

Thursday, 30. 4. 2009 – Semperdepot, M1
– open to general public

18:00 Screening of "Jenseits des Krieges (East of War)"

Director: Ruth Beckermann

Austria 1996, High8/35mm, 117 min.

German with English subtitles

White-tiled rooms, neon lighting; on the walls black and white photographs documenting the atrocities committed by the German Wehrmacht on the Eastern Front in WW2. Against this background former soldiers talk about their experiences beyond the bounds of "normal" warfare. With a mixture of helplessness, impotence, shame, opportunism and undiminished fanaticism, witnesses from that time tell of atrocities such as shooting of Russian PWs, the murder of Jews and the rape and abuse of women. The differing accounts of these events demonstrate how selective perception was even in their most inhuman and brutal environments.

This film seeks not only to contribute to the demolition of the myth of the "decent" Wehrmacht (as opposed to the evil SS) but also to illuminate the construction of history in the post-war period and to make a diagnosis of the present.

Interview with Ruth Beckermann about the film (german)

<http://www.ruthbeckermann.com/texts/eastofwar/txt.php?lang=de>

Some basic information about the "Wehrmachtsausstellung"

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wehrmachtsausstellung>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_crimes_of_the_Wehrmacht

The screening is organised as part of the seminar

Debating Middle East Conflicts in Post-Nazistic Spaces?

Post-nazistische Räume als Verhandlungsorte der Nahost-Konflikte?

Conceived and organised by Eduard Freudmann in collaboration with Tal Adler

on the initiative of students of PCAP as part of "Kritische Künstlerische Praxis als Dissens".

Note that the seminar will continue in May and June 2009.

SCREENING
RUTH BECKERMANN