films

Selling Dreams
Voyage autour de la lune
The Infinite Happiness
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Spiriti
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Koolhaas Houselife

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bio & filmography
In 2016, the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York has acquired the entire work of Bêka & Lemoine for its permanent collection.
“Magic.” Le Monde

“The architecture cult movie.” El Pais

“The films that have changed the way of looking at architecture.” Domus

“Heartfelt, thought-provoking and hilariously funny.” The New York Times

“A thoroughly delightful film!” The Wall Street Journal

“Beka&Lemoine have created a new form of criticism.” Mark

“Amusing, levelheaded and quite rich exception.” The Los Angeles Times

“A completely original way to tell a story. Astonishing!” Huffington Post

“An engaging documentary that tells us more about the genius of Perret than a collection of drawings and sketches.” Liberation

“A rare exception in architectural films.” The NY Review of Books

“Tightly edited sequences of short epigrammatic scenes that never belabor the point, exquisitely understated interior shots, and unexpected soundtracks that contribute to the spatial illusion.” Metropolis Mag

“Pushing the limits of representation.” Assemble

“Brilliant!” The Guardian
THE INFINITE HAPPINESS

The Infinite Happiness is a highly unusual architectural experience. The film takes us to the heart of one of the contemporary residential developments considered to be a new model of success: the giant “8 House” designed in 2009 by Danish architects BIG-Bjarke Ingels Group in the suburbs of Copenhagen. Ila Bêka & Louise Lemoine recount their month-long immersion inside this experiment of vertical village, nominated “World best residential building” in 2011.

As a Lego game, the film builds up a collection of life stories all interconnected by their personal relation to the building. Drawing the lines of a human map, the film reveals the building through an inner and intimate point of view. By showing the surprising results of this innovative social model, the directors question the architecture’s ability to create collective happiness.

CREDITS

DIRECTORS: Ila Bêka and Louise Lemoine
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Ila Bêka
SOUND: Louise Lemoine
EDITING: Ila Bêka, Louise Lemoine
COLORIST: Melo Prino, Luca Immesi
SOUND MIX: Walter Fuji, Lo Studio
LINE PRODUCER: Marco Mona
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT: Héloïse Lalanne-Castellano
LANGUAGE: English
SUBTITLES: French, Italian
PRODUCTION: Bêka & Partners, France
CO-PRODUCTION: Bjarke Ingels Group, Denmark

France/Denmark, 2015, HD, colour, 85 min

PRESS

“Breathtaking and warm documentary. Many fates are in big and small directly influenced by the architecture, and it is the film’s genius to show it so musical, so simple.” Politiken

“So original, so vivid and witty. Beka and Lemoine bring the gods down to earth.” Der Tagesspiegel

“Precious ontological moments.” Metropolis Mag

“Wonderful! Blessedly free of the customary documentary trappings.” Chicago Tribune

“Pushing the limits of representation.” Assemble

“More than just a documentary. It’s an ode to the architecture’s social power.” Der Standard

“A light-hearted and insightful movie that will make you laugh and smile, this is a must-see.” Urban Toronto

“An ode to the social power of architecture!” Der Standard

INFOS

OFFICIAL TRAILER: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MAPEioSNvOC
PHOTOS: www.bekalemoine.com/download/The_Infinite_Happiness_Photos.zip

FESTIVALS AND SCREENINGS


EXHIBITIONS I “HOT TO COLD” by Bjarke Ingels Group (Jan - August 2015) at the National Building Museum, Washington

THEATRICAL RELEASE I Bloor Hot Docs Cinema, Toronto, 2016
THE AUTHORS

Artists, filmmakers, producers and publishers, Ila Bêka and Louise Lemoine have been working together for the past 10 years mainly focusing their research on experimenting new narrative and cinematographic forms in relation to contemporary architecture.

Since 2007 they have been developing a film series entitled “Living Architectures”, awarded Best Architecture Film at Archfilm Lund 2013. “Koolhaas Houselife”, internationally acclaimed as the “architecture cult movie” (El Pais), is probably the most famous film of their series featuring Guadalupe, the irresistible housekeeper.

Their films have been widely shown in some of the most prestigious international cultural institutions such as MoMA (New York), Centre Pompidou (Paris), Palais de Tokyo (Paris), Cité de l’Architecture et du Patrimoine (Paris), Barbican Center (London), Triennale (Milan, Italy), CCA (Montréal, Québec), Naï (Rotterdam, NL), Venice International Architecture Biennale (2008, 2010, 2014) among others.


CONCEPT

Through their films, Ila Bêka and Louise Lemoine put into question the fascination with the picture, which covers up the buildings with preconceived ideas of perfection, virtuosity and infallibility, in order to demonstrate the vitality, fragility and vulnerable beauty of architecture as recounted and witnessed by people who actually live in, use or maintain the spaces they have selected. Thus, their intention is to talk about architecture, or rather to let architecture talk to us, from an «inner» point of view, both personal and subjective.

FILMOGRAPHY

SELLING DREAMS, 25 min + 9 min, 2016

VOYAGE AUTOUR DE LA LUNE, 76 min, 2016

SPIRITI, 15x3 min circa, 2015

THE INFINITE HAPPINESS, 85 min, 2015

BARBICANIA, 90 min, 2014

L’EXPERIENCE DU VIDE, 45 min, 2014

24 HEURES SUR PLACE, 90 min, 2014

LA MADDALENA, 12 min, 2014

LA MADDALENA CHAIR, 25 min, 2014

25BIS, 46 min, 2013

POMEROL, HERZOG & DE MEURON, 51 min, 2013

XMAS MEIER, 51 min, 2013

Gehry’s Vertigo, 48 min, 2013

INSIDE PIANO / THE LITTLE BEAUBOURG, 26 min, 2010

INSIDE PIANO / THE SUBMARINE, 39 min, 2010

INSIDE PIANO / THE POWER OF SILENCE, 34 min, 2010

Koolhaas Houselife, 58 min, 2008