

# Press Release



**Marie José Burki**

VIDEO INSTALLATIONS

**7 February - 30 March 2008**

**Centre pour l'image contemporaine**  
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Marie José Burki studied literature at the University of Geneva while at the same time pursuing an arts degree at the Ecole Supérieure d'Art Visuel (ESAV), now known as the Haute école d'art et de design (HEAD). This dual preparation led her initially to grant literature and more generally language a preponderant role in her artwork. As a student at Silvie and Chérif Defraoui's studio, Burki created an eleven-minute tape in 1985 called *Celui qui a vu passer les éléphants blancs* (He Who Has Seen White Elephants Passing), a coproduction with Saint-Gervais Geneva that went on to win numerous festival awards. And in 1990, following a residency at the P.S.1 Studio in New York that ran for several months, she created *Reading Over and Over*. Finally, in 1991, Burki realized, once again with Saint-Gervais's production assistance, *C'est un grand mot que cela* (That's a Big Word That), freely inspired by Diderot's *Jacques the Fatalist*, and in 1993, *De loin en loin* (Here and There). These two works question through narrative the notion of wandering, which is understood as both a development in time and a movement in space.

Following her initial videos, which were in fact constructed like films, Burki started in on work that shows a more spatial conception and is intended for display in an exhibition. With the video series titled ANIMAUX (1991) and A.NI.MAUX (1992) she began doing installations, with relatively simple displays (projection on a wall or the floor, monitors on pedestals or attached to the wall) that occasionally assume spectacular dimensions, revealing the full measure of her approach to art.

Since 1993 Burki has been living and working in Brussels and since 1986 the artist has participated in numerous solo and group shows. In 1992 she was part of Jan Hoet's Documenta IX and in 1994, and for several years after, she was a visiting artist at Amsterdam's Rijksakademie. Her most recent show in Geneva dates from 2000, at the Musée d'Art et d'Histoire in conjunction with the BCG Prize, where she presented for the first time *Mais que pouvait bien raconter Saint François aux oiseaux* (So What Indeed Might Saint Francis Tell the Birds). Her most recent solo show in Switzerland was held last year a Zurich's Helmhaus.

Cover : Sans titre, 2007 (photo)



Exposure : Studio Light, 2007

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In connecting speech/text/word and image, Burki questions the theater of our representations and memories. The images often represent a gaze that is waiting for an event that never comes. Via the movements of a camera that wanders through fragments of landscape and static scenes, the images skim over rather than reveal the visible. In such an atmosphere of expectation, and with the space constructed by the artist, with her play of language and texts, her sudden shifts and movements, we become aware that in fact it is images that observe us. It is a starting point that brings us back to our perception of reality, which is shaped today by the media's visual flood. Our ambiguous relationship with an image-saturated world is caught out, since nowadays one image is no better or worse than another. It is only in the interstices, the intervals, the breaths suggested by the juxtapositions and their divergences, that Burki's art reveals to us a perception of reality and the history in its wake.

*De nos jours, 2003, Exposure: Studio Light, 2007, De nos jours (un matin), 2008*, as well as a new production of the artist will be exposed on the first and second floors of the center for the contemporary image.

*De nos jours, 2003*



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Marie José Burki is born in 1961 in Bienne. She lives and works in Bruxelles.

1988 Arts degree, University of Geneva.

1989 Advanced degree, High School of visual art, Geneva.

### **SOLO SHOWS** (selected, since 2000)

- 2000 *Video works ,Denmark*  
*Time after, Time Along, The River (Thames)*, Londres (open air projection and radio show) (cat.)  
*Mais que pouvait bien raconter Saint François aux oiseaux*, Musée d'art et d'histoire, Genève
- 2001 *Time After, Time Along, The River (Hudson)*, New York ( open air projection ) (cat.)  
*Time After, Time Along, The River* (videos, photographs and book), La lettre volée, Bruxelles  
Centre Pasquart, Bienne
- 2002 Galerie Nelson, Paris  
Les Halles, Porrentruy  
Le Studio, Galerie Yvon Lambert, Paris  
*Horizons of a world*, Metronom, Barcelone
- 2003 *Horizons of a world*, Argos, Bruxelles  
*Where was I born and what is my name (Kunsthof mit Elefanten)*, Kunsthof Zürich  
Grand-Hornu, Hornu
- 2004 Galerie Baronian-Francey, Bruxelles  
Lehmann Maupin, New York
- 2007 Galerie Baronian-Francey, Bruxelles  
*Horizons of a World*, Chateau des Adhémar, Montélimar  
*De nos jours*, Helmhaus, Zurich  
CRAC, Sète  
Galerie Nelson-Freeman, Paris

**GROUP SHOWS** (selected, since 2000)

- 2000 *Close up*, Kunstverein, Freiburg - Kunsthaus Baselland, Muttenz (cat.)  
*Une mise en scène du réel : artiste/acteur*, Villa Arson, Nice (cat.)  
*Pause*, Galerie Aline Vidal, Paris
- 2001 *Close up*, Kunstverein, Hannovre  
*...troubler l'écho du temps, oeuvres de la Collection*, Musée d'art contemporain,  
Lyon  
*Milano Europa 2000. Fine secoro. I semi del futuro*, Triennale, Milan
- 2003 *Le Beau Corps de la Mémoire*, MAC's, Grand-Hornu, Hornu
- 2004 *Animaux. Von tieren und Menschen*, Seedamm Kulturzentrum, Pfäffikon
- 2005 *Voisins Officiels, collection du Musée des Arts Contemporains du Grand Hornu*,  
Hornu, Belgique  
*Les jours s'en vont je demeure*, Le Triangle, Rennes  
*Enchanté château*, Château d'Arenthon, Alex  
*Animaux...Animaux*, Musée d'art contemporain, Lyon  
*Nütlich-süss-museal, das fotografierte Tier*, Museum Folkwang, Essen  
*Gesehene Worte. Kunst und Literatur*, Kunsthaus, Langenthal
- 2006 *Charpente*, Le château de Nyon, Musée historique des porcelaines, Nyon  
*Zoo*, La centrale électrique, Centre européen d'art contemporain, Bruxelles  
*The projection Project*, Museum of Contemporary Art Antwerp, Antwerp  
*Work Slavery*, Museum on the seam, Israël  
*The Projection Project*, Muhka, Belgique
- 2007 *25th Anniversary*, Galerie Nelson, Paris  
*Touch-Down*, Galerie Friedrich, Bâle

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**PRACTICAL  
INFORMATION**

## **Marie José Burki**

VIDEO INSTALLATIONS

**Show opening** Wednesday **6 February** starting at 6 pm

**Show runs** from **7 February to 30 March 2008**

Tuesday- Sunday, noon to 6 pm, free entry

**Contact us to schedule a time to meet or interview the artist.**

Coming to the **Centre pour l'image contemporaine:**

**30 April - 29 June 2008**

**Miranda Pennell and Alexia Walther**

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