

Hour of the Stars

2015 | Video HD and Sound | 11Min 15Sec

Eva Borner

Sound: Christian Berg

VIDEOLINK: <https://vimeo.com/132730045>

*„For at the hour of death a person becomes a shining movie star,
it's everyone's moment of glory and it's when as in choral chanting you hear the whooshing shrieks.“ Clarice Lispector*

A wooden bridge on a moonlit night provides the stage for “Hour of the Stars”. Electronic music by the Swedish musician Christian Berg gives sound to the landform. Yet silence reigns. Light direction makes visible the bodies rolling silently over the wooden bridge. Elusive, then clearer, closer, more corporeal, as they come towards us; the reverse as they move away from us. Always, they remain in the bosom of the night. And suddenly they are gone. Was what we saw merely a fata morgana? Or did they do it and manage to defy gravity?

The slowly flowing video is accompanied by a sentence by Clarice Lispector, who describes the hour of death as the stage of light. In the art of the Christian cultural sphere, death usually appears as pain; from the crucified to Hodler's Valentine Godé. Not so in Eva Borner's piece: in “The Hour of the Stars”, she relates death to the primal yearning for boundlessness. Here, death does not appear as a gift from heaven but as a process that requires full commitment. The bodies do not roll weightlessly across the bridge, the effort is visible in their movements; maybe even fear, but at the same time also desire. The light is the force. The path demands courage; the aim is unknown and yet is anchored in the parameters of the finiteness of all living beings.

Eva Borner's video is extraordinary; due to its subject matter on the one hand, but also due to the way in which the risk of traditional clichés is kept in check through reduction, rhythm, repetition; through silence, caution, respect. As a viewer, you at times feel that you should hold your breath so as not to disturb what you are seeing. This reflects the character of the video itself – and that is its quality.

Annelise Zwez



Videostill

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