



A40 RUHR, still image 2009.

## **The Extended Optical Flow**

**by Maria Blondeel and Noël De Buck**

**Part One: *A40 Ruhr 2010, Research for sonic video project.***

## **MOVE(MENTS)**

### **for A40 RUHR**

In her recent work "A40 Ruhr", which she recorded in Germany during the summer of 2009, Maria Blondeel tags the volatile nowadays presence as utopian landmarks. The interpretation of the road mesh around the A40 motorway: from the Duisburg area with its cloverleaf intersections until Dortmund. The route has been recorded with a "sensory" broadcast van equipped on the front, rear and lateral windows with sensors and video lenses, especially designed for this purpose. Sound and image tracks has been processed and re-recorded; the route reassembled to exist as an autonomous abstract composition. With a virtual move(ment) to be someone somewhere, a mobile determination, the composition deconstructs the present versus the absent displacements of a nomadic generation and versus the location of the motorways in the Ruhr area. In these projections and sounds, we can dis-cover an event of 'fleeting' identities and (dis)-places over the immateriality of theoretical time and abstract space.

Maria Blondeel deconstructs through s(t)imulation the real driving into a 'sublimated' form of 'sliding'. This is an ambiguous and ambivalent process of generative transmutations that opens up a performance of an unseen scene of image and sound beyond the mental event. "A40 Ruhr" empathizes on a mix of empiric, mental and associative means within the 'geographical' navigation. It is like an intensified presence, which has been involved in plural dynamics of physical and intellectual excitement: on the one hand: 'the subjective ride' and 'the mental trip', on the other hand: the awareness of an attempt to synthesize dynamic perception. Simultaneously dealing with conflicting empiric and conceptual time and space parameters, the act of dis-covering the (non)-places will make them 'visible' in expansive scenery. The slide of the 'reality'-tracks with their semi-abstract icons will rush in our perception and embodied memory to corrupt the simultaneous constructions of several artistic layers. They provoke physical and mental shifts towards the concept and the traces that are involved in the meaning, the possibilities and the limitations of this always-renewing technology with its impact on the relation, on the drafts and concepts of art. (*Noël De Buck, 2009*)

#### **Cooperation and partners:**

Produced by Maria Blondeel. Realised in cooperation with Noël De Buck.

Noël De Buck (1951, Belgium) has a master degree in fine arts. Researcher at University College Ghent (Koninklijke Academie voor Schone Kunsten Gent). He promotes and steers the research project 'The Extended Optical Flow' (EOF - UOS). He coordinates the literary and philosophic contextualisation and questions the artistic, theoretical and technical execution of the artistic concept. He has a twenty-nine years art-practice/reflection education experience (promoter and mentor of master students) in the art-practice 'beeld & installatie' at KASK, University College Ghent, where he is teaching. He studied from 2004 until 2006 'Psychopedagogie of the perception and the action' at the Universidade Moderna Lisboa. (DEA).

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Flanders Audiovisual Fund (VAF)  
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Happy New festival Kortrijk Belgium (curator Joost Fonteyne)  
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#### **2010**

Artist in residence Medienwerk-NRW, Düsseldorf / Kulturamt Landeshauptstadt Düsseldorf / Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen, Germany

#### **Upcoming**

Happy New festival Kortrijk, Belgium curated by Joost Fonteyne, April 24 until May 9, 2010.  
Onomato Verein Düsseldorf, Germany curated by Michael Voets, May 9 until 15, 2010.  
Edith-Russ-Haus Oldenburg, Germany curated by Jens Brand, May 29, 2010.  
Felix de Boeck museum Drogenbos, Belgium curated by Helena De Preester en Jerry Galle, September 2010