

**“Film is an art form that reflects a world
with pictures which does not exist.”**

FRITZ WERNER

FILM AND SOCIETY
BY
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Karl Küffel

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Berlin, March 2013 – translated from German original title “Film und Gesellschaft” (2003)

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Work description:

The pictures are collages in mixed media, size 27,5 x 35,5 inches.

PREFACE

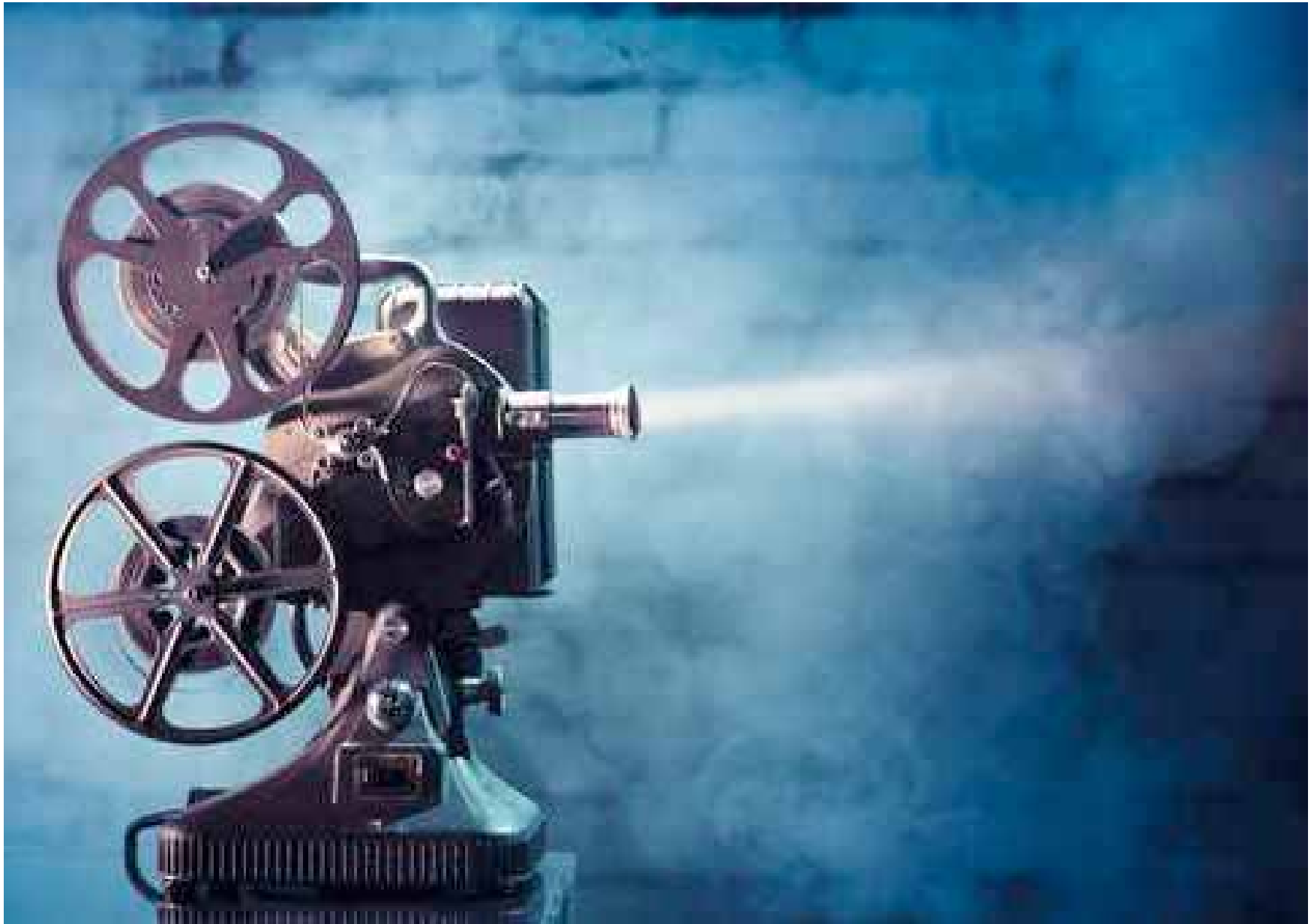
One hundred years German history, the last ones of the past millennium, are the reason of a special retrospective. In ten ordered pictures, the artist Karl Küffel summarizes the events of the past decades in a unique individual way. The main emphasis of his work is laid on the contrast of pictures with reality. What appears controversial becomes unified and expresses his analyses of its character.

