

Sharpe, Emily, "The Nazi Olympics in ruins," *The Art Newspaper*, Art Basel in Basel Daily Edition, June 16, 2017.

THE ART NEWSPAPER

THE ART NEWSPAPER ART BASEL WEEKEND EDITION 16-18 JUNE 2017

23

CALENDAR

Art Basel

In Olympia (2016), David Claerbout digitally reconstructs the Berlin Olympic stadium

Listings are arranged
alphabetically by area.
Commercial galleries
are marked ▼

Basel

Antikenmuseum Basel

5 St Alban-Graben

Happy Arabia? Myth and Reality in
the Land of the Queen of Sheba

UNTIL 2 JULY

antikenmuseumbasel.ch

Artstübli

28 Steinertorberg

Street Light

UNTIL 1 JULY

www.artstuebli.ch

Fondation Beyeler

101 Baselstrasse

Tino Sehgal

UNTIL 12 NOVEMBER

Wolfgang Tillmans

UNTIL 1 OCTOBER

Beyeler Collection/Remix

UNTIL 3 SEPTEMBER

www.fondationbeyeler.ch

Haus der Elektronische Künste

9 Freilager-Platz

Unreal: the Algorithmic Present

UNTIL 20 AUGUST

www.hek.ch

Kunstforum Baloise

21 Aeschengraben

Susanne Kriemann: Dyeing Until
the Water Runs Clean

UNTIL 27 OCTOBER

www.baloise.com

Kunsthalle Basel

7 Steinenberg

Ungestalt

UNTIL 13 AUGUST

Yan Xing: Dangerous Afternoon

UNTIL 27 AUGUST

Kunsthalle Palazzo

2 Poststrasse, Liestal

Brexit: Out of the Matrix?

UNTIL 25 JUNE

www.palazzo.ch

Kunsthau Baselland

170 St. Jakob-Strasse

Itziar Oiariz

UNTIL 16 JULY

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The Nazi Olympics in ruins

David Claerbout's epic video at Basel's Schaulager transports visitors 1,000 years into the future

Olympia

Schaulager, Basel

UNTIL 22 OCTOBER

➔ Until October, visitors to Basel can experience Berlin – or at least a small corner of it – as they will never have seen it before, courtesy of the Belgian artist David Claerbout. Currently installed at the Schaulager is the artist's monumental 2016 two-channel projection, Olympia (The real-time disintegration into ruins of the Berlin Olympic stadium over the course of a thousand years). The video simulates the organic deterioration of the 75,000-seat arena that Adolf Hitler commissioned for the summer Olympic Games held in the German capital in 1936.

The multimedia artist spent years digitally documenting and reconstructing the stadium. These images were then manipulated to show how the

site is likely to degrade over the next 1,000 years – a period that exceeds the average human's sense of time – without the benefit of human intervention and if left at the mercy of nature.

The time frame selected by Claerbout refers to the Third Reich and Hitler's aim to create a German empire that would dominate for 1,000 years.

The passage of time is a recurrent theme in Claerbout's work. He often tests the boundaries between the still and moving images – photography versus video – to suggest an existence that is otherworldly. Olympia "can be regarded as an attempt to measure biological duration (for example, the timespan of one human life) against ideological duration", according to the artist's website.

While the ageing of the stadium itself is slow, subtle and simulated, climatic factors in the city are shown in real time. Data related to current

weather conditions in Berlin is continually fed into the digital rendering, giving visitors around 900km away in Basel a chance to experience, for example, a sunset or snowstorm in Berlin.

"From season to season, we can observe the growth of weeds 'irrigated' by the computer program that calculates the exact precipitation, weather and seasonal conditions in Berlin. Trees and vegetation will gradually occupy more of the view towards the stadium until eclipsing it completely," states the website.

The Schaulager plans to extend its opening hours sporadically during the run of the show so that the installation can be experienced at different times of day.

Meanwhile, at Art Basel, visitors can see Claerbout's radical reworking of the Jungle Book, in Unlimited. *Emily Sharpe*



The two-channel projection shows nature triumphing over an evil ideology