

Welcome to

In Defense of the Pixelated Image – an Exploration of Polish Video Archives

15–19 December 2015

12:00–19:00

ID:I Galleri

Tjärhovsgatan 19

116 28 Stockholm

<http://www.idigalleri.org/>

In Defense of the Pixelated Image – an Exploration of Polish Video Archives opens on the 15th of December at ID:I Galleri, and will present the video works of six seminal Polish artists from the 1970s through to the early 2000s. The featured artists in this presentation are: **Zbigniew Rybczyński, Ewa Partum, Piotr Wyrzykowski, Agnieszka Brzeżańska, Janek Koza** and **Wspólnota Leeżeć**. Sourced from the online archives of Filmoteka, Museum of Modern Art in Warsaw and WRO Art Center in Wrocław, this exhibition zooms in on the medium and its materiality in the age of digitization. This process of upgrading video from undurable, obsolete carriers to new hi-tech modes of being is called migration, which signifies a change in the existence and possibilities of circulation of these films.

Meditating on the medium in movement, this exhibition takes its inspiration from the German artist and theorist Hito Steyerl, who in her text “In Defense of the Poor Image” explores the possibilities of low-res imagery in relation to advanced capitalism and its aggressive modernisation of visual technology.

Similarly, the works of the six artists in this exhibition are prescient of this text, in that they explore the acceleration and deterioration of the screen prior to the world-wide expansion of the Internet. In this presentation, we will follow the journey of the pixel through Polish video art history and the way in which these artists self-reflexively criticise the specificities of the filmic medium itself through various forms of pixelation. What does the fragmented screen reveal about our perception of reality, and how does this relate to the new possibilities of sharing and viewing these works digitally? Through the works of these six artists, we will enter alternative realities and explore what significations the pixel bears in different contexts: censorship, camouflage, malfunction, disturbance, comedy. The exhibition will be showing digital copies of the films – there will be no originals.

Program:

- 17 December 17:00, presentation by Marika Kuźmicz (Arton Foundation, Warsaw). Marika Kuźmicz is a graduate of art history at the University of Warsaw, PhD from the Institute of Art, Polish Academy Institute of Sciences in Warsaw. Head of Arton Foundation in Warsaw, a non-profit organization which concentrates on researching and exhibiting Polish art of the 1970's.
- 19 December 19:00, closing event with performance by Jenny Simm (BA Photography, Valand Academy; MA Fine Art Konsthögskolan, Umeå universitet)
- In spring 2016, two seminars are planned which will explore the future of video art, digital archives and new media together with the MFA programme with specialisation in Curator for Film and Video at Valand Academy, Göteborg and Konstfack – University College of Arts, Crafts and Design, Stockholm.

The exhibition is kindly supported by Stockholm University, the Polish Institute in Stockholm and ID:I Galleri.

Artistic participation and design by Kristoffer Larberg.

In Defense of the Pixelated Image is part of the final degree project curated by Olivia Berkowicz, student at the Curating Art International Master's programme at Stockholm University, the Department of Culture and Aesthetics.



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Department of Culture and Aesthetics

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