BERGEN KUNSTHALL

Beatrice Gibson I Couldn't Sleep in My Dream January 25 – March 31, 2019

An exhibition by London based artist Beatrice Gibson presents film works and an extensive programme of talks, music and screenings, organised in collaboration with Borealis—a festival for experimental music.

The exhibition features the new film I Hope I'm Loud When I'm Dead (2018), developed together with two of the USA's most significant living poets, CAConrad and Eileen Myles. A second new film, Deux Soeurs Qui Ne Sont Pas Soeurs (Two Sisters who aren't Sisters, 2018), will be shown as a screening at Bergen Kino during Borealis festival (Friday, March 8, 8pm). The title of the exhibition, I Couldn't Sleep in My Dream, is taken from a poem by Alice Notley.

Beatrice Gibson's films are composite works, combining sound, text and images of different sources. Born out of an interest in the politics and ethos of experimental music and film, they blend historical research with collaborative modes of working, resulting in powerful images that challenge conventional methods of production and perception. I Hope I'm Loud When I'm Dead starts with material shot on the evening of the 45th American presidential inauguration in January 2017. Scenes produced with CAConrad and Myles' are woven together with words of fellow poets Audre Lorde, Alice Notley, and Adrienne Rich, exploring poetry as a means of confronting the present. Accompanied by a Pauline Oliveros soundtrack, the film is shown in an installation together with two 16mm portraits of Myles and Conrad. Deux Soeurs is based on an unrealized script by Gertrude Stein, written in 1929 as European fascism was building momentum. Gibson's adaptation is set almost a century later in contemporary Paris and explores feminism not only as subject matter, but as method, casting as the film's characters a close network of friends and practitioners, such as Alice Notley.

A programme of events unfolds the themes and approaches of the films in discursive formats throughout the exhibition period. The two protagonists of the film installation, Eileen Myles and CAConrad, will present a series of readings and workshops at Bergen Kunsthall. An evening of live performances, presented together with Borealis, features among others the American artist, composer and choreographer Colin Self, as well as a commissioned performance by Phoebe Collings-James and Last Yearz Interesting Negro. A series of cinema screenings at Cinemateket in Bergen will show earlier works by Beatrice Gibson as well as a special programme of films selected by the artist.

On the occasion of the exhibition, a new book edited together with the artist will be published, featuring new essays by Erika Balsom, Mason Leaver-Yap, Irene Revell, and reprints of texts related to the project.

The exhibition is a collaboration of Bergen Kunsthall, Borealis – a festival for experimental music, and Camden Arts Centre, London.

I Hope I'm Loud When I'm Dead is commissioned by Bergen Kunsthall, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, Camden Arts Centre, London, and Mercer Union, Toronto, with support from Julia Stoschek Collection, Outset Germany_Switzerland and Arts Council Norway. Deux Soeurs Qui Ne Sont Pas Soeurs is commissioned by Bergen Kunsthall, Borealis – a festival for experimental music, Camden Arts Centre, London and Mercer Union, Toronto, with support from Fluxus Art Projects, Arts Council England and The Beatrice Gibson Producers Circle. The score is by Laurence Crane commissioned with support from Arts Council Norway.

Related Events:

Film programme at Cinemateket in Bergen Wednesday, January 23, 8pm
Beatrice Gibson introduces a selection of her recent films: A Necessary Music (2008), The Tigers Mind (2012), Agatha (2012), F for Fibonnacci (2014)

Film programme at Cinemateket in Bergen Tuesday, February 5, 8pm A Spell to Ward Off the Darkness, Ben Rivers & Ben Russell (2013)

Film programme at Cinemateket in Bergen Tuesday, February 26, 8pm Occidente, Ana Vaz (2015), Gaza Home Movies, Basma Alsharif (2013), La Chambre, Chantal Akerman (1972), Sunset Red, Laida Lertxundi (2016), Superdyke meets Madame X, Barbara Hammer (1975), Umweg, Ute Aurand (2015)

Premiere: Deux Soeurs Qui Ne Sont Pas Soeurs, Beatrice Gibson (2018 Friday, March 8, 8pm

Personalized (Soma)tic Poetry Rituals with CAConrad Wednesday, March 13, 2–5pm

Poetic Practice Wednesday, March 13, 7pm Eileen Myles and CAConrad in conversation at Litteraturhuset in Bergen