



Emmanuelle Antille

March 9 – April 20, 2003

The Renaissance Society
at The University of Chicago

The Renaissance Society

Museum Hours:
Tuesday - Friday: 10 am - 5pm
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The Renaissance Society
at The University of Chicago
5811 South Ellis Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60637
Phone: (773)702-8870

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Opening reception: Sunday, March 9, 2003, 4:00 - 7:00pm
featuring a talk with the artist at 5:00pm in Cobb Hall, Room 307

A recurring fantasy in film and literature is the fate of characters exiled to a place where the structures of society no longer apply. *Angels Camp-First Songs* is a four screen video installation featuring an array of characters who in Antille's words "have decided to run away from society" to a place "where they build their own rules." Lasting a total of eighteen minutes, the work contains both the magic and violence of a fairy tale. It begins with an angel who doubles as a nightclub chanteuse. Played by Antille, this character opens and concludes the piece. Her position is one of judgment and/or an "immoral 'angel'" requiring blood sacrifice. The remaining characters form a makeshift family of refugees whose raucous play reveals both the liberating and negative aspects of their freedom.

Born in Lausanne, Switzerland in 1972 Antille belongs to a growing number of artists who reconfigure the traditional cinematic experience. Antille's installations, however, are derived from longer narrative videos. Both the feature length video and the installations function independent of one another, each a work in its own right. For *Angels Camp-First Songs*, Antille has chosen particular scenes from the end of a 78 minute work simply entitled *Angels Camp*. Shot over the course of 2001-2002, *Angels Camp* is divided into four chapters, one for each season. Like her other work, *Angels Camp-First Songs* blurs the distinction between dream and reality for its characters who form an unlikely Swiss Family Robinson of happenstance. The use of multiple screens allows the piece to unfold in a non-linear manner. Their number and scale (10' x 13') provide for a "direct and immediate" experience precluding the need for a story-line linking the characters. In short, the viewer is placed in the action of this uncharted desert isle.

Related Events

Opening Reception and Artist Talk
Sunday, March 9, 2003, 4:00 - 7:00pm
featuring a talk with the artist at 5:00pm
in Cobb Hall, Room 307

Artist Talk at Alliance Francaise
"First Songs: Story of a Film Shoot"
Monday, March 10, 12:00 pm
Antille presents further background on the genesis of this video shoot. Presented and sponsored by Alliance Francaise, Chicago and Pro Helvetia, Zurich, Switzerland. A light lunch will be offered by the Consulate General of Switzerland. This lecture will take place at Alliance Francaise, 54 West Chicago Avenue. No charge, but RSVP required by March 7 to 312-337-1070.

Concert
Marc Unternaehrer, Tuba with Ensemble Noamnesia
Thursday, April 3, 8:00pm
Tuba talent extraordinaire, Marc Unternaehrer comes to Chicago from Lucern. His repertoire of solo works for tuba includes compositions by Luigi Nono and Giacinto Scelsi among others. This concert will feature these as well as works for small chamber ensembles by Swiss composers including Roman Haubenstock-Ramatti and Beat Furrer performed with members of Ensemble Noamnesia. This concert will take place in the gallery. FREE

Emmanuelle Antille *Angel's Camp: First Songs* has been made possible through generous support from Pro Helvetia, The Arts Council of Switzerland and the Swiss Benevolent Society of Chicago, Illinois. Additional support has been received from Alphawood Foundation; Chicago Community Trust; the City Arts Program of The Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, a municipal agency; Christie's; the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; Lannan Foundation; The LLWW Foundation; The Peter Norton Family Foundation; the Provost's Discretionary Fund; The Pritzker Foundation; The Siragusa Foundation; the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and our membership. Indirect support has been received from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency offering general operating support to the nation's museums and libraries.

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Angels Camp

FIRST SONGS