



Gernot Wieland
Turtleneck Phantasies
28 August 2022 – 26 February 2023
M1 VideoSpace

Curator: Kathrin Becker

Gernot Wieland works in the media of film, drawing, and lecture performance. His work combines personal memories with historical accounts, merging the documentary and fiction. This results in complex works that seemingly incidentally, yet excitingly and often tragicomically deal with individual and social traumas. The video work *Turtleneck Phantasies* (2022), which premiered at the KINDL, represents an extension of his previous work in its remembrance of suppressed, unheard, and forgotten voices.

Gernot Wieland's new video work is dedicated to the murmuring, the illegible, the unspeakable, the sketches and doodles, fragments of childhood memories, the stumbling that looks like a dance, the absurd moments. In other words, all the little forms that are so central to our relationship with the world, but are given relatively little attention.

Turtleneck Phantasies is a poem that comes to us in fragments through video. The author's life story forms the point of departure for the work. Born in Germany shortly before World War II, he wrote poems and worked as a sailor on a British cargo ship. In the 1980s he was one of only four people to survive a serious shipwreck. Severely traumatised, he was committed to a psychiatric clinic in England for several years and later moved to a home in West Berlin, where he lived until his death. In the homes he began tattooing words and (mostly illegible) texts and drawings on the skin of his fellow patients.

The phenomenon of tattoos runs throughout Wieland's video as a leitmotif, bringing together various biographical levels with memories and episodes from the artist's childhood. Tattoos reveal different facets—they appear as a kind of obsession, as a protective “second skin”, anchor point, and pictorial medium of location and reorientation in the wake of traumatic experiences. *Turtleneck Phantasies* continually deals with the theme of who is situated in society and who is excluded, and also examines possible ways of returning to the centre of society.

What stories do I tell myself, whose stories are told, and what remains? The ubiquitous presence of the past, which resonates in a specific way in the subject of the tattoo, is always linked to real, phantasmatic longings.

“Phantasies, phantasies, I have phantasies. I have turtleneck phantasies . . .”

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Gernot Wieland, *Turtleneck Phantasies*, 2022
Super 8 / HD video, 17:36 min.

Gernot Wieland (* 1968 in Horn, Austria) lives in Berlin and Brantevik / Sweden. In addition to various other awards, he most recently received the Best Film Award at the 8th Kinodot Experimental Film Festival in St. Petersburg (2020) and the 2019 EMAF Media Art Award from the Verband der deutschen Filmkritik.

Selected solo exhibitions: Quartz Studio, Turin (2021); Kunst Halle Sankt Gallen (2021), Salzburger Kunstverein (2020); IBB Video Space at the Berlinische Galerie (2020); Vdrome, London (2019); Argos, Brussels (2019).

Selected group exhibitions: Künstlerhaus Bremen (2022); Torrance Art Museum, Los Angeles (2022); Center for Contemporary Arts, Ljubljana (2022); Kurzfilm Festival Hamburg (2022); BIENALSUR, 3rd Bienal Internacional de Arte Contemporáneo de América del Sur, Buenos Aires (2021); Videonale, Kunstmuseum Bonn (2021); Hong-Gah Museum, Taipei (2020); International Film Festival Rotterdam (2020); Jakarta International Documentary and Experimental Film Festival (2020); IndieLisboa, International Independent Film Festival, Lisbon (2020); Centre d'art Pasquart, Biel / Bienne (2018), 9th Norwegian Sculpture Biennial, Oslo (2017); Latvian Centre for Contemporary Art, Riga (2017); Kunsthaus Graz (2016).

KINDL Edition

Gernot Wieland, *Turtleneck Phantasies*, 2022

Two limited-edition tattoos were created for the exhibition based on drawings by the artist. The temporary adhesive tattoo in colour is available for purchase in an edition of 100 at the KINDL ticket desk (price: €40).

A permanent tattoo, done in a limited edition by the Berlin tattoo artist Jurena Wille, is available upon purchasing a certificate issued by Gernot Wieland and the KINDL, priced at €250.

KINDL – Centre for Contemporary Art

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