

ROYAL WEDDING

A video essay on relationships with reality in contemporary practices in art, infotainment and other associated formats.

The title of this project references a media event, namely the wedding of a prince, which is symptomatic of the degree to which events are scripted for live TV broadcast. Mallarmé once wrote, "The world [was] made to end up as a book." The broadcast of this marriage similarly implies, in its own way, that the British Empire was made to end up as a television broadcast (see Umberto Eco's famous 1983 book, "Television: The Lost Transparency").

ROYAL WEDDING is an exhibition in the form of a video essay presented on a monitor in Ghislain Mollet-Viéville's "apartment" at the MAMCO in Geneva. This think piece was made by means of postproduction curation. Excerpts and quotations of video work by artists of different generations (among them Douglas Gordon, Dan Graham, Pierre Huyghe, Jonas Mekas, Philippe Parreno, Wolfgang Staehle, Barbara Visser and John Williams) are brought to bear on material from various sources, mainly from the sphere of infotainment (reality TV as it might be called today, in the broad sense: documentaries, movies, etc.).

In its endeavor to restore a "raw" reality, art finds itself on a path parallel to that taken by formats generally associated with infotainment. Live broadcast and its simulation, an obsession with real time, the disappearance of the whole concept of off-camera, the use of shots from different angles and the choice of subjects such as daily life and the disclosure of the intimate come together to produce a reality effect. Contemporary art seems to have seized upon this effect to produce a critical discourse.

Art's borrowings from realist fiction, reality TV and documentaries do not content themselves with operating a passage from an archaic form of realism to a revamped form of hyperrealism. They provoke the sensation that what we are seeing is an aesthetic hallucination of reality. This is the starting point for the production of situations, for the production of the real rather than its presentation or representation.

ROYAL WEDDING is a project produced by **Session13 of L'Ecole du Magasin**

(the international curatorial training program run by the Magasin) :

Katia Anguelova, Julien Blanpied, Albane Duvillier, Thierry Leviez, Guillaume Mansart and Clément Nouet, supervised by Vincent Pécoil, art critic and independant curator.

9th June - 12th September, opening 8th June 2004

3rd floor, in the "apartment" of Ghislain Mollet-Viéville, Mamco

10 rue des Vieux Grenadiers, 1205 GENEVA, Switzerland

Open from Tuesday to Wednesday : 12 pm - 6 pm, on Saturday and Sunday: 11 am - 6 pm,

closed 1st August and 9th September

Information about the project ROYAL WEDDING: ecole@magasin-cnac.org

<http://www.ecoledumagasin.com/session13>

information about L'Ecole du Magasin: a.vergara-bastiand@magasin-cnac.org

Tel: +33 (0) 4 76 21 64 75