The pictures learned how to move in the first decade of the twentieth century. With the silent films of the twenties, the medium of film was available to a large public. The propaganda films of the thirties "Triumph Of The Will" and "Jud Süß", reflected in Karl Küffel's work, served a political purpose. In the forties, the oppression of the people and the film "Kolberg" became a cinematographic monument. The contrast of film and society which is reflected in Küffel's work, lightens the backgrounds and makes it clear to the people. The UFA – Dream Factory System (film production company) seduced the women in the cinema while men were fighting at war. Film as opium of the people, which did not find out about the atrocities of the concentration camps. The black & white of the first five pictures of the cycle refers symbolically to the horrors and violations of this period of German history and expresses the era of the black & white movie. In the fifties the world became more colourful. These films that glorified

home life were successful, because they showed an intact world, which the Germans were starving for, after the end of war. Victorious America conquered the film screen and dominates even today. Its supremacy in matter celluloid, refrigerators and petticoats crossed the ocean as well as Elvis, John Wayne and Marilyn Monroe.

The film "The Girl Rosemarie" pointed out, that everything could be bought. From decade to decade the medium of film, as reflection of reality became more complex and dominating. Ten decades held in ten pictures, should give the opportunity to a self analysis according to time. For this purpose, the artist depicted more than three hundred motives taken out of films and society in his collages. Not all of them could be mentioned in writing.

FRITZ WERNER
Previous Constantin and Gloria-Film, Munich



**“Film is the imaginary setting of a theme
that becomes anchored in our minds.”**

KARL KÜFFEL

IMAGE REPRESENTATION 1900 – 1909

SOCIETY

- Emperor Wilhelm II
- Art exhibition Berliner Secession (1900)
- Glorification of the body in “Licht-Luft-Sportinstitut”
- Suspension train (Wuppertal 1901)
- Youth magazine cover with Isadora Duncan (1904)
- King’s cottage in Upper Silesia (1904)
- Double decker - Omnibus-Daimler-Motoren-Gesellschaft
- Passengers on an emigrant ship from Bremen to New York
- German hundred year exhibition Berlin
- Unveiling of the Bismarck monument by Hugo Leader and Max Scheldt in Hamburg (1906)
- Broadcasting pole of the company Telefunken, inauguration (August 19, 1906)
- Rosa Luxemburg (August 1907)
- International socialist convention in Stuttgart
- Graf Zeppelin’s airship (1908)
- AEG engine factory (Berlin 1908 / 1909)
- Friedrichstrasse Passage (Berlin 1909)
- Control area of chassis frames in the Daimler-Motoren-Gesellschaft

FILM

- “Living pictures” shown with the cinematographers in a fairground booth
- Tilla Durieux, one of the first famous silent film star
- Slow movement film of a galloping horse
- Oskar Messter, film maker
- Reenactment of battleships in a movie theatre at Kurfürstendamm, Berlin
- Asta Nielsen, first international star of silent film

IMAGE REPRESENTATION 1910 – 1919

SOCIETY

- Fisherman and wife on the Baltic Sea (1910)
- Snack break at harvest (1910)
- Carriage ride of German emperor and empress
- Wounded soldier, supported by a companion
- Soldier at combat
- Emperor on the western German front (1914 – 1916)
- Barbed wire battle line with dead people in World War I
- Revolution in Berlin (1918), gunfire in castle yard
- Kapp-coup (Wilhelmplatz, Berlin 1920)
- Dancing couple

FILM

- **Lohengrin** (1910): director: Franz Porten, main role: Henny Porten, Witold d'Antone
- **The Golem** (1914): director: Paul Wegner, main role: Rudolf Blümmer, Carl Ebert
- **The Cabinet Of Dr. Caligari** (1919): director: Robert Wiene, main role: Lil Dagover, Werner Krauss, Conrad Veidt
- **Monna Vana** (1922): director: Richard Eichberg, main role: Paul Wegener, Lee Parry, after a book of Maurice Maeterlinck



