

conversations
at the edge
experimental media series

heinz emigholz: the airstrip

Presented in collaboration with the Goethe-Institut Chicago as part of the Chicago Architecture Biennial.

Heinz Emigholz (1948, Achim, Germany) is an artist, director, writer, and producer. He trained as a draughtsman before studying philosophy and literature at the University of Hamburg. A major figure in German independent and experimental cinema, Emigholz has produced more than 90 long and short films, ranging from theatrical features to experimental documentary. Described by *Variety* as the "most accurate observer of architecture," Emigholz is dedicated to origins, the fate, the triumph, and end of architectural Modernism. From 1993–2013 he served on the faculty of the Berlin University of the Arts. He has been the subject of numerous surveys and retrospectives internationally, most recently at the National Gallery in Washington DC, Centro Cultural in São Paulo, Instituto Moreira Salle in Rio de Janeiro, and XV International Biennial of Architecture of Buenos Aires. His work is distributed by Pym Films and Filmgalerie 451.

program

The Airstrip

(Heinz Emigholz, 2013, DCP, 108 min.)

Imagine an airspace into which a bomb has been dropped. The bomb has not reached the site of its detonation, but there is no way to stop its speedy approach. The time between the bomb's release and its explosion is neither the future (for the ineluctable destruction has not yet happened) nor the past (which is unavoidably about to be extinguished). The flight time of the bomb thus describes absolute nothingness, the zero hour, consisting of all the possibilities that in just a moment will no longer exist. Thus, this story will end before it has begun; here it is told in defiance: an architectural journey from Berlin through Arronanches, Rome, Wrocław, Görlitz, Paris, Bologna, Madrid, Buenos Aires, Atlántida, Montevideo, Mexico City, Brasília, Tokyo, Saipan, Tinian, Tokyo, San Francisco, Dallas, Binz and Mexico City back to Berlin – into the abyss.

Buildings and sculptures

The film *The Airstrip* was shot from March 2011 to June 2012 in Germany, Italy, France, Spain, Argentina, Uruguay, Mexico, Brazil, the United States, the Northern Mariana Islands and Japan. It shows the following buildings and sculptures:

Prometheus Bound (1899) by Reinhold Begas in Berlin, Germany, *Mulberry Harbour* (1944) by Winston S. Churchill in Arronanches, France, *Pantheon* (2nd century AD) in Rome, Italy, *Hala Ludowa* (1913) by Max Berg in Wrocław, Poland, *Department Store* (1913) by Carl Schmanns in Görlitz, Germany, *La Vache Noir Shopping Centre* (2000s) in Arceuil, France, *Gustave Eiffel Monument* (1928) by Auguste Perret in Paris, France, *Market Hall* (1953) by Renato Bernadi in Bologna, Italy, *Madrid Airport, Mercado de Abasto Shopping Centre* (1934) by Viktor Suli in Buenos Aires, Argentina, *La Bombonera Stadium* (1940) by Viktor Suli and José Luis Delpini in Buenos Aires, Argentina, *Three Mausoleums* (1930s and '40s) by Viktor Suli on the Recoletta Cemetery in Buenos Aires, Argentina, *Parochial Church* (1960) by Eladio Dieste in Atlántida, Uruguay, *Warehouse* (1979) by Eladio Dieste in Montevideo, Uruguay, *Montevideo Airport, Las Arboledas* (1958-63) by Luis Barragán in Mexico City, Mexico, *Double House* (1937) by Luis Barragán in Mexico City, Mexico, *Towers on the Queretaro Highway* (1958) by Luis Barragán and Mathias Goeritz in Mexico City, Mexico, *The End of a Highway* (2012) in Mexico City, Mexico, *Mexico City Airport, Italian Embassy* (1959) by Pier Luigi and Antonio Nervi in Brasília, Brazil, *Brasília Airport, Tokyo Airport, Japanese Prison* (1930s) in Garapan on Saipan, Northern Marianas, *La Fiesta Shopping Centre* (1990s) on Saipan, Northern Marianas, *Monument on the Banzai Suicide Cliffs* (1953) on Saipan, Northern Marianas, *Saipan Airport, Northfield Memorial* (1985) on Tinian, Northern Marianas, *Tokyo Airport, Saint Mary's Cathedral* (1971) by Pier Luigi Nervi in San Francisco, California, *Dallas Airport, Bus Stop* (1967) by Ulrich Müther in Binz, Germany, *Cathedral* (1573-1813) in Mexico City, Mexico, and *Neptune Fountain* (1891) by Reinhold Begas in Berlin, Germany.

upcoming

November 5 at 6 p.m.
Ming Wong