

absent



Credits

Animation · 6:33 min · Stereo/5.1 · DCP/HD
 Direction | Animation | Editing | Sounds: Nikki Schuster (AT)
 Synthesizer: Ignatz Bee (ARG)
 Soundmix: Sebastian Müller (D)
 Production: Fiesfilm (D)
 Distribution: sixpackfilm Vienna (AT)
 supported by: Kulturland OÖ
 © Nikki Schuster AT/DE/ES/BO/MEX/BA/HR 2015

Synopsis

„absent“ is an experimental animation film about abandoned spaces which pulsate back to life. Ambient light flickers, discarded objects are activated and inner spaces become dense by artificial stimulation. The viewer is submerged into the debris, absorbed by dark crevices and spat out into new ruins. „absent“ is an odyssey through labyrinths of decay.
Technique: Photo-Series / Pixilation / 2D Computer

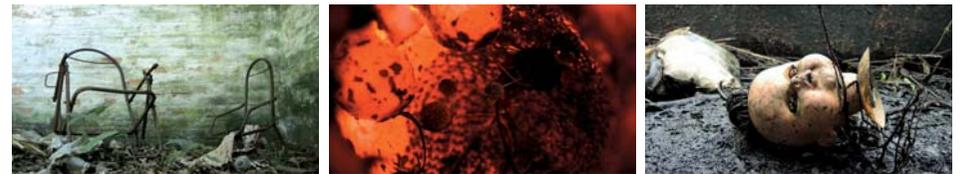
Presstext

When you are a child, you imagine that toys and furniture come to life as soon as you look away. Freud calls this phase “magical thinking” when one half hopes and half fears that things are able to keep a secret from us.

In her short film series “Recyclers,” animation artist and sound designer Nikki Schuster takes up these thoughts and lets items culled from the trash of various metropolises dance while founding their own subculture. In the experimental photo animation absent she goes one step further and finds life where the human element has long departed: a microscopic view submerges directly into slender plastic pipes and dusty cracks in walls in vacated buildings in Spain, Bolivia, Mexico, Bosnia, Croatia, and Germany. Glistening light alternates with the black of concealed corners in the debris- and trash-filled rooms.

Schuster’s stop-motion technique assures that the cinematic gaze seems anything but human while doing this: at times it is unnaturally accelerated, other times, slowed down; sometimes it moves through the abandoned space as though the space itself were letting its perception wander. Perhaps the building yearns for its old inhabitants who upon their departure carelessly tossed the relicts of the pre-digital era into the corner. A group of magnet ribbons still makes its last rounds on the dirty concrete floor. A cigarette butt, which also failed to make the leap into the new era, is the only passenger on a rotating metal reel.

Rusty ribs of folding chairs lounge in front of the door and the plates give a tired struggle in the sink: it may well be that the future is virtual. But the world of things lives, and will outlive us all.
(Text: Maya McKechney)



Biografie

Animation film artist and sound designer Nikki Schuster, born in Austria in 1974, lives and works in Berlin. In 2001 she founded her animation label “Fiesfilm”. Her animation films are shown at international film festivals and in exhibitions and have won awards.

Beside her experimental film productions Nikki Schuster animates for stage-set design, television, installations and gives workshops. In 2010 she was as artist-in-residence in Paris and in Buenos Aires, in 2012 in Taipei and in 2014 in Cochabamba, Bolivia.