

Course title: CINEMA WITH ALL THE SENSES



Course instructors: Hanna Schimek, Erhardt Miklós

Course code: B-KH-201-CS-2-262701-03 ; M-KH-201-CS-2-262701-03

Course description:

During the course, students explore the medium of amateur film through collaborative live experiments and actions engaging all the senses. What happens if we try to experience film with our whole body? Alongside performative exercises, we will screen and discuss films related to the topic, as well as selected works by Hanna Schimek. Together, we will examine how amateur films can serve as source material for artistic research and how their distinctive aesthetic qualities can contribute to a hands-on understanding of everyday history and its social and political contexts.

The course draws on the amateur film collection of the Austrian Filmmuseum. It is open to BA and MA students from all programmes. The language of instruction is English.

The Film Experience Within and Beyond Reason

The Austrian Film Museum preserves an extensive collection of amateur films shot by private individuals between the 1920s and the 2000s, capturing their lives and surroundings on analog film. These film documents constitute a unique source for understanding contemporary history and everyday culture. The course is based on the Film Museum's website *Abenteuer Alltag (Reel Adventures)*, which presents a selection of around 200 reels of amateur films made in Vienna. As part of a recent AI-assisted research project, the films have been annotated on a time-based scale, analyzed, and indexed with geospatial data.

Amateur films were primarily intended for home screenings, usually held in the living room. Audiences consisted of the family, relatives or close friends. Life went on during the screenings:

people were eating, drinking and talking, the films were thus experienced through all senses. Olfactory and gustatory experiences were an integral part of the setting: the consumption of various snacks, foods and drinks introduced an unintended accompanying element that enriched and influenced the experience of the films.

Taking Hanna Schimek's multimedia art practice as a point of departure – applying quasi-scientific methods as “rules of the game” at the intersection of subjectivity, chance and incompleteness – students explore the medium of amateur film through immersive, collaborative live experiments involving all the senses. What happens if we try to experience film with our whole body? Alongside these actions, we will screen and discuss films related to the topic, as well as several key works from Hanna Schimek's artistic practice. Together, we will examine how amateur films can serve as source material for artistic research and how their distinctive aesthetic characteristics can contribute to an experiential understanding of everyday history and its social and political contexts. Also: what kind of ethical questions and challenges arise when personal amateur-film footage is used for artistic purposes?

Application: Open to students of the Media Design BA and MA programmes.

Number of participants: 14

Schedule: Monday to Friday, 10:00-12:50

Outcome:

Interdisciplinary learning and the development of performative skills.

Prerequisite for completing the course:

Active and creative participation in the sessions and presentations.

Course recommendation

This course is for you if you enjoy unusual, raw cinematic experiences; if you like to play; if everything sparks an association for you; if you are interested in sounds, tastes, smells, stories and history; and if you can also speak some English – it does not have to be much, just basic.

Links:

Abenteuer Alltag

https://www.filmmuseum.at/en/research_education/research/research_projects/reel_adventures