

TITLE OF WORK: ATARA

ARTIST: Amir Fattal

YEAR PRODUCED: 2019

MEDIUM: 2-Channel HD Video

DURATION: 15 min

EDITION: 1/7

ATARA is a 1970's styled sci-fi film designed as a 2-channel video installation set to contemporary opera music. The score is based on the opera *Tristan and Isolde* by Richard Wagner together with original music by Boris Bojadzhev. Shot on location in Berlin, it tells the story of two buildings that used to stand at the same place: the Berliner Stadtschloss, destroyed by Allied bombing in WWII, and the Palast der Republik, built in its place as the GDR seat of government in 1973, and destroyed amidst much controversy in 2008 to make way for the rebuilding of a contemporary copy of the Stadtschloss. The resurrection of this historical copy did not begin until 2013 due to the controversy surrounding this project.

ATARA follows a ceremony that takes place in the Palace during a moment when one building is being resurrected and the other building is dematerializing into a ghostly memory. Following an astronaut wandering through the construction site of the new Stadtschloss, carrying an iconic lamp from the destroyed Palast der Republik, *ATARA* deals with the collective memory of architecture and its symbolic representation in public space. The music is based on the *Liebsteod* aria from the opera *Tristan and Isolde*, sung by Isolde after Tristan's death. The score was made by copying the last note as the first note and proceeding in this way until a new 'mirrored' piece was formed. The live recording of this piece forms the soundtrack to Fattal's video work *From the End to the Beginning* (2014). This recording is digitally reversed backwards to become the soundtrack to *ATARA*, forming another play on the idea of resurrection.

In a city perpetually treading the fine line between moving on from its painful history while never forgetting it, the decision to resurrect the Stadtschloss in order to move and consolidate all Berlin's ethnographic and history of science museums, is interpreted by many as a willful erasure of its GDR past and a dangerous rewriting of history. This controversy is keenly felt in a city still building over its bomb craters, even more than 70 years after the end of WWII.

ARTIST'S CV

Amir Fattal was distinguished with the GASAG Art Prize in 2008 and graduated from Universität der Künste, Berlin, in 2009. Based in Berlin to this day, Fattal participated in numerous international group exhibitions. Acclaimed solo exhibitions include: *Mesopotopography*, Anna Jill Lüpertz Gallery, Berlin (2015); *From the End to the Beginning*, Kunstquertier Bethanien, Berlin (2014); *Parallel Lines*, Teapot Gallery, Cologne, Germany (2013); *Goral Ehad*, St-art, Tel Aviv, Israel (2012); *Shadow of Smoke Rings on the Wall*, Artitude Kunstverein, Berlin (2011); *Tomorrow Gets Me Higher*, Wilde Gallery, Berlin (2010). Selected group exhibitions include: Collection Enea Righi, Museo Fortuny, Venice (2016); *Interior / Exterior / Sculpture*, Belenius/Nordenhake Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden (2015); *A Naked Singularity*, Studio Garaicoa, Madrid, Spain (2015); *Fragments of Empires*, MOMENTUM, Berlin (2014-15); *A Letter From Dr. Faustus*, Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art, Israel (2014); Fundación Botín, Villa Iris, Santander, Spain (2014); *Dahlstrøm & Fattal*, Beers Lambert Contemporary, London (2013); *III Moscow International Biennale for Young Art*, Moscow, Russia (2012); *Body Without Body*, Georg Kolbe Museum, Berlin (2011). Fattal was curator of *Tape Modern Berlin*, an acclaimed series of group exhibitions featuring emerging and established artists.

Fattal is a conceptual artist whose practice is one of historical reflection grounded in the history of aesthetics and cultural schisms. Working in the media of video, photography, sculpture, and installation, his work forms a focused response to the diverse questions raised by his adoptive city of Berlin, where the memory, culture, architecture, indeed every thread in the fabric of this city is problematized by its history.

EDUCATION

- 2007-09** **Meisterschueler Bildende Kunst**, UdK Berlin
(Prof. Sieverding)
- 2003-07** **Absolventen Bildende Kunst**, UdK Berlin
(Prof. Katharina Sieverding, Prof. Hito Steyerl, Prof. Stan Douglas)
- 2005** **Scholarship Exchange Program**
The School of the Art Institute, Chicago

PRIZES

- 2013** Push Your Art Prize, (short listed), Palais de Tokyo, Paris
- 2012** Berlinersenat Solo Catalog Prize
- 2010** Berlinersenat Work Prize (Arbeitsstipendium Bildende kunst)
- 2008** GASAG Foeredepreis, Berlinische Galerie
- 2005** UdK Scholarship Exchange Program, The School of the Art Institute, Chicago

