

**THOMAS TAUBE | A VERY SMALL TINY LITTLE THING**

OPENING | **SATURDAY, 6. APRIL, 4 - 8PM**

**LEIPZIG** | 04179 SPINNEREISTRASSE 7

EXHIBITION | **6.4. - 15.6. 2019**



**MEDIA | INFORMATION . DATES . TEXT (P. 2) . CV ARTIST (P. 3/4)**

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**VIDEO LINK** | OPERATING TRACK <https://vimeo.com/325817113>

We cordially invite you to the opening of Thomas Taube's solo exhibition on the 6th of April in Leipzig!  
All galleries at the Spinnerei will open new exhibitions that day.

Thomas Taube (\*1984) studied media art at the Academy of Fine Arts (HGB) Leipzig with Christin Lahr and Günther Selichar and was a master student of Clemens von Wedemeyer. From 2010- 2015 he was a guest student in the class of Prof. Candice Breitz at the HBK Braunschweig. He lives and works in Leipzig and Jena and was awarded the Marion Ermer Prize in 2016.

Thomas Taube's »A Very Small Tiny Little Thing« presents *Operating Track*, a synchronized 8-channel video installation that immerses the viewer into a cacophonous narrative carried by a constellation of abstract and concrete characters: an asbestos particle, a horse, a construction worker in Toulouse, an actress and film as a medium. Through a ruptured narration that assumes plural perspectives, Thomas Taube explores the failures and the shortcomings of technology. Neither judgemental nor didactic, Taube's approach is experimental; taking a position of observation that is at once philosophical and poetic. More specifically, Taube attempts to poke into the fabric of social apathy to draw attention to materials and phenomena that are everywhere around us, but that we have physically and mentally expunged from our consciousness.

What we conceive as reality is formed on an unconscious level from our perception and experience of the material world that surrounds us. But there are invisible phenomena that affect our environment and impact our construct of reality. Thomas Taube is interested in these hidden forces that have a covert effect on our lives. He departs from the premise that everything is and can be used as material: whether it is human labour, technology or knowledge. Through his work, Taube aims to expose the causal effect and the entanglement of things that might not initially appear connected.

In his solo exhibition *A Very Small Tiny Little Thing* Taube presents his latest work, *Operating Track*, a synchronized 8-channel video installation that immerses the viewer into a cacophonous narrative carried by a constellation of abstract and concrete characters: an asbestos particle, a horse, a construction worker in Toulouse, an actress and film as medium. Through a ruptured narration that assumes plural perspectives, Taube explores the failures and shortcomings of technology. He is interested in the extinction of systems and models, whether they are economic, political, a system of thought, etc. Aware of the disorder behind the seeming order of our time, he hopes to draw attention to and reveal how obsolescence is carried through in our society, how things often tossed aside without ever being effectively handled. Neither judgemental nor didactic, Taube's approach is experimental; taking a position of observation that is at once philosophical and poetic.

Taube attempts to poke into the fabric of social apathy to draw attention to materials and phenomena that are everywhere around us, but that we have physically and mentally expunged from our consciousness. This concept, which Taube calls *präsente Abwesenheit* (present absence) refers to an invisible presence that has a material influence on our life, often without being perceived or conceded. There are multiple examples of this in public knowledge, from radio waves, to air pollution or toxoplasmosis. In *Operating Track*, Taube specifically references the industrial use of asbestos, a mineral that became widely used in the 20th century until it was discovered to be highly toxic and a leading cause of various forms of cancer. But still today, it is present in small quantities in most building across Europe and it is a material that continues to be readily used around the world. What interests the artist is how we deal with these issues collectively as a society; how we push things out of our immediate perception, but accept that they continue to affect us imperceptibly while willingly participating to their application abroad. But rather than offering a righteous moral, Taube observes this contradiction with interest and fascination.

In *Operating Track*, immigrant workers in full body suit are seen dismantling asbestos in an airtight environment. Every two hours, they have to change their clothes, which are sealed and later destroyed; they take an hour break during which they have to shower before returning to work. African workers predominantly carry this hazardous labour, as few Europeans are willing to take the job.

Taube also refers to the seminal cinematic experiments attributed to Eadweard Muybridge who deconstructed the movement of a galloping horse in 1878. Muybridge's eminent research was supported by Leland Stanford, a prosperous horse breeder who financed the experiment with the objective of learning how to improve the performance of his horses. Therefore, this was a two-fold experiment that demonstrates the coexistence of two perceptions, not existing in a hierarchy but entangled in the same event. While being a cinematographer, Taube's own interest in this experiment is more closely aligned with Stanford's prospect: the gesture of segmenting a movement to study and understand its parts. This is an approach that he has integrated to his own practice. By slowing down and segmenting the movements that regulate our daily lives, these powerful hidden forces become visible and with it the incoherence of our systems.

