



Ursula Mayer, *ATOM SPIRIT*, 2017, film still, courtesy of the artist

Ursula Mayer

ATOM SPIRIT

Exhibition runs: October 13 – November 26, 2017

13 October 2017, 7 pm

Chris McCormack in discussion with Ursula Mayer

13 October 2017, 8 pm

Opening of the exhibition

Ursula Mayer works across film, sculpture, photography and installation to create “kaleidoscopic” spaces where references intersect and boundaries dissolve. Her films fuse formal experimentation with myth, biopolitics and the semiotics of cinema to visualize and ruminate upon future, post-human ontology. In 2014 Mayer won the prestigious “Derek Jarman Award for Radical Film-Making.”

Set in Trinidad and Tobago, *ATOM SPIRIT* is a large-scale film installation which acts as a nexus where race, gender, postcolonialism and technology intersect. Traversing simulated and virtual platforms, alongside scientific, ecological and social spaces, the film creates completely mixed, interpenetrating realities where interrogations of the postcolonialism, ecology and queerness can take place. Thus *ATOM SPIRIT* builds a palimpsest of trajectories, not just through making alliances between different organic and cybernetic entities, but also through tracing the legacies of colonialism and capital into our current moment of neoliberal dominance.

The exhibition comments upon and explores the politicized ecologies of our times, in order to excavate the possibilities and perils regarding our shared techno-natural future. The exhibition’s immersive space, combined with the film’s speculative narrative, emphasises the necessity of reconceptualising and radically

reforming our relationships with the environment, non-human entities and each other. The film asserts a politics that both takes apart patriarchal taxonomies and builds up queer ecologies in their stead.

Ursula Mayer completed her MFA at Goldsmiths University London in 2004. Recently her work has been shown in SeMA Biennale Mediacity, Seoul; THE NEW HUMAN in Moderna Museet, Stockholm & Moderna Museet Malmö, and at the Hayward Gallery, London. Upcoming shows include TANK, FHNW, Institut Kunst, Basel; Vleeshal, Middelburg, and at HOME, Manchester.

Chris McCormack is a writer and associate editor of *Art Monthly*.



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