

# Extra City centrum voor hedendaagse kunst

**JOACHIM KOESTER**

## **Numerous Incidents of Indefinite Outcome**

**My Frontier is an Endless Wall of Points** is a 16mm black and white film animation created from the mescaline drawings of Henri Michaux. Of all Michaux's work these drawings are most often described as a "venture into foreign territory". They are seen as an exploration of what is to be found beyond the borderline of words, and Michaux himself refers to them as well as "cinematic drawings", experiments in drawing consciousness itself that is manifest in the "flow of time". The work of Koester is literally an attempt to animate this idea once again, and to explore the process of translating muted movements into moving images and immaterial states of the mind once again.

**2007, 10:24 min, 16 mm projection**

In **Morning of the Magicians** Joachim Koester visits a house in Cefalù, Sicily, that once served as a communal home for the infamous occultist Aleister Crowley and his group of devotees, called the "The Abbey of Thelema". The long abandoned building is in a dilapidated state, buried in bushes, with a hole in the roof; hidden, like a sleeping castle, in an otherwise highly developed and posh neighbourhood of the city. Inside, Crowley's drug-heavy and sexually explicit frescos are still visible through layers of graffiti and peeling paint, making the building, one of the few remaining monuments in the largely invisible history of the occult's travel from extreme obscurity to its absorption into mainstream culture today.

**2005, 5:31min, 16 mm projection**

**One + One + One** takes the artist's engagement with the "The Abbey of Thelema" further. By placing a girl playing the drumbeats of "Sympathy for the Devil" in the house's garden, he weaves together the histories of counter-culture, the aesthetics of transgression, subjective transformation and political revolt. The title of the work is also a reference to Jean-Luc Godard's '68 film "One+One", which was titled "Sympathy for the Devil" in the United States.

**2006, 6 min, video**

**Numerous Incidents of Indefinite Outcome** is the title of a newly produced multi-channel monitor work, which draws on H.P. Lovecraft. A cult figure in the canon of the horror genre, Lovecraft published his unrealized stories and ideas in a book called "The Notes and Commonplace Book". By processing the notes of the book through a computer program, a series of new outlines are generated and displayed on the monitors. Joachim Koester turns Lovecraft's ideas into a mental theatre, confronting the tradition of horror narratives introduced by Edgar Allan Poe with the experimental text tradition and the cut-up method of William Burroughs and Brion Gysin.

**2007, computer generated text shown on monitors, video**

### **The Magic Mirror of John Dee**

The Magic Mirror of John Dee is a photograph of a Black Mirror from the British Museum which once belonged to John Dee, a renaissance scholar and owner of the biggest book collection in Britain of his time. Frustrated with the state of science Dee turned to Magic practices to expand his knowledge. By staring into the black mirror under trance a new language emerged called Enochian as well as the mapping of the mental landscape consisting of numerous celestial cities inhabited by angels and further out, behind four watchtowers, hordes of demons. Ultimately, the use of the new Enochian language and following the advise of the angels, led to random or at least surprising results and the otherworld proved just as haphazard as the world itself. Today, the imperial architecture of the British Museum is being reflected in the Black Mirror in the form of a few dim lights imbuing its surface with a narrative persistence, a sleeping presence, not unlike a photograph.

**Silver gelatine print, framed, 2006**