

# FILM IST

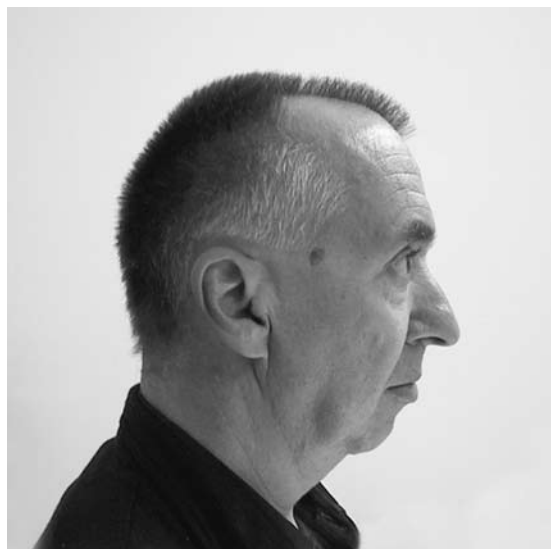


photo by Franz Berzl

## GUSTAV DEUTSCH

Born in Vienna in 1952, Gustav Deutsch has been working with moving images since the early 1980s, when he became associated with the Vienna Media Workshop *Medienwerkstatt*. During this time he gradually shifted from documentary video works into conceptual filmmaking and eventually became a leading figure of international found footage cinema. Deutsch travels to film archives worldwide where he researches and excavates clips from obscure films then reassembles them into montage sequences that create compelling visual narratives.

In his three part series *FILM IST*, he investigates the endless wealth of the medium and every genre imaginable finds its place in his extravagant "remixes" of film history: fiction and non-fiction, magic fables and newsreels, amateur and scientific films. But cinema's two "birthplaces", the scientific laboratory and the fairground, are of special interest to him. "I'm not interested in the content of these scientific films. I am interested in the meaning that is given by the image. I want to discover the poetry and the power of the images of very straight-forward, rational, scientific movies."

[www.gustavdeutsch.net](http://www.gustavdeutsch.net)

## SCREENING LONDON

Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> November 2010  
at ICA - Cinema 1

6.45 pm **FILM IST. (1-6)**  
Intro by the director

8.30 pm **FILM IST. (7-12)**  
Intro by the director

Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2010  
at ICA - Cinema 1

8.30 pm **FILM IST. A GIRL & A GUN**  
Intro and Q&A

Venue:

**ICA**  
Institute of Contemporary Arts  
12 Carlton House Terrace  
London  
SW1Y 5AH

Box office: 020 7930 3647  
Switchboard: 020 7930 0493  
[www.ica.org.uk](http://www.ica.org.uk)

### Tickets

double bill: £ 10  
(£ 9 conc., £ 8 ICA members),  
single screening ticket flat: £ 5

## SCREENING LIVERPOOL

Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2010  
at FACT - Liverpool

6.30 pm **FILM IST. (1-6)**  
Intro by the director

followed by **FILM IST. (7-12)**

Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2010  
at FACT - Liverpool

6.30 pm **FILM IST. A GIRL & A GUN**  
Intro and Q&A

Venue:

**FACT**  
88 Wood Street  
Liverpool  
L1 4DQ

Cinema tickets & info: 0871 902 5737  
Switchboard: 0151 707 4464  
[www.fact.co.uk](http://www.fact.co.uk)

### Tickets

single bill: £ 4 (£ 3 conc.)

The Austrian Cultural Forum London's CiNECLUB proudly presents

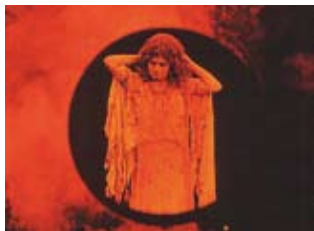
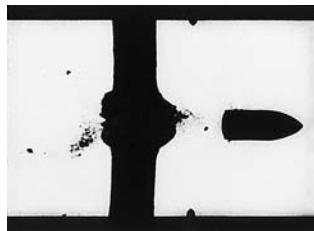
## FILM IST.

three instalments by Gustav Deutsch

ICA austrian cultural forum CiNECLUB FACT  
FOUNDATION FOR ART AND CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY

Our special thanks go to Gustav Deutsch and Dietmar Schwärzler at Sixpack Film.  
Curated by Fritz Urschitz

To receive future information on CiNECLUB events please send your contact details to  
Austrian Cultural Forum London, Attn: CiNECLUB, 28 Rutland Gate, London SW7 1PQ.  
Alternatively you can write to [office@acflondon.org](mailto:office@acflondon.org) or directly register at [www.acflondon.org](http://www.acflondon.org)



## FILM IST. (1-6)

Gustav Deutsch  
1998, 60 min.

