

EVA KOCH

That Dream of Peace

A video installation



Eva Koch's video installation *That Dream of Peace* is a site-specific work created for a quite special urban space in Copenhagen: The Cisterns under Søndermarke, a former water reservoir that dates back to 1856. Dark, cold and damp the rooms with their dripstone formations remind one both of dripstone caves in nature but also of dungeons, catacombs and bomb shelters, places in which people have been imprisoned or have voluntarily sought refuge from war and destruction.

The title work, which is situated in Cistern 2, is a 15-meter-long, coherent moving image that alternates between close-ups of poppies unfolding and panning shots across undulating poppy fields underlain with a faint sound of birdsong. At various intervals the red surfaces of the pictures are interrupted by black-and-white film sequences showing children at play, and at the same time the sound changes to the voices of children. The time shifts between recordings of playing children from the 1930s and of present-day children, but because all the pictures are in black-and-white, these shifts are almost imperceptible.

The innermost room is reserved for white doves – the oldest and best-known symbol of peace. The videoed doves have been liberated from their picture frames, so that it really looks as if the doves are on a visit. The sound is crucial, and it follows the movements of each dove – we see and hear them flap their wings, take off and land in a new spot. At the back of the room the doves seem to be flying freely around. Eva Koch has exploited the dampness of the locality so that the light of the projected doves is reflected in droplets of water.

As a contrast to the dark subterranean rooms Eva Koch's installation presents itself as a strong, radiant vision of play, love and peace. A dream that is both simple, almost banal, but which also just now it seems to be more important than ever that we keep intact.

Thanks to: Photographer, *Poppies and children 2015*, Henrik Lago · Photographer, *Poppies with drone 2015*: Benny Britten-Austen · Photographer, *Children during the Spanish Civil War, 1937*: Walter Reuter · Photographer, *Children in Villar del Cobo, 2001*: Steen Møller Rasmussen · Time laps: Niels Plenge · Sound recordings, *Villar del Cobo, 2001*: Veronica Font · Sound recordings, *children 2015*: Lea Korsgaard · Sound recordings and editing: Niels Plenge · Picture editor: Anja Farsig · Upgrading, colour correction and mapping: Henrik Lago · Text: Mai Misfeldt · Translæation John Kendal · Hans Ove Christiansen and the doves · Christianshavns Døtreskole for kind permission to use the schoolyard · Sebastian Karoli Christensen · Aleksander Karoli Christensen · Astrid Johansen · Laura Johansen · Ella Eistrup Juhl · Louie Eistrup Juhl · Ella Moon-Ah Movin · Max Strautins · Rasmus Strautins · Estrid Lempel Søndergaard · Albert Vaaben · Frode Vaaben · Cordelia Wedell Wedellsborg · Regitze Wedell Wedellsborg

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