

# EC(centri)CITY – Die exzentrische Stadt

In occasion of the exhibition "urbainable – stadthaltig.  
Positions on the European city for the 21st Century"

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Film program, 10 Sep 2020, 12noon – midnight

## 1. ReActor

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Alex Schweder + Ward Shelley, Video: Carlton Bright, 2016,  
5.25 min.

*ReActor* is a house for two people balanced on a column. It spins like a weather vane when the wind blows and tilts like a seesaw when occupants move around inside, requiring them to stay on opposite sides of the center point. Thus, it is a house for two people in which they cannot really be together – an absurd proposition. This project is built on a hill in the Art Omi Architecture Field and became the subject of an article in Artforum by Cynthia Davis.

[www.alexschweder.com](http://www.alexschweder.com)

## 2. A New Investment Vehicle

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Max Colson, 2015, HD single channel, 5.59 min.

*A New Investment Vehicle* is an imaginary 3D virtual tour, which takes viewers around a proposed segregation of the London bus service – for premium and budget customers. It is aimed at international Chinese investors, who it is hoped will be financing this 'optimized' and more 'efficient' version of the capital's bus service. Journeying through the premium echelons of the exclusive top deck to the budget seating options on the ground floor, this video functions as a surreal examination of the relationship between urban segregation and the novelty of consumer choice.

[www.maxcolson.com](http://www.maxcolson.com)

## 3. Unlock Life

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Aram Bartholl, Retrieving a rental bike (nextbike) from the Spree, 2020, HD Video, 1:09 min.

*Unlock Life* is the signature advertising slogan of the e-scooter rental company Lime. This series of short videos documents the retrieval of rental e-scooters and bikes from different canals of Berlin. In fierce competition global operating startups have swamped all major European cities with rental bikes and e-scooters in recent. The careless attitude of the companies frequently result in disapproval and careless handling by users. In fact, destruction and loss is a calculated part of this economically and ecologically unsustainable business model. Typically these e-scooters and bikes get also thrown into the canals of the city. After spending months or even years in the water, the scooters are covered with mud and algae.

[www.arambartholl.com](http://www.arambartholl.com)

## 4. Notes on Fortnightism

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Carson Chan & Gustav Düsing, 2020, 6 min.

Pathogens do not follow spatial or temporal boundaries, and neither should architecture's response to disease outbreaks. *Notes on Fortnightism* (2020) features the Responsive Care Center, easy set-up medical quarantine tents that pop-up around the world where needed. Easily stored and shipped, Responsive Care Centers are designed to mitigate disease spread, preventing epidemics from becoming pandemics that, as we know by now, can bring human activity to a grinding stop. The name of the film refers to the two-week incubation period of the coronavirus currently causing the Covid-19 pandemic. This period of neither work nor leisure, held in suspension between existing categories, will define a new cultural regime that span the globe. Fortnightism, an evolving theory described here in note form, argues that this period constitutes a new spatial and temporal paradigm through which humanity reconsiders its patterns of living and ethics of being.

[www.gustav-duesing.com](http://www.gustav-duesing.com)

[www.carsonchan.net](http://www.carsonchan.net)

## 5. Your Turn

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Alex Schweder + Ward Shelley, Video: Carlton Bright, 2017,  
04:17 min.

Walls both divide and join. The artists live on opposite sides of a vertical climbing wall for 10 days. All amenities needed for this length of time, including bathroom, kitchen, sitting and sleeping stations pass through the wall like drawers sliding from one side to the other. Desired amenities are only available to one inhabitant at a time, so daily life requires continual negotiation and sharing – but the wall itself adds a wrinkle, making face-to-face meetings impossible and hearing each other difficult. This work was generously commissioned by the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum.

[www.alexschweder.com](http://www.alexschweder.com)

## 6. Kink Retrograde

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Bassem Saad, 2019, HD Video, 19 mins.

*Kink Retrograde* is an allegory whose protagonists live in a world and city presided over by shocks that come to resemble the apparent retrograde motion of celestial bodies: cyclical and seemingly backwards moving. The intoxicated characters decide that the social contract between themselves and the sovereign powers has always been breached, and so they must devise a new and transparent contract aware of its own abjectness, risk, and deviance — one of total kink.

