

**Josephin Böttger**  
in cooperation with  
**Peter Afken**

direction, camera, drawings, sound, editing: Josephin Böttger  
drawings, 2. camera: Peter Afken  
actors: Peter Afken, Josephin Böttger, Florian Tampe

### **Hibernation – Artificial Sleep**

The Installation includes 6 Video Loops and a 16mm Film Loop.

Inspired by research into the sleeping patterns of grizzly bears and astronauts and the still unresolved puzzles about the nature and function of sleep and dreams.

First shown in the Hamburg gallery **Westwerk**, Hibernation draws the viewer into the inner ear of our most intimate narratives, the sequences of fragmented imagery strung together and emitted while we sleep. The dark space of the exhibition flickers with various loops showing figures under observation, their busy mental processes extracted as inconclusive writing on the wall, a palimpsestic hubbub of swirling graffiti and scribbles. They are depicted as sleepwalkers meandering through collapsing gameboy architecture, cohabiting modernistic primeval forests with a brown bear which might or might not be a nocturnal alter ego, or are seen as urban campers waking up to oddly unperturbing helter-skelter nightmares of subconscious demolition. Scientists in white coats wander in and out of dreamt laboratories, dissecting brains to unleash cranioscopic graphic energy.

Overall, the different lengths of the loops, their varying rhythms and the bubbling, composite soundtrack of noises and voices creates a mesmeric kaleidoscope of sensory activity, a literally endless narrative of the same bits and pieces of subterranean junk we concoct every time we tumble into sleep, collectively or individually. The installation's mood swings between alchemy, science fiction, surrealism and kindergarten, like a meeting between Hieronymus Bosch, Stanislaw Lem, Raymond Roussel and Jack Arnold. Böttger and Afken have produced a darkly suggestive and humorous work in progress poised between lo-tech virtuality and Chinese whispers, an erratic hallucination built from film, collage, drawing and painting, as charming as it is beguiling. The exhibition also includes an REM-inspired film index of countless beds, a flickering archive of the test tube sites of their artistic research, which was first shown in the Hamburg exhibition Ding Dong! in April 2006.

Matthew Partridge  
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