



**Media release**

Aarau, August 2009

**Teresa Hubbard / Alexander Birchler  
No Room to Answer**

**5 September - 8 November 2009**

**Aargauer Kunsthaus, Aarau**

With *No Room to Answer* at the Aargauer Kunsthaus the American-Swiss collaborative artist couple Teresa Hubbard and Alexander Birchler present key works from their oeuvre. In its scope unprecedented in Switzerland and arranged thematically rather than chronologically, the exhibition includes video installations as well as photographic works in which people and spaces mesh together to form wondrous sceneries.

The American-Swiss artist duo Teresa Hubbard (b. 1965) and Alexander Birchler (b. 1962) are internationally renowned for video and photographic works characterised by enigmatic plot lines and imagery which exerts a somnambulistic pull. Their work in film and photography revolves around the interplay of man and space, of presence and absence, of outer and inner world, of reality, dream and memory.

In the survey exhibition *No Room to Answer* at the Aargauer Kunsthaus, the artist couple's most comprehensive show in Switzerland to date, Teresa Hubbard and Alexander Birchler present video installations and photographic works created since 1991, providing viewers with fresh insights into links between the two strands of work. Their most recent work, *Grand Paris Texas*, will be presented for the first time in Switzerland. With a running time just short of one hour, this film adopts a documentary format in taking the abandoned movie theatre "The Grand" - the former site where filmic illusions were projected - and combining it with projections on the town of Paris in Texas, which are intertwined both with the French metropolis and with the film by Wim Wenders. In addition the exhibition will include objects from the artists' archives, which reveal aspects of their creative process.

Cinematically as well as architecturally lavishly produced, their video pieces plumb conflicts associated with desire and suppression, gender attitudes, remembering and forgetting. Using open-ended narratives which

link storylines with settings in complex ways, they unhinge the space-time system. Rather than in dramatic intensification, the artists are interested in an epic unfurling of things hidden. The locations which are captured in brilliantly-coloured images are both real places and film sets and are chosen based on the artists' personal experiences, as well as literary and cinematic sources.

The exhibition *No Room to Answer* was shown at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth in Texas as a solo exhibition in 2009. Following its presentation at the Württembergischer Kunstverein in Stuttgart (video works only), Hubbard/Birchler refined the exhibition concept for the Aargauer Kunsthaus, adapting it to the specific givens of the museum's galleries. In Aargau the exhibition also includes two works from the Aargau art collection.

Born in 1965 in Dublin, Teresa Hubbard grew up in Australia and the USA and studied at University of Texas in Austin from 1985-1988. Alexander Birchler was born in 1962 in Baden, Switzerland, and studied at the Hochschule für Gestaltung und Kunst in Basel from 1983-1987. In 1990-1992 both attended a master's programme at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Halifax, at which point they started to collaborate. Since 2000 the artist couple lives and works in Austin, Texas.

In addition to numerous solo exhibitions, Teresa Hubbard and Alexander Birchler have been included in a large number of group exhibitions and biennials throughout the world, including the Venice Biennale (1999) and the Liverpool Biennial (2008). Their work has been shown at prestigious venues such as the Whitney Museum in New York, the Nationalgalerie in Berlin, the Museum für Gegenwartskunst in Basel, the Museo Reina Sofia in Madrid or the Mori Museum in Tokyo.

#### **Publication**

*Hubbard/Birchler – No Room to Answer*. Presenting all key works by the artists from 1991 until today, this monograph includes essays by Sara Arrhenius, Iris Dressler, Andrea Karnes and Madeleine Schuppli, as well as an interview with the artists about their most recent work, *Grand Paris Texas*. Richly illustrated, the catalogue (in German and English) is an enlarged edition of the catalogue published by the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth and Württembergischer Kunstverein Stuttgart. Hatje Cantz Verlag, 2009. CHF 49 / 42 for members of the Aargau Art Association

#### **Acknowledgement**

We would like to express our gratitude to Neue Aargauer Bank, the main sponsor of the Aargauer Kunsthaus, to Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation and to George Foundation for the generous support.

#### **Artists' Edition**

A limited artists' edition will be published to mark the exhibition.

#### **Curator**

Madeleine Schuppli

#### **Preview for the Media**

**Thursday, 3 September 2009, 10 am**, at Aargauer Kunsthaus, Aarau.  
The artists Teresa Hubbard and Alexander Birchler will be present.

## **Exhibition Opening**

**Friday, 4 September 2009, 6 pm**

Welcome address by Josef Meier, president Aargauischer Kunstverein;  
Introduction by Madeleine Schuppli, director of the Aargauer Kunsthaus.  
Reception in the foyer, from 8 pm dinner on the roof terrace

## **Special Guided Tour**

**Sunday, 6 September 2009, 11 am - 12.30 pm**

**The same all over again, just different - The loop in the work of Teresa Hubbard and Alexander Birchler**

A thematic tour focussing on the importance of repetition in the video installations of Hubbard/Birchler. With Dr. Dora Imhof, University of Zurich

**Artist's Talk** (in English and German)

**Thursday, 17 September 2009, 6.30 pm**

Teresa Hubbard and Alexander Birchler in conversation with Madeleine Schuppli, director Aargauer Kunsthaus. Followed by reception

## **Panel Discussion**

**Wednesday, 4 November 2009, 6.30 pm**

**Art and Film: Video Art in between Genres**

Experts in the fields of video art, cinema and documentary film discuss how these genres interact, as well as how each delimits itself. In addition, the discussants will look at how video and filmic works are treated in the context of museums and what the terms of their reception and presentation are. More information on [www.aargauerkunsthaus.ch](http://www.aargauerkunsthaus.ch).

The exhibition will remain open until 6.30 pm.

## **Guided Tours**

**Thursday 6.30 pm**

10 Sep. with Felicity Lunn, in English

1 Oct. with Astrid Näff and 8 Oct. with Madeleine Schuppli, in German

**Sunday 11 am**

27 Sep. with Astrid Näff, 18 Oct. with Stephan Kunz, 1 Nov. with Dorothee Noever, in German; 8 Nov. with Felicity Lunn, in English

## **Art Education**

We offer a large variety of educational activities for children, adults and families. For the program please refer to the flyer or our website at [www.aargauerkunsthaus.ch](http://www.aargauerkunsthaus.ch).

## **Images for the media**

Images are available for downloading on our homepage

[www.aargauerkunsthaus.ch](http://www.aargauerkunsthaus.ch) > **Media**. Please take notice of the captions.

## **Opening Hours**

Tue - Sun 10 am - 5 pm, Thu 10 am - 8 pm

## **For additional information please contact:**

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