DIE POLITISIERUNG DES VOLKES

IMAGE REPRESENTATION 1920 – 1929

SOCIETY

- Demonstration of civil servants against grafters and extortion
- Panic at the Pariser Platz, Berlin during Kapp days coup
- Polarization of youth: Participation at a Nazi event in Munich
- Woman in silk lingerie for commercial
- Ghost of war: Soldier with gas mask
- Fashion pictures for “Dame von Heute”
- Charleston and jazz in Berlin bar “Bigume”
- Car driver
- War wounded beggar with children
- Begging old man

FILM

- **Nosferatu A Symphony Of Horror** (1922): director: Friedrich Wilhelm Murnau, main role: Max Schreck
- **Ways To Strength And Beauty** (1923-1924): director: Wilhelm Prager, Nicolas Kaufmann
- **Joyless Street** (1925): director: G. W. Pabst, main role: Greta Gabo, Einar Hanson, Brigitte Helm
- **Metropolis** (1927): director: Fritz Lang, main role: Gustav Fröhlich, Brigitte Helm, Theodor Loos
- **Triadic Ballet** (1929): director: Oskar Schlemmer, UFA culture film

IMAGE REPRESENTATION 1930 – 1939

SOCIETY

- Book burning in Hamburg (1933)
- Election poster of KPD in Berlin before election of Reichspresident (March 13, 1932)
- International car race of ADAC (German car club) in Berlin on the Avus highway
- The burning Reichstag (government building) in Berlin (February 27, 1932)
- Nazi terror against Jewish shops and department stores
- Leni Riefenstahl directing the film “Triumph Of The Will”
- German bomber
- Poster for broadcast exhibition in Berlin
- Olympic Games in Berlin (1936)
- Destroyed synagogue after Kristallnacht in Fasanenstraße, Berlin
- Laying of the first stone for Volkswagen factory in Wolfsburg (May 26, 1938)
- Adolf Hitler
- Rabble-rousing against modern art
- Unemployed person with poster looking for work in Berlin

FILM

- **Marlene Dietrich** (1930) in different roles around
- **Triumph Of The Will** (1935): director: Leni Riefenstahl, documentary
- **Truxa** (1936): director: Hans Helmut Zerlett, main role: Lu Jasna, Hans Söhnker, Hannes Stelzer
- **Heimat** (1938): director: Carl Froelich, main role: Zarah Leander, Heinrich George
- **Bel Ami** (1939): director: Willi Forst, main role: Willy Forst, Olga Tschechowa, Ilse Werner
- **The Immortal Heart** (1939): director: Veit Harlan, main role: Heinrich George, Kristina Söderbaum
- **Jud Süß** (1940): director: Veit Harlan, main role: Kristina Söderbaum
- **The Eternal Jew** (1940): anti-Semitic propaganda film, director: Fritz Hippler

IMAGE REPRESENTATION 1940 – 1949

SOCIETY

- German tanks
- Russian campaign: in the background bombing of Sluk
- Execution of Russian civilians by the Wehrmacht (German Armed Forces) in the Soviet-Union
- Murder of hostages by the Schutzstaffel SS (paramilitary organization in Nazi Germany)
- Judge of people court room
- Dead bodies in concentration camp Bergen-Belsen
- Ruins on the Spree river bank, Berlin
- Creation of the government building, for the German Parliament (1948 / 1949)
- Refugees in Berlin (1945)
- Ruin women at cleaning up mission (1940)
- Sector at Potsdamer Platz in Berlin

FILM

- **The Dismissal** (1942): director: Wolfgang Liebeneiner, main role: Emil Jannings
- **Münchhausen** (1942): director: Josef von Báky, main role: Hans Albers, Brigitte Horney
- **Romance In Moll** (1943): director: Helmut Käutner, main role: Marianne Hoppe, Paul Dahlke
- **Es fing so harmlos an** (1944): director: Theo Lingen, main role: Johannes Heesters, Inge List
- **The Punch Bowl** (1944): director: Helmut Weiss, main role: Heinz Rühmann, Karin Himboldt
- **The Woman Of My Dreams** (1944): director: Georg Jacoby, main role: Marika Röck
- **Kolberg** (1945): director: Veit Harlan, main role: Heinrich George, Kristina Söderbaum
- **Murderers Among Us** (1946): director: Wolfgang Staudte, main role: Ernst Wilhelm Borchert, Hildegard Knef
- **The Ballad Of Berlin** (1948): director: Robert A. Stemmle, main role: Gert Fröbe, Tatjana Sais