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2015** **Mesopotopography**
Anna Jill Lüpertz Gallery, Berlin
- 2014** **From the End to the Beginning**
Kunstquartier Bethanien, Berlin 2013 - 'Parelle Lines', Teapot Gallery, Cologne
- 2012** **Goral Ehad**
St-art collection Tel Aviv Solo exhibition
- 2011** **Shadow of Smoke Rings on the Wall**
Artitude Kunstverein Berlin 2011 - 'The Last Picture', Teapot Gallery, Cologne.
- 2010** **Tomorrow Gets me Higher**
Wilde Gallery Berlin
- The Last Time I Was Here**
The Apartment, Berlin
- 2008** **Sunset Rising**
Teapot Gallery, Cologne
- 2007** **Private Dancer**
AA gallery, London

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2016 **Collection Enea Righi**

Museo Fortuny, Venice

Universum

International Photography festival, Israel

Printage

Kunstquertier Bethanien, Berlin

ID festival

Radialsystem, Berlin

2015 **Wo der Ort beginnt**

Kunsthhaus Dahlem

Dear Darkness

Michael Fuchs Galerie, Berlin

Interior / Exterior / Sculpture

Belenius/Nordenhake Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden

A Naked Singularity

Studio Garaicoa, Madrid, Spain

2014 **Fragments of Empires**

MOMENTUM, Berlin

A Letter From Dr. Faustus

Herzliya Museum of Contemporary Art, Israel

Hausbesetzung

Nassauischen Kunstverein, Wiesbaden

Workshop Carlos Garaicoa

Fundación Botín, Villa Iris, Santander, Spain

2013 **Riss**

Hengesbach Gallery Berlin

DAHLSTRØM & FATTAL

Beers.Lambert Contemporary, London

2012 **A Time for Dreams**

Moscow International Biennale for Young Art, Moscow

- 2112**
The Artists House, Tel Aviv
- Architecture as Human Nature**
Supermarkt, Berlin
- 2011** **Body without body**
Georg Kolbe Museum, Berlin
- Berliner Zimmer Genossen**
Funkhaus Berlin
- The beauty in seduction**
MK Gallery Berlin
- I'm the Antenna**
MINKEN & PALME, Berlin
- Metrospective 1.0**
Program Gallery Berlin
- Selected artists**
NGBK Berlin
- 2010** **Saccharine**
Curated by Ana Finel Honigman, Grimmuseum, Berlin
- Statics and the movement in between**
MK Galerie Berlin.
- Are you coming too?**
September Gallery Berlin
- Three Man show**
Fabrice Gygi, Brock Enright and Amir Fattal, COMA Gallery, Berlin
- Source / Resource**
Group exhibition at Wilde Gallery Berlin
- In fifteen minutes everybody will be famous**
Group exhibition curated by Anna Erickson, Tape Modern, Berlin
- 2009** **First Service**
Group exhibition curated by Joerg Leidig, Schwules Museum Berlin
- Take a Breath**
Group exhibition curated by Sthephan Koehler, MK-Gallery, Berlin

Neun Arten von Gelände

Group exhibition curated by Erik Niedling and Amir Fattal, Tape, Berlin

Earthly Delights

Group exhibition curated by Anna Erickson, Tape Modern, Berlin

Dark Side II

Group exhibition curated by Urs Stahel, Fotomuseum Winterthur

Berlin

Group exhibition curated by Antje Engelmann and Amir Fattal, Tape Berlin

Das Unheimliche

Group exhibition curated by Florian Müller-Klug, Berlin

Outside

Group exhibition curated by Avi Feldman and Amir Fattal at Tape Berlin

PLA(T)FORM 09

Fotomuseum Winterthur

Darkrooms - Homme Made

Group exhibition curated by Avi Feldman, Daneyal Mahmood Gallery, NY

BLACK

Group exhibition at Tape Berlin

2008 GASAG Kunstpreis

Berlinische Galerie, Berlin

German Angst

Group exhibition curated by Marius Babias at NBK, Berlin

Transsgressive Body

Group exhibition Curated by Thomas Grundmann at Tape Berlin

Just Different

Group exhibition at the Cobra Museum Amstelveen,
Curated by Frank Wagner

Tel Aviv Gay and Lesbian Film Festival

Solo program, Tel Aviv, Israel

Tape Modern number 04

Group exhibition at Tape Berlin

Video screening

Apex Gallery, NY

Tape Modern number 03

Artist and Curator. Group exhibition at Tape Berlin

Tape Modern number 02

Artist and Curator. Group exhibition at Tape Berlin

Destruction Construction

Group exhibition, Teapot Gallery, Cologne

Tape Modern number 01

Artist and Curator. Group exhibition at Tape Berlin.

2007 D 21

Group exhibition, Leipzig

Snieze

Group exhibition, AA-Galleries, London

2nd Post Porn Politics Film Festival, Berlin

The gunslinger and other true stories

Group exhibition at AA-Galleries, Berlin

Absolventen Ausstellung

UdK, Berlin