

## I Could Live In Africa

**An exhibition of the Ursula Blickle Foundation**

**March 15 – April 19, 2009**

*“What is moral is what you feel good after, and what is immoral is what you feel bad after.”  
(Ernest Hemingway)*

When it comes to determining what significance morals have on our social system today, there is no clear-cut answer. Morals make the world go round, and they are an indispensable basis for social existence among people. They leave no room for skepticism or ambiguity. In this sense, morals are Truth's big sister. Like in Hemingway's sarcastic statement, moral standards these days are defined more by individual people than by societies.

Since the beginning of the modern age contemporary artists have explored the failures and shortcomings of our social systems. Over the past few decades, countless exhibitions have focused on this subject. One exhibition that fits this mold is “I Could Live In Africa,” which examines the relationship between contemporary art and punk in Poland during the late 1970s and 80s. It focuses on phenomena that often took place hidden from plain view. What punk and art in Polish society had in common during this period was the need to oppose the status quo: the communist regime, politics in general, the prevailing moral and aesthetic cultural standards. To the Eastern Europe of the time “No Future,” the slogan of the punk movement in the west, was no different from the dead-end future the ruling regime offered its people. Underground art and politics held the promise of a new and better future.

The title of the exhibition “I Could Live In Africa” was taken from the 1983 eponymous documentary film on the Polish punk band “Izrael” by the Dutch filmmaker and screenwriter Jacques de Koning. Under the martial law that was in place in Poland during the early 1980s, a seminal underground music scene developed that found its expression mainly in punk and new wave. In an article that appeared in the punk and art fanzine “Post” in 1981 the author Piotr Rypson, who is well known today as a curator and art critic, compared Polish punk with the early twentieth-century Dadaist and Futurist movements. Rypson recognized that the Polish punk movement was using cultural means to protest and attack the state's practice of monopolizing, sanctioning, and controlling art to its own advantage.

In addition to Jacques de Koning's film, the exhibition will present documentaries and work by Miroslaw Balka, Jozef Robakowski, Darek Skubiel, and Michal Tarkowski, among others.

The exhibition “I Could Live In Africa” was initiated by Nicolaus Schafhausen and is being curated by Lukasz Ronduda and Michal Wolinski. It will be developed in cooperation with the Witte de With, Center for Contemporary Art in Rotterdam and is part of a comprehensive exhibition series about moral conceptions and ethics that will be shown in Rotterdam starting September 2009. Lukasz Ronduda is curator of the Archive of Polish Experimental Film at the Center for Contemporary Art Ujazdowski Castle in Warsaw.

Michal Wolinski is curator and founding editor of the art journal Piktogram, Warsaw.

Nicolaus Schafhausen is curator and director of the Witte de With, Center for Contemporary Art in Rotterdam.

### **Exhibition venue**

#### **Ursula Blickle Foundation**

Mühlweg 18, D -76703 Kraichtal-UÖ  
Phone +49 7251 60919, Fax +49 7251 68687  
www.ursula-blickle-stiftung.de

### **Press information**

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### **Press photos**

are available on our website  
www.ursula-blickle-stiftung.de

### **Pre-opening viewing**

Please call for an appointment  
Phone +49 7251 60919, Fax +49 7251 68687

### **Duration of the exhibition**

**March 15 – April 19, 2009**

### **Opening**

**Saturday, March 14, 2009, 7 p.m.**

Welcoming address: Ursula Blickle  
Introduction: Michal Wolinski and Nicolaus Schafhausen

### **Opening hours**

Wed. 2 – 5 p.m., Sun. 2 – 6 p.m. and by appointment

### **Subsequent venues**

The show will be presented as part of the 2009/2010 exhibition series on morals and ethics at the Witte de With, Center for Contemporary Art in Rotterdam.

### **Closing ceremony**

April 19, 2009, 4 p.m. – Talk and discussion  
Dr. Hannelore Paflik-Huber, art historian, Stuttgart

**We'd appreciate an announcement of our exhibition in you medium. If publicized, please send us a copy for our files. Thank you!**