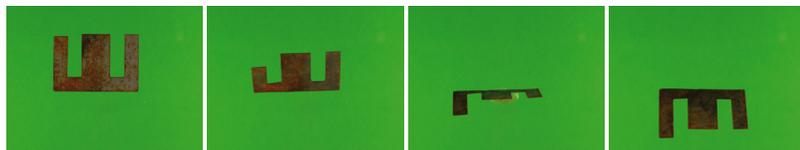


Concept

„Recyclers“ is an animation film series that portrays the diverse cultural, social and urban fabrics of different cities by means of experimental animation and creates an ironic picture of human consumerism. In different metropolises characteristic urban sounds are recorded. Objects, like litter from the streets, packaging of consumer goods and typical local products, are collected. “Recycled” figures are created with these objects and animated to the sound recordings. Each “Recyclers” film is divided into several scenes, in which the trash creatures react with humour to spontaneities and characteristic impressions of the urban ambience. The environment is thereby subjected to close examination from an unusual perspective. The filmic results are experimental, documentary portraits of different metropolises.

Animation Technique

The collected items are animated frame-by-frame on green screen on the animation table, while being moved in all three dimensions. These modular clips show the objects three-dimensionally and are combined in After Effects to figurative creatures that are then animated in 3D space. The backgrounds in front of which the creatures perform are animated series of photos taken from the urban surroundings of the city in question. While walking towards interesting wall textures, facades, old doors, street-art signs, etc, a photo is taken at each successive step. The results are „animated zooms“ towards these backgrounds which end in close-up views.



The Sound

Each movement of the creatures has a sound effect created by the object itself. These sounds are sampled to rhythmic beats to which the figures perform. Sound fragments of the urbanity, such as traffic noise, market life, streetmusic, etc., create the score of the film.



stills: „Buenos Aires Recyclers“



stills: „Paris Recyclers“

PARIS RECYCLERS

Animation · 5:39 min · Stereo · 16:9 HDTV/digiBeta

Direction | Animation | Sound: Nikki Schuster

Mixing: Sebastian Müller

Financing: own resources

Sales & Distribution: sixpackfilm, Vienna

Interfilm Management GmbH Berlin

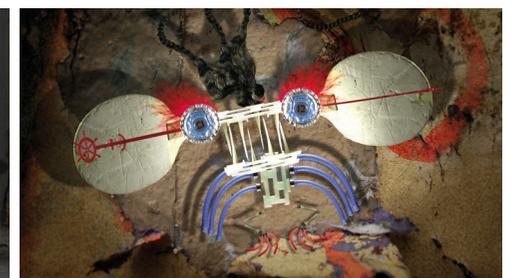
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Synopsis

Paris - picturesque and cosmopolitan, chansons and street art. „Paris Recyclers“ portrays the cultural, social and urban fabrics of this city by means of experimental animation. The viewer is guided to urban hideouts where little creatures dwell. These are digitally composed with collected trash and typical local products. The clatter of the limbs of these creatures interacts with the soundscapes of Paris.

Festival Participations:

- 2011 Tricky Woman, Vienna (Austria)
- 2011 Crossing Europe, Linz (Austria)
- 2011 Badalona Film Festival (Spain)
- 2011 Anima Mundi, Sao Paulo & Rio de Janeiro (Brasil)
- 2011 Animator Festival, Poznan (Polen)
- 2011 Tindirindis Vilnius (LT)
- 2011 Invideo Mailand (Italy)
- 2011 ANTIMATTER Victoria (Canada)
- 2011 Int. Short Film Festival Leuven (Belgia)

STILLS FROM „PARIS RECYCLERS“

Presstext

Contrary to its name, so-called street art has been socially acceptable for a long time now. British graffiti star Banksy eternalized himself and his work in a movie, and the honorable Viennese Museumsquartier commissioned the guerilla tile-artist "Space Invader" to apply his trademark in its entryway. In Nikki Schuster's stroll down a Parisian street "space invader" also makes an appearance: the distinctive outline of the spaceship suddenly floats in front of an old metal Venetian blind. But in this case it isn't stuck onto a background, but instead, fluttering, changes its form, which is made up of old cheese wrappers.

Animation artist Nikki Schuster quotes street art when, in the first shot, she pans past a stencil, a patterned logo sprayed onto the sidewalk. But the colorful markings in public space are merely the stage for a ballet of overlooked things: little creatures made of trash carrying out their choreography; tottering, ringing, and rattling before the camera.

The trash monsters built from found objects are animated in front of the camera in single frame projection and subsequently put together on the computer. The sound, too, is found: a mixture of street noises, children's shouts, a street musician's tune in the background. The sounds from the little creatures, which jump in front of the camera like goblins, are generated for their part from the sounds of their own materials: an old magnet strip crackles, keys jangle, bottle tops rattle metallically, the sugar in the paper packaging rustles, and champagne corks grate in their aluminum wiring. Upon closer inspection, picturesque Paris, where graffiti has also meanwhile seamlessly integrated into the street scene, turns out to be a biotope inhabited by extremely lively bastards of human consumerism. They live everywhere: in the cracks of walls, folds of posters, drainage pipes. And while a street musician reels off his chanson repertoire on the surface, they give their own dingy-raspy concert.

text: Maya McKechney