[www.bassemsad.com](http://www.bassemsad.com)

## 7. **Isolation (52°33'44.1"N 14°03'12.8"E)**

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Fabian Knecht (Künstler), Bernhard Landen (Regisseur), 2020, 8 min.

Debating at Akademie der Künste, this film documents the creation of artist Fabian Knecht's epic site-specific installation *Isolation (52°33'44.1"N 14°03'12.8"E)* in Buckow, Märkische Schweiz in 2019. Comprising three interconnected 'white-cube' gallery rooms containing a complex landscape of plants, fallen logs, mud and a small stream, this architectural installation 'framed' a piece of the world, twisting visitor perspectives on nature and artifice.

[www.fabianknecht.de](http://www.fabianknecht.de)

[www.bernhardlanden.com](http://www.bernhardlanden.com)

## 8. **In Orbit**

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Alex Schweder + Ward Shelley, Video: Carlton Bright, 2014, 04:51min.

For the third piece in the "social relationship architecture" triptych one artist lived on top of the wheel while the other lived on the inside for a period of 10 days. *In Orbit* turns when both occupants walk. Attached to the inside of the wheel are six stations for domestic activities, and they are matched by corresponding stations on the outside, so the daily tasks require the performers to synchronize their movements and routines.

[www.alexschweder.com](http://www.alexschweder.com)

## 9. **Trans-Pakistan Zindabad (Long Live Trans-Pakistan)**

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Umber Majeed, 2020, 22 min.

*Trans-Pakistan Zindabad (Long Live Trans-Pakistan)* is an animation that outlines the intersections of military- state surveillance, global capital networks, and grandeur urban internationalism, of a corrupt housing corporation, Bahria Town, based in Pakistan. This global enterprise houses miniature and largescale reproductions of a Sphinx, Eiffel Tower, and Taj Mahal, etc is investigated through the facade of a revitalized tourism company, "Trans-Pakistan", once owned and operated by the artist's maternal uncle. Trans-Pakistan closed down in the early 2000s due to the implications of the War on Terror in Pakistan; in the last 20 years there has been an influx of a return migration proving diaspora to be the gentrifiers and an important economy within the homeland. The tourism company and the concept of leisure is an intentional method to subversively analyze gentrification, community, and images of world-building. This multilayered narrative and visual material overlap tourism, familial archives, metaphors of the body, and proposals of technological piracy as urban design. The project speculates within augmented and virtual technologies to alternative forms of occupation in urban imaginaries of surveilled simulacra; contesting the corporate imaginary entering the home.

Animation Support: Mitchell Zemel and Zach Law

Sound Support: Kevin Ramsay, Daniel Sabio, Abid Majeed, Abdul Majeed

Institutional Support: The Digital Earth Fellowship, Hivos, The Netherlands, Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai, UAE, and Trinity Square Video, Toronto, Canada.

[www.umbermajeed.com](http://www.umbermajeed.com)

## 10. **Construction Lines**

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Max Colson, 2017, HD single channel, 7.41 min.

*Construction Lines* is an award winning animated short film about the interior of an 'iceberg' home. Iceberg homes are mansions owned by London's super rich where the sub-ground levels are larger than the house above. The home in question was not developed due to hundreds of objections from surrounding neighbours in Knightsbridge, West London.

*Construction Lines* shows this iceberg home rendered as a 3D model, using the original architectural plans and the software 'Sketchup'. The script of the film, the model of the home, and the scenes played out within it, are directly informed by written objections the neighbours filed against the planning application, as well as online articles speculating about the lives and lifestyles of the super-rich.

[www.maxcolson.com](http://www.maxcolson.com)

## 11. **New York Apartment**

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Sam Lavigne & Tega Brain, 2020, 15.59 min.

A new video work for Akademie der Künste, Berlin, sampling the artist's groundbreaking web project of May 2020, which aggregated online New York City real estate listings into one super-property. Covering covers more than 300 million square feet and spanning all five boroughs, the pair's New York Apartment property features 65,764 bedrooms and 55,588 bathrooms. - Commissioned by the Whitney Museum of American Art.

## 12. **ReActor**

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Alex Schweder + Ward Shelley

Video: Carlton Bright, 2016, 05:25min.

AKADEMIE DER KÜNSTE

In cooperation with

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WEEK