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Finding the Telepathic Cinema of Manchuria



Image: Finding the Telepathic Cinema of Manchuria, David Blair

Animate Projects presents a new commission by David Blair; a ten-minute film that takes the viewer on a journey to discover the telepathic cinema of Manchuria and to reconstruct the forgotten feature film, *The Lost Tribes*.

Finding the Telepathic Cinema of Manchuria features found footage, animation and live action fused to create a mysterious film, part-documentary part-fantasy. Blair's film is set in the Japanese colony of Manchuria in Northeast China, at an indeterminate point in the middle of the last century. It charts the narrator's journey, from the concentration camps of Guns kirchen in Austria to Shinkyō the capital city of Manchuria, along the shifting tracks of the Pure Land Motion Railroad and pseudo-scientifically explains the art of telepathic narration used in Manchuria's silent cinema. It playfully touches on ideas around the lost tribes and through its blurring of the boundaries between fact and fiction, truth and fabrication it explores construction of history and reveals that history is never fixed, but constantly shifting and always being reinterpreted.

The film is accompanied by an interview with David Blair and an essay by artist and writer Emily McMehen.

Notes to editors:

Finding the Telepathic Cinema of Manchuria is available to watch online now at animateprojects.org/films

About the artist

David Blair worked in New York in the eighties, and now lives and works in France. His seminal film WAX, or The Discovery of Television Among the Bees (1991) was one of the earliest examples of how to use inexpensive, digital production methods to construct a long-form narrative.... a hallucinatory story that ties together the first Gulf War, flight simulators, psychic research and bee keeping. He is currently working on a multi-platform project, The Telepathic Motion Picture of The Lost Tribes. Visit telepathic-movie.org

About Animate Projects

Animate Projects explores animation and its concepts in contemporary art practice. Our programme operates at the intersection of the contemporary visual arts, animation, film and design. We seek to offer artists a particular and supportive space to create new work and we enable a UK and international audience to engage with it via broadcast, gallery, cinema and online, and through critical debate.

Our recent projects include: Primitive, a multi-platform project by Apichatpong Weerasethakul; Shudder, new works for gallery and online by artists Edwina Ashton, Ann Course and Barry Doupé; and Magic Lantern, a residency project featuring Finnish artist Jani Ruscica.

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Further press information, preview copies, images and interview requests:

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