

INTERTWINED

(Video installations of Judit Kurtág)

It rests by changing.

(Heraclitus)

I've seen her subtle exhibition in four spacious halls of the Ludwig Museum in Budapest, and I know many details about her coming one in New York. What she has shown in Budapest, were all works created between 2002 and 2005: they all had the quality of the unexpected, they had a peculiar sense of playfulness and beauty, that is objectivity, but also, at times, got agonizingly close to a kind of idiosyncratic way of self-expression, being very subjective, repetitive ultra-fragmented time-segments. The tension of the chosen form: the technically perfectly composed – and digitally manipulated – video-films, and the installations in which these films appeared, the projected images, exploiting to the full the capacity of this ultimate medium to visualize an inner world, catching and reflecting events in milliseconds of change. At times repetitive speed and technicality is confronted with a very strong introspective drive, a dreamlike quality: two rhythms, the inner and the outer in constant clash, a kind of infinite slowing down, a hysterical adagio, a slow transformation of something that is outside, into something that is outside, through painstakingly chosen stills and the almost undetectable metamorphosis of an image, with psychedelic force. Violent emotions under a totally peaceful, treacherously peaceful surface. Distortion of a face, contorsions of a landscape, the parallel worlds, the freedom of walking through, like in transcendental meditation, states of mind, images of the mind. And in Judit Kurtág's world all this happens through a virtuoso mastery of the chosen medium: the digitally transformed film and photography. Not fearing to be personal, touching the wounds of the psyche. We see what we *have* to see. But we not only see the „what”, we see also the „how”. And the *howl*. The howl of silence. To end this introduction to her works, as we began, with a fragment of Heraclitus: *If all things were turned to smoke, the nostrils would distinguish them.*

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