

Igor Vidor

4.11. – 7.12.20

Igor Vidor explores mechanisms of power and oppression and their expression in objects or social codes in a variety of mostly urban settings in Brazil. His sculptures, performances and videos convey signs of deep-rooted violence and social injustice in people's everyday lives. He reflects how these conditions are repeated again and again as a result of Brazilian politics. His recent works analyse the influence of the United States and European countries, notably the role the arms trade has played in the spread of violence in Brazil and Latin America. The Berlinische Galerie is screening "v.a. 4598 (Rio Olympics)" (2016, 15 min.), "Carne e Agonia" (Flesh and Agony) (2018, 9:38 min.) and a new work: "A Praga" (The Plague) (2020).

"v.a. 4598 (Rio Olympics)" shows the artist amid a landscape of ruins. During construction work for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, thousands of families in Vila Autódromo were forced to leave their homes forever. The houses were pulled down to make room for the sporting event. Vidor observed this processes for two years, working with residents to create a video performance.

For "Carne e Agonia" (Flesh and Agony), the same questions were put to drug dealers and police officers. Their answers reveal similar comments in the violent scenario of the so-called "war on drugs". Slow-motion images show a series of marks left by bullets in ballistic gelatin. These forensic experiments are conducted by ammunition manufacturers to test how deadly their weapons are and to improve their efficacy.

"A Praga" (The Plague) juxtaposes footage from Oberndorf am Neckar in Baden-Württemberg with sequences recording police operations collected by the artist. The film examines the lethal links between the little town in Germany, its local weapons industry and the export of violence to other countries based on over a century of German arms trading.

Biography

Igor Vidor (*1985, São Paulo, Brazil) studied at the Centro Universitário Belas Artes in São Paulo. He worked for several years in the education and public outreach department at the Museu de Arte do Rio (MAR). His works have been shown at a number of international exhibitions, including at Künstlerhaus Bethanien (2020); Pérez Art Museum Miami (2018); Mercosul Biennial (2018); Sesc 24 de Maio, São Paulo (2017); Museu Histórico Nacional, Rio de Janeiro (2017) and Museu de Arte do Rio (MAR) (2016). Since 2019 Igor Vidor has been living in Berlin, where he is artist-in-residence at Künstlerhaus Bethanien.