1. *Bewegung und Zeit / movement and time (15 min.)*
2. *Licht und Dunkelheit / light and darkness (10 min.)*
3. *Ein Instrument / an instrument (10 min.)*
4. *Material / material (8 min.)*
5. *Ein Augenblick / a blink of an eye (7 min.)*
6. *Ein Spiegel / a mirror (10 min.)*

*FILM IST.* consists, almost exclusively, of sequences from existing scientific films. These films are about the acrobatic flights of pigeons, the intelligence testing of apes; about 'reversed worlds' and stereoscopic vision; hurricanes and impact waves in the air. They depict paper projectiles penetrating bubbles of air and bullets passing through ostrich eggs. They concern the dynamics of the diaphragm as one breathes, sings or makes music. They show how glass breaks, children walk and how a Mercedes Benz crashes into a stone wall in slow motion.

The contempt with which scientific films are received is not directed against the content, but rather against their conventional, unimaginative, ridiculous and commentary-contaminated appearance. Similarly, the fascination with some teaching films ... can be attributed almost exclusively to the power of their images ...

*FILM IST.* brings an abundance of these images together. One can feel not only the politics, but also the singular poetry of scientific film.

(Alexander Horwath)



## FILM IST. (7-12)

Gustav Deutsch  
2002, 93 min.

7. *Komisch / comic (19 min.)*
8. *Magie / magic (15 min.)*
9. *Eroberung / conquest (18 min.)*
10. *Schrift und Sprache / writing and language (12 min.)*
11. *Gefühl und Leidenschaft / emotions and passions (15 min.)*
12. *Erinnerung und Dokument / memory and document (11 min.)*

In the beginning a woman emerges from darkness and goes through a door. She fearfully glances into an imponderable exterior shaded midnight blue. What follows occurs rapidly. There are slapstick and risqué images, melodramatic and moving scenes, while others are silly and destructive. Early cinema explored thousands of different methods of slipping and falling. *FILM IST. (7-12)* is a collection of moving images from the early years of a medium, from the days when it was silent. According to Gustav Deutsch, film is so many things that a catalog of what it can be must remain open eternally ...

An unbounded love of cinema's tangible material is obvious in Deutsch's compilation. His images have been colorized lovingly, some of them are scratched and faded while others remain sharp and vivid. The attractions one might find in cinema's unstable raw material are as numerous and ultimately as inexplicable as the desire to watch itself.



## FILM IST. a girl & a gun

Gustav Deutsch  
2009, 93 min.

Once upon a time cinema was born of the spirit of fairground attractions, sleight of hand and fireworks (genesis). The world of moving images, glowing deep red (paradeisos), was soon populated by all kinds of rejoicing figures, who jumped, crawled and rolled in groups through forests and over dunes. Later a man opened his safe to a woman with the code word *eros*; a little finger was kissed tenderly, a violent grab met with his hand being bitten. The age of masquerades, games of hide and seek, and playacting had begun. The hands of strange men tightened and bent female bodies. Phallic objects injected desire and death (thanatos). After the (imaginary) birth of the round man the preference shifted to seeing bodies in pairs (symposium). "To be continued" comes at the end. Using images "from the first four and a half decades of cinematography", taken from 11 archives across the world, Gustav Deutsch has constructed a musical "film drama in five acts."

... The film constructs its own amazing attractions from the juxtaposition of documentary, fictional, pornographic, scientific and propaganda images, that are literally alien to their original purpose. In other words, they are images that do not necessarily belong together, though they create visual context. The central thread is supplied by ancient mythology, fragmentary quotes of Hesiod, Sappho and Plato. And a line leads from the ancient to the mythical stories that cinema is still telling. Film is: a girl and a gun.

(Isabella Reicher)

