

## Jan Backhaus – Attendorn, Germany

- **born 1981** in Attendorn, Germany
- **2000** graduation from High-school, Certificate of Higher Secondary Education
- **2001** Cologne University, philosophy and German studies
- **2002** assistant to directors at Cologne theatres
- **2004 f.** video installation at “islands of Happiness” exposition, Deutz Bridge, Cologne |

Video installation for “Top-heavy” exposition during town of Siegen's Summer of Art

Assistance in film projects: Assistant to Stefan Westerwelle in documentation for sculptor Ulrich Rückriem | Lighting assistance for “*Eni*”, a short film by Ingo Monitor (accolade) | Furnishings for graduation film “*We are ready*” by Florian Michaelsen (won several accolades) | Equipment for “*Grizzly*” by Arved Lindau (accolade) | Co-production including various functions for “*Cocoon*” music video for David Boswell by Anita Leib | Live camera operator at KHM production on Moers Jazz festival | Screenplay for a full-length motion-picture (“*For Life*”) | Script and direction (proportionate) for full-length motion -picture “*Three Brothers*” | Script, direction, equipment, cut for medium-length short-film “*Everything there!*”. Camera, direction and cut for 30-minute film documentation “*Artists Exchange of the Southern Sauerland Artists' Association and the Artists' Union of the town of Otwock*” (2016) | Camera, direction, cut for exposition trailer for sculptor Marc Haselbach, Höschhallen Building, Attendorn (2015)

- **2012** Media Arts Diploma, Cologne Academy of Audiovisual Media
- Focus on Fictional Film (Screenplay, direction, cut, sound design)
- **2013** Participation in Showcase (adjudicated presentation of Cologne Academy of Medial Arts) with presentations of sequences from graduation film “*New Year's Yves*” (screenplay, direction, cut, sound track)
- **2018** member of BBK Westphalia, “*Nenitalp*” video installation for BBK group exposition
- “*One Metre of Art*” at BIG, Dortmund (incl. catalogue); participation in
- “*motionartfilm*” 2018, town of Schwerte
- **2019** Video installations for “Time window in tilt”, a BBK group exposition,

BIG Gallery, Dortmund (catalogue) und "watery" at Museum Wendener Hütte, Town of Wenden

- (catalogue): "Half-dream" (4 minutes), "Temporary - *extension*" (4 minutes) "

## **Marlies Backhaus – Attendorn, Germany**

### **Memberships:**

- Southern Sauerland Association of Artists (KBS)
- Women's Art Forum Westphalia. (FKF)
- Federal Association of Visual Artists in Westphalia province (BBK)
- since 2005 regional representative for southern Westphalia at BBK Board of Directors
- 2009-2017 President of Southern Sauerland Artists' Association(KBS)
- Living and working in Attendorn, Southern Westphalia province
- Organisation of expositions for KBS, BBK; inter-cultural projects with artists from Poland, Cuba, Mexico, and Mozambique
- Painting, Crossover, Objects, Print, Photography, digital Photo processing, Installation.

### **Single Expositions (Selection)**

- **2001** "This side of the border" Olpe
- **2002** "Work exhibition" Bonn
- **2003** "Thissideandelsewhere" Radevormwald
- **2004** "time leaps.perspectives" Valbert
- **2006** "Eslohe-open to art" Eslohe
- "en movimiento" Havana
- **2008** "cuba. people.motion." Bochum
- "impresiones de habana" Altena
- "backhaus.home." Olpe
- **2014** "on the melancholy of the achieved" Dortmund
- **2014** "Transitions. In flow and bulky" Siegen

- **2017** “Distances“ Siegen
- **2006** First Prize, Federation of Art, City of Siegen
- **2008** Culture Award of county of Olpe

### **Group exhibitions and project participations in:**

- Attendorn • Altena • Arnsberg • Bad Berleburg • Berlin • Bochum • Bonn • Dortmund • Dörenthe • Duisburg • Düsseldorf • Erwitte • Ennepetal • Essen • Gelsenkirchen • Hattingen •
- Hagen • Herne • Hespert • Hilden • Iserlohn • Kamp-Lintfort • Kassel • Kiel • Krefeld • Kreuztal • Köln • Lennestadt • Lüneburg • Lünen • Marienstatt • Meschede • Moers • Münster •
- Olpe • Radevormwald • Siegen • Rostock • Sprockhövel • Stiepel • Telgte • Wenden • Wetter • Würzburg
- Pärnu • Otwock • Gif-sur-Yvette • Havanna • Mexico-City

### **Publications:**

- Poster for Attendorn Town Council, “775 Years of Attendorn - Pictoresque Impressions“ 1997 • Art Book "Art and Artists in Olpe County", Southern Sauerland Artists' Union • “The Hanseatic Town of Attendorn“ Digital photo composition, canvas, Hansa Jubilee, Rostock 2018 “Young Pictures in Old Age “ Achenbach/ Seifert, Klartext Essen 2010

## **Artistic Statement**

### **Attendorn – Town of Hope for (Children’s) Dreams**

A topic we\* often have to deal with. Our work focuses on actions and workshops with children and adolescents – frequently with refugees who found shelter in our hometown and now have to walk the stony road of integration. Within the framework of our art projects we also try to organise encounters for them with locals youngsters.

That is why we have restricted the “protagonists” in our film to this target group: Young people, the future of our town. Faces of children coming from the most diverse origins, looking thoughtful, expectant, resigned, joyful and hopeful in front of the camera lens.

Is there any cause for optimism? Any hope for a happy future? Do we know their dreams? Can we help them to make them come true?

Photographs of the town we know so well: Buildings, vital for the town's appearance, but for our lives as well, whether in day-to-day routines, religion, leisure time or our history. But also of places whose details and enigmatic beauty we are often not aware of. Which at times can be so symbolic. Just like a door which may symbolise invitation and entering, but also rejection and lock-out. A window can represent openness, but also denial; a fence may stand for separation or imprisonment ...

The pictures on display represent a kind of multi-tier slide-show. The motifs, all chosen with an artist's eye, are interwoven. On three inter-connecting tableaux the beholder will each find an array of town, castle, and limestone cave – sometimes as excerpts, sometimes in wide shots.

On a separate film track, the portraits of children\* will fade in and out. It is a selection representing a multitude of local kids and youngsters, but also of the newcomers whose dream it is to make Attendorn their home.

\*we: Marlies Backhaus, retired Arts teacher, has run courses in youth work for over ten years

Jan Backhaus, certified film maker, has also been working in this field for years

\* Portrait photos from personal pool, approved by the respective legal guardians