

Erla Haraldsdóttir

“The Plough”

AK28, Krukmakargatan 28
118 51 Stockholm

7/3 – 30/3, 2008, opening 7/3, 17.00 – 21.00

The title “The Plough” comes from the political fight song “El Arado”, composed by the Chilean poet and musician Victor Jara (1932 – 1973). Before the president campaign in 1970 Jara was engaged in the campaign of Unidad Popular and it's candidate, the socialist Salvador Allende. During the military coup on the 11th September 1973, Jara became as a well known member of the communist party arrested. Victor Jara was murdered in 1973, five days after the overthrow of Salvador Allendes government by Augusto Pinochets military junt.

The video work “The Plough” consists of filmed street views and animated sequences from Havanna in spring 2007. Along with the images of a worn out country, as for many of us symbolizes a failed utopian experiment, we hear the song “Plogen”, the Swedish singer song writer Cornelis Wreeswijks interpretation of “El Arado” from 1977. Here the song is sang by Erla Haraldsdóttir and arranged by the Swedish composer Erik Bünger.

The handheld camera and the thoughtful interpretation of the melancholy fight song gives a perception of events that once up on a time provoked a whole world to loathing and which now is falling into oblivion. This is reinforced by transitions of filmed material into animated drawings.

Erla Haraldsdóttirs work derives from the grand in the mundane and a hallucinatory filter makes it feel as the world has been squeezed and buckled.

Erla Haraldsdóttir is born 1967 in Reykjavík, lives and works in Berlin and Reykjavík. In 2005/2006 she had a stipend in conjunction with the international studio program in the Künstlerhaus Bethanien and lives in Berlin since then.

Johanna Gustafsson Fürst

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