

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall

24/July/2010 – 15/August/2010, Private View: 24/July/2010 20:00-23:00

Venue: TAMTAM 8 © TAIWAN Kunstraum, Berlin

Artist: Ting-Tong Chang, David Loom, Iva Kontić, Xinyi Liu, Susana Mendes Silva

Curator: Ming-Jiun Tsai

Iva Kontić

An Urban Story

video-installation

3 simultaneous videos screened on 3 TV monitors with headphones

in loop

Iva Kontić' practice uses video and painting to review individuals in association with social surrounding and the society. As a young artist who spends little time in the city and the country of her birth, she has a distinct sensibility and viewpoint as a nomad and foreigner. In her works, one can see a strong reflection on the nostalgia of a city especially in relation to local architectures and the remnant of constructions and people.

Watching Iva Kontić's work *An Urban Story*, the viewer departs from a popular city, such as Berlin, which might be notable with well-defined imaginary, going to the cities less recognisable. The three channel video installation pictures significant relationships between an individual and an urban area. Each of the footage focuses one narrator, who lives or is associated with the city, driving a car to give a private tour in the neighbourhood. They talk about significant localities and architectures from historical, social, cultural contexts and personal perspective. Shooting through the car window, the storyteller is off camera and the artist captures only the view of the city, in the way as a scrolling landscape with the voice-over. *An Urban Story* unfolds the ambiguous distinction between the public and personal understanding and memory by making a tour of a city. Narrators present the story and information that they hear, learn, see and encounter in the city, however, the listener will not know how genuine these sayings are. These 'stories' are fragments of the storytellers' everyday experiences that disclose their attachments to the area and expose their personal living to the viewer. Via driving and introducing the visitors around the place freely, they fulfil and strengthen their assimilation and appreciation of their insight of the place. In the candid video shooting, the city may look the same as in any other video, yet due to the narrators' emphasis on certain objects, viewers can see that the camera tried to capture the images of the subjects within the narrations but failed because of the speed and movement of the car which creates a special out-of-focus vision of the city. The listeners' idea of the sight of the city becomes different with the narrators' engagements and characteristic interpretations.

Looking at *An Urban Story*, viewers join a process of a personal mapping. These seemingly insignificant 'other' cities therefore turn into memorable and exceptional cities to the audiences, and those personal memories of the storytellers are transmitted to the viewers and converted into a shared impression.

Ming-Jiun Tsai