

Inversionen #1

Lucy Raven: A Ghost Story for Adults

An exhibition at the Warburg-Haus, Heilwigstraße 116, 20249 Hamburg

Curated by Petra Lange-Berndt & Rebekka Seubert

8 – 10 June 2018, open daily from 2– 8 pm, admission free

Premiere 7 June, 7.30 pm

Ladies and gentlemen,
friends and colleagues,

We take great pleasure in inviting you to ***Inversionen #1*** at the Warburg-Haus in Hamburg. This new series of exhibitions and events is devoted to the unabated significance and global reach of Aby Warburg's research and ideas. Contemporary artists will be invited at regular intervals to produce previously unshown, site-sensitive works in response to Warburg's methods and interests and to the history and architecture of the celebrated building at no. 116 on Heilwigstraße.

We are particularly delighted to open the series in summer 2018 with **Lucy Raven** (*1977, Tucson, Arizona, lives in New York, USA). The internationally acclaimed artist has been exploring Aby Warburg's work over many years, analysing complex migrations of imagery through photographs, videos, installations and performances. In her versatile practice, Lucy Raven turns our gaze to the periphery of image production in the mass media, including the work happening behind the camera or between the sequences of a film, as much as what is imaged in the picture itself. Her work explores the effects of technology and labor in the production of movies, and reexamines the relationship between sound and moving image.

Lucy Raven's project for the Warburg-Haus follows a thread in her work that uses artistic research to transform institutions into places for moving picture installations and live cinema. **For the premiere of *A Ghost Story for Adults* on 7 June 2018**, the artist will present a **live cinema play** in the elliptical Reading Room and Lecture Hall, accompanied by musician **Volker Zander** (*1968, Fulda, lives in Cologne) on the Trautonium. This instrument, a precursor of the synthesizer, was designed in the late 1920s at the same time as the architecture for the Warburg library, the Kulturwissenschaftliche Bibliothek.

Raven's geographical roots provide another link to Aby Warburg's research. The art historian, art scholar and founder of iconology spent some time in Arizona in 1895; his notes on Pueblo Indians evolved into his lecture about the serpent ritual. For Warburg, the indigenous people of Arizona and New Mexico became an instructive example for his approach to cultural history. Their practices embodied "the midpoint between magic and logos". The mathematical equivalent of his model – two focal centres caught up in a dynamic energy field – is the ellipse, which lends its shape to the Reading Room and Lecture Hall at the library.

At 2pm on **Friday, 8 June 2018**, we invite you to a **Round Table** with **Lucy Raven, Petra Lange-Berndt, Rebekka Seubert** and **Volker Zander** (in English).

This event will not take place in the library, but in a landscaped open-air environment, the grassy natural theatre in the Römischer Garten (Kösterbergstraße 40E, in the west of Hamburg's Blankenese district). This architecture was part of the Warburg family estate in the early 20th century, and its design echoes the elliptic form of the Reading Room and Lecture Hall on Heilwigstraße. The exhibition will be accompanied by an **artist's book** of the same name: *A Ghost Story for Adults*.

We wish to thank the **Warburg-Melchior-Olearius-Stiftung**, the **Hamburgische Kulturstiftung**, the **Liebelt Stiftung** and the **Universität Hamburg** for generously supporting this first exhibition in the series *Inversionen*, and we look forward to welcoming you at the Warburg-Haus on 7 June 2018 or soon after. If you are coming to

the premiere, please don't forget to reserve a seat by email to Inga Dreesen, as capacity is limited:
inga.dreesen@studium.uni-hamburg.de

In **summer 2019** the series will continue with an installation by the artist **Georges Adéagbo** (*1942, Cotonou, Benin, lives and works in Hamburg and Togbin, Benin).

Kind regards,

Petra Lange-Berndt and Rebekka Seubert

Biographies

Petra Lange-Berndt holds the chair for modern and contemporary art at the Kunstgeschichtliches Seminar, Universität Hamburg, and is a freelance curator.

Lucy Raven (*1977, Tucson, Arizona, lives and works in New York, USA). Recent exhibitions and performances include: *Bullet Points for a Hard Western (after Walter De Maria)* with percussionist Deantoni Parks, commissioned by and performed at the Dia Art Foundation, New York (2017) and Images Festival, Toronto (2018); *Subterrestrial Cinema*, a live performance at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (2017); *Shape Notes*, a film commission by the Calder Foundation in collaboration with Victoria Brooks, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2017); *Edge of Tomorrow*, a solo exhibition at the Serpentine Gallery, London (2016–2017); *Tales of Love and Fear*, a 3-D film installation commissioned by and presented at EMPAC, Troy, New York (2015) and Park Avenue Armory, New York (2016), and *Curtains*, a solo exhibition at Portikus, Frankfurt (2014).

In 2010 Raven and Fionn Meade curated *Nachleben* at the Goethe Institute in New York; the exhibition explored the influence of Aby Warburg's research on the work of contemporary artists and film makers, including Stan Vanderbeek, James Welling, Peggy Ahwesh and Zora Neale Hurston.

Together with Vic Brooks and Evan Calder Williams, Raven founded the research and production collective Thirteen Black Cats, currently working on a feature film, which explores the impossibility of imaging the atomic, called *Fatal Act*. Raven is currently an Artist in Residence at Bellas Artes, Bataan and Manila, Philippines, where a one-woman show will be held in December 2018. For the new Bauhaus Museum, which will be inaugurated in Dessau to mark the centenary of the Bauhaus in 2019, she will present a permanent public artwork. Raven also teaches at the Cooper Union School of Art, New York, and in spring 2019 she will be a Fellow at the American Academy, Berlin.

Rebekka Seubert (*1985 in Frankfurt am Main, lives and works in Hamburg) is a freelance curator staging site-specific exhibitions.

Volker Zander (*1968 in Fulda, lives in Cologne) is a composer, musician and radio author. Numerous stage and radio commissions. He manages the label Apparent Extent for artists' albums.

Venues

Warburg-Haus Heilwigstraße 116
20249 Hamburg
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Römischer Garten
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