

“Menschen am Sonntag”

Curated by David Claerbout

12 - 18 september 2009

The film to which the title of this exhibition refers is meant to offer a state of mind for the weekend rather than a concept for an exhibition.

What is fascinating about 'People on a Sunday' is what you don't see. This is Germany in 1930, just after a devastating economic post-war period, and they're newly into the world-wide depression. Hitler is waiting for his big chance, and perhaps I shouldn't be mentioning here that we are standing in a place that once was a shooting stand of the German army.... Yet the film shows us happy people in Berlin living simple pleasant lives, taking the S-Bahn to a lakeside, very much like I used to do when I lived in Berlin between 2002 and 2005. One could imagine the actors going on with their lives after the end of the film, and this sense of realism creates a friction with the ideas we have about that period in history.

It is a picture about leisure time, it's supposed (but questionable) realism re-enforced by non-professional actors, resulting in a fragile balance between genuine carefreeness and urban shallowness.

I like to think of the collector as someone who shares the same balance between being carefree and being uncertain.

This has been the focus and drive for my selection of works from the Vanmoerkerke Collection, which, each in their individual way offer associations with the luxury of time as something available in great quantities, and where art is not a job.

David Claerbout