

FRIDERICIANUM

Press release

Loretta Fahrenholz
Two A.M.
25.09.16 – 01.01.17

23.09.2016, 11:00 Press conference
24.09.2016, 17:00 – 21:00 Opening

Arbitrary control is a tool of power, as Molly and Holly, the Watchers in Loretta Fahrenholz' new film *Two A.M.* (2016) are well aware. There is no logical explanation for what, when, and whom they watch. The unpredictability of these mind-readers is intentional. It is expressed in their violent mood swings. Loosely based on the exile novel *After Midnight* (1937) by Irmgard Keun, Loretta Fahrenholz' screenplay and socio-fiction film presents frightening analogies to a contemporary world under the influence of surveillance, capitalism, and newly emerging fascism. In her novel, Keun describes two days in the life of a young woman, Sanna, in Nazi Germany. The brevity of the period covered by her story gives the novel a degree of concentration that enables the reader to experience that period of time as a state of being. Both rationally comprehensible fear and hysterical angst are palpable. In the film, continuous social control is diffuse and can only be managed with the aid of amphetamines—as was the case in Nazi Germany. Rearmament, forced labor in the Reichsarbeitsdienst, and blitzkrieg were inconceivable without speed. Fear, indolence, and paranoia cannot be channeled into modernization efforts without MDMA. While Sanna and her lover Franz appear to successfully escape in Keun's novel, Molly and Holly pursue the couple into the night. There is no escaping the globalized world of total surveillance.

Loretta Fahrenholz produced the film *Two A.M.* for her first major institutional exhibition in Germany. Three other films will be presented in addition to this new work: *Ditch Plains* (2013), *My Throat, My Air* (2014), and *Que Bárbara* (2011). In her postcinematic films, Fahrenholz documents the contemporary reality that is shaped by collective fictions, staging, and media communication.

The accompanying catalogue, with contributions by John Kelsey, Caroline Busta, and Susanne Pfeffer, is published by Koenig Books, London. The new film *Two A.M.* and the catalogue were produced in cooperation with the Kunsthalle Zürich. The exhibition and the catalogue are supported by the Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach-Stiftung under its support prize "Catalogues for Young Artists."

Curated by Susanne Pfeffer

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