Text: Anaïs Castro

1984	born in Munich
2008-2014	Diploma Studies of Media Art at the Academy of Visual Arts Leipzig (HGB Leipzig) under the supervision of Prof. Günther Selichar and Prof. Clemens von Wedemeyer.
2010-2014	Guest Student of Prof. Candice Breitz, HBK Braunschweig
2014-2017	Master-Student of Prof. Clemens von Wedemeyer

Thomas Taube lives and works in Leipzig und Jena.

#### AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2016	Marion Ermer Prize residence scholarship by the art fund of the Free State of Saxony at the ISCP New York City, USA
2015	Scholarship by the art fund of the Free State of Saxony Award Winner Leipziger Jahresausstellung Production grant for a publication by the art fund of the Free State of Saxony
2013	Artist in Residence, production grant, ORF III, Vienna. Austria Production grant, Volksbank-Raiffeisenbank Braunschweig-Wolfsburg, Braunschweig

#### EXHIBITIONS (selection)

2019	»A very small tiny little thing« R E I T E R   Leipzig »Operating Track« Pylon Lab. Dresden
2018	»The Trope's Trap« R E I T E R   Berlin prospect
2016	»Marion Ermer Preis 2016« award exhibition, Museum der bildenden Künste, Leipzig »Narration« G2 Kunsthalle. award exhibition by the Leipziger Jahresausstellung. Leipzig »Dark Matters« maerzgalerie (plus). Leipzig
2015	»Win/Win« purchased artworks by the art fund of the Free State of Saxony, Halle 14, Baumwollspinnerei. Leipzig »Pro M« 22th Leipziger Jahresausstellung. Leipzig
2014	Les Rencontres Internationales, Paris. France »Video Folkwang - Die nächste Generation VI« Folkwang Museum. Essen Graduate exhibition, Galerie, Academy of Visual Arts Leipzig »Dark Matters« Loriza Galerie. Berlin
2013	»The Supershow« Galerie, Academy of Visual Arts Leipzig; Halle 14. Spinnerei Leipzig Installation BraWo Park. Braunschweig »Warten auf Gott« Kunstverein Gera
2012	»SonderfART« Filser & Gräf, whiteBOX. Munich
2011	»editing spaces. reconsidering the public« exhibition in the public space of Vilnius. Lithuania
2010	»Künstlerförderung des Cusanuswerks« Kunstverein Harburger Bahnhof. Hamburg

#### SCREENINGS/FILM FESTIVALS (selection)

2019	»Thaddäus Troll« Staatstheater. Stuttgart
2017	»International Short Film Festival Oberhausen« Festival cinema Lichtburg Filmpalast. Oberhausen »Sehsüchte« - 46. International Student Film Festival. Potsdam-Babelsberg »Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin« - New Cinema and Contemporary Art, Gaîté Lyrique. Paris. France »RSVP (Situations)« film premiere . Museum der bildenden Künste Leipzig

- 2016 »Narration« film premiere, UT Connewitz. Leipzig
- 2015 »Backup. art. screen« 17. Kurzfilmfestival, Gaswerk, Weimar

## **PUBLICATIONS**

- 2016 »Marion Ermer Preis« art fund of the Free State of Saxony
- 2015 »Das Surren der Bildmaschine« Spector Books. Leipzig

## **FILMOGRAPHY**

- 2019 »Operating Track« 8- Channel-installation, 4K, 120 min (Loop)
- 2018 »UNTITLED / RAW« 2-Channel-installation, HD, 4:3, 9:50 min
- 2017 »RSVP (Situations)« 2-Channel-installation, 4K, 12:50 min (Loop).
- 2016 »Frames Per Second« 4K, 5:14 min (Loop).
- 2015 »Narration« 1-Channel-installation, 4K, 16:9, 45 min.
- 2014 »Dark Matters« 1-Channel-installation, 4K, 16:9, 19:15 min.
- 2013 »Hans und das Glück« with Christoph Bartsch. 3-Channel (installation in public space)  
HD, 16:9, 10:00 min.
- »Sorry that I asked« 1-Channel-installation, commissioned by ORF III, 4K, 16:9, 30:00 min.
- 2012 »Keyif (Die Nacht)« 3-Channel-installation, 4K, 16:9, 37:15 min.
- »7 Variations« 7-Channel-installation, HD, 16:9, 16:52 min.
- 2011 »Amerika I-III« 1-Channel-installation, HD, 16:9, 8:00 min.
- 2010 »Die Nebensonnen« 3-Channel-installation, HD, 16:9, 9:52 min.

## **ÖFFENTLICHE SAMMLUNGEN**

Graphics Collection, Museum der bildenden Künste Leipzig  
 Dresden State Art Collection, art fund of the Free State of Saxony with »Dark Matters«