

**Janet Biggs, "Arctic Trilogy"**

Exhibition duration: August 31– November 2, 2012

Opening: August 30, 2012, at 7 pm



Abb: Janet Biggs, "Fade to White", 2010, Videostill

We proudly present three films composing the "Arctic Trilogy" serie, together with the newest single-channel video "A Step on the Sun", by American artist Janet Biggs. Biggs is primarily known for her work in video, photography and performance, in which isolated and vulnerable characters struggle to define and defend their sense of self in extreme environments.

"Brightness All Around" focuses on Linda Norberg, a woman coal miner who is seen drilling and bolting the newly excavated cave ceiling in freezing temperatures and relentless darkness. These, almost documentary images, serve as a counterpoint to New York music guru Bill Coleman's sexual performance.

The second film in the trilogy, "In the Cold Edge" opens with a lone figure descending into claustrophobic ice tunnels. Both an aggressive assertion of power and a cry for help, the piece confronts the viewer with the terrific power of nature, between awe and terror.

"Fade to White" was shot during an expedition in the high Arctic. The video addresses the myth of the solitary white male explorer and our fantasies associated with it. The soundtrack, by counter tenor John Kelly, parallels the vanishing Arctic landscape and signals the waning of male dominance.

In her most recent production "A Step On the Sun" the artist focuses on hardships overcome by a sulfur miner in the Ijen volcano, in the East of Indonesia. We watch as the miner collects hardened sulfur crystals, packs them into a basket and carries the heavy loads up a steep, rocky path. The footage confronts us with a provocative mixture of natural beauty and human exploitation.

Janet Biggs' work has been exhibited in many museums around the world, including the Tampa Museum of Art, Florida; National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Taiwan; the Musée d'art Contemporain de Montréal, Canada; the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Ithaca, NY; Vantaa Art Museum, Finland; Linköpings Konsthall, Passagen, Sweden; the Oberösterreichisches Landesmuseum, Austria; among others. Biggs is the recipient of numerous grants including the Electronic Media and Film Program at the New York State Council on the Arts Award, the Arctic Circle Fellowship/Residency, Art Matters, Inc., the Wexner Center Media Arts Program Residency, and the NEA Fellowship Award. Her work is in public collections including the High Museum, Atlanta, Georgia; the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca; Mint Museum of Art, Charlotte, North Carolina; Gibbes Museum of Art, South Carolina; and the New Britain Museum of Art, Connecticut. **From 16.09. through 25.11.2012, the Skulpturenmuseum Glaskasten Marl will held the exhibition „Randsucher“ by Janet Biggs.**