IMAGE REPRESENTATION 1950 – 1959

SOCIETY

- Leipziger Straße, Berlin (June 17 1953)
- Federal minister of economics, Ludwig Erhardt
- Propaganda poster during the construction of Stalinallee, East Berlin
- National uprising against SED (Socialist Unity Party of East Germany), strikes and demonstrations (June 17, 1953)
- First GRUNDIG standard TV
- Wonder of Bern (Switzerland), Germany is soccer world cup winner (1954)
- Housing construction for Volkswagen employees in Wolfsburg (1955)
- New TV of PHILIPS (1955)
- Elvis Presley
- Protest against nuclear weapons of the German Army
- Advertisement for Coca Cola in the fifties
- Fashion in the fifties
- Music box
- Advertisement for nylons

FILM

- **The Heath Is Green** (1951): director: Hans Deppe, main role: Sonja Ziemann, Rudolf Prack
- **The Sinner** (1951): director: Willi Forst, main role: Hildegard Knef
- **Quo Vadis** (1951): director: Mervyn LeRoy, main role: Deborah Kerr, Peter Ustinov, Sophia Loren
- **High Noon** (1952): director: Fred Zinnemann, main role: Gary Cooper
- **The Story Of Little Muck** (1953): director: Wolfgang Staudte, main role: Thomas Schmidt, Gerd Frickhöffer, Trude Hesterberg
- **The Seven Year Itch** (1955): director: Billy Wilder, main role Marilyn Monroe
- **Giant** (1955): director: George Stevens, main role: Elizabeth Taylor, James Dean
- **Sissi, The Young Empress** (1956): director: Ernst Marischka, main role: Romy Schneider, Karl-Heinz Böhm
- **Teenage Wolfpack** (1956): director: Georg Tressler, main role: Horst Buchholz
- **Dracula** (1958): director: Terence Fischer, main role: Christopher Lee
- **Ben Hur** (1959): director: William Wyler, main role Charlton Heston



IMAGE REPRESENTATION 1960 – 1969

SOCIETY

- The mini skirt brings a revolution in women's fashion
- 1.4 millions West Berlin people welcome John F. Kennedy
- Union demonstration at "Platz der Republik", in front of the parliament seat
- While escaping across the border, someone gets shot down by GDR (German Democratic Republic – former East Germany) border soldiers
- Townhall Bensberg near Cologne is a modern architecture example
- Billboard in West Berlin at border with East Berlin
- "Nobody has the intention to build a wall", Walter Ulbricht GDR (former East Germany's prime minister)
- New built wall in Bernauer Strasse, Berlin
- Border line near Hünfeld, Hesse
- The Beatles revolutionize the music of young people
- Anti Vietnam demonstration in West Berlin
- Rudi Dutschke (Marxist activist) in auditorium maximum at Berlin's university
- Berlin 1967
- People's commune in Berlin
- Jimi Hendrix
- First man on the moon

FILM

- **Faust** (1960): director: Peter Gorski, main role: Gustav Gründgens, Willy Quadflieg
- **Trace Of Stones** (1960): director: Frank Beyer, main role: Manfred Krug, Ingeborg Schuhmacher
- **The Night** (1961): director: Michelangelo Antoninoi, main role: Marcello Mastroianni, Jeanne Moreau
- **The Hustler** (1961): director: Robert Rossen, main role: Jackie Gleason, Paul Newman
- **Jules And Jim** (1961): director: Francois Truffaut, main role: Boris Basiak, Jeanne Moreau
- **Dr. No** (1962): director: Terence Young, main role: Sean Connery, Ursula Andress
- **Irma La Douce** (1963): director: Billy Wilder, main role: Shirley MacLaine, Jack Lemmon
- **Cleopatra** (1963): director: Joseph L. Mankiewicz, main role: Elisabeth Taylor, Richard Burton
- **A Space Odyssey** (1968, 2001): director: Stanley Kubrick, main role: William Sylvester, Leonard Rossiter
- **Katzelmacher** (1969): director: Rainer Werner Fassbinder, main role: Hanna Schygulla, Rainer Werner Fassbinder

IMAGE REPRESENTATION 1970 – 1979

SOCIETY

- Symbol of reconciliation (1970): Genuflection by chancellor Willy Brandt in front of the monument for the victims of Warsaw's ghetto
- Advertisement for Afri-Cola
- German magazine "Stern" covers: "We had an abortion"
- Documenta in Kassel: "Art is superfluous"
- ABBA conquