Peggy Buth, *Listeners & typewriters (Olympia)*, 2009
Exhibition view WKV, Stuttgart
Courtesy Klemm's, Berlin and Peggy Buth
Photo: Hans D. Christ



Peggy Buth, *Desire in Representation*, 2004-2009
Series of 70 photographs, archival print, framed
Each 46 x 32 cm
Exhibition view WKV, Stuttgart
Courtesy Klemm's, Berlin and Peggy Buth
Photo: Hans D. Christ



Peggy Buth, *Untitled (library)*, 2009
Mixed media installation
Dimensions variable
Exhibition view WKV, Stuttgart
Courtesy Klemm's, Berlin and Peggy Buth
Photo: Hans D. Christ

▮ BIOGRAPHY ▮

Born in 1971 in Berlin, where she lives and works.

She studied at the Fine Art Department, Saint Martins College/ London (GB) and is diplomed in Visual Arts from HGB Leipzig.

▮ Exhibitions (selection) ▮

- ▬ 2010 *Listeners & Typewriters*, Klemm's, Berlin (s)
Das Blaue vom Himmel, Arbeiterkammer Wien, Austria (s)
Portfolio Berlin 1, Kunsthalle Rostock, Rostock
From A to B, from B to P ; Bielefelder Kunstverein, Bielefeld
Transatlantische Impulse II – 15 Jahre Villa Aurora, Akademie der Künste, Berlin
Erodere, Märkisches Museum, Witten
Transatlantische Impulse II - 15 years Villa Aurora, Akademie der Künste, Berlin
Rekord, Vestfossen Kunstlaboratorium, Norway
Wenn die Nacht am Tiefsten, bel-etage, Berlin
Self as disappearance, Centre d'art contemporain de la Synagogue de Delme, France
Les Belles Images: Troisième Type ; la box, ensa_Bourges, France

- ▬ 2009 *Desire in Representation*, Württembergischer Kunstverein, Stuttgart (s, cat)
Un plan simple 3/3 (Écran), Centre d'art Mira phalaina, Maison Populaire de Montreuil, France
Language & space at the border, CAC Vilnius, Lithuania
Antirepresentationalism, KOW, Berlin
Desire in Representation, kjubh Kunstverein e.V., Cologne
decollecting 4, De Garage, Mechelen, Belgium

- ▬ 2008 *Brussels Biennial 1*, Brussels, Belgium
decollecting 2, Idem+Arts, Maubeuge, France
decollecting, FRAC Nord - Pas-de-Calais, Dunkerque, France
Les petits edifices, acquisitions of frac alsace, La Filature, Mulhouse, France
Patterned Bodies, KLEMM'S, Berlin (s)

- ▬ 2007 *Wir haben keine Probleme*, Bergen Kunsthall, Norway
Wenn der Sonnetau..., Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Sachsen, Dresden
Made in Germany, Kunstverein Hannover und SprengelMuseum, Hannover (cat)
Beauty is the Glamour of Truth, Ileana Tounta Contemporary Art Center, Athens, Greece

- ▬ 2006 *Resonances or how one reality can be understood through another*, STUCK, Leuven, Belgium
Tales from the Travel Journal Vol.I, Contemporary Art Centre, Vilnius, Lithuania
Pferdeausstellung, ASPN, Leipzig
Peggy Buth, Galerie Amerika, Berlin (s)
As if by magic, Artcenter South Florida, Miami
Peggy Buth und Ruth Blesi, Galleria Laurin, Zürich

- ▬ 2005 *Untitled excerpts*, Galerie Nadja Vienne, Liege, Belgium (s)
Freezer, Archeus Gallery, London
Peggy Buth und Dirk Scheidt, AMERIKA, Berlin
Peggy Buth und Carina Randsløv, ASPN Galerie, Leipzig
A1, AMERIKA, Berlin

- ▬ 2004 *Verfahren im Raum*, Kunstraum B/2, Leipzig (cat)
Elite, Kunstraum B/2, Leipzig (s)

* (s) indicates a solo-exhibition

▮Scholarships and Awards▮

- ▮2010 Project stipend of the Cultural Endowment Fond of the State of Saxony
- ▮2009 Residency stipend at Villa Aurora, Los Angeles (USA)
- ▮2007 Working stipend of the Kulturstiftung of the State of Saxony
- ▮2004 Stipend from the Jan van Eyck Academy, Fine Art Department Maastricht

▮Publications▮

- ▮2010 *Katalog. Desire in Representation.*, spectator books, Leipzig / layout: Till Gathmann
- ▮2008 *Desire in Representation*, artist book, 2 volumes in collaboration with Till Gathmann, ed. Jan van Eyck Academy
- ▮2005 *Untitled excerpts*, Jan van Eyck Academy, Maastricht
- ▮2004 *Sprung im Wasserglas*, Leipzig, Berlin
- ▮2003 *Recall*, Künstlerbuch

Peggy Buth:

Desire in Representation

● Program of events ●

— Saturday, March 19-20th: Télérama Museum Week-end

With Néné Touré and SABOUNIUMA association.
(African dance and actions in solidarity with Gouana village, Mali).
Free entrance. Dance classes: ages 4 years and up.
Children have to be supervised by one or more adults.
Booking mandatory: (+33) 3 86 90 96 60

> Saturday, March 19th:

2pm: exhibition tour
3pm: 'Goûter l'art', African Dance beginner class.

> Sunday, March 20th:

2 & 3pm: 'Goûter l'art', African Dance beginner classes
3 & 4pm: exhibition tours

— Monday, April 4th, 6:30pm:

Tensions in representation: Desire through the looking glass of post colonialism.
Conference by Marie Laure Allain Bonilla

Peggy Buth's research at the Royal Museum for Central Africa in Tervuren endeavors to reevaluate the history of representations through a postcolonial reading. Marie Laure Bonilla approaches Peggy Buth's work in relation with contemporary artistic practices exposing cultural domination and its machinery. She explores the esthetic strategies and the irony used by contemporary artists to confront the history of colonialism.

Palais Ducal, Nevers. Booking: (+33) 3 86 90 96 60
Entrance fee: € 5.

— Saturday May 14th, 7pm: Night of Museums

7 & 9pm: Solos of double bass player Claude Tchamitchian, *Another Childhood*
8pm: Guided tour of the exhibition.
In collaboration with D'Jazz
Free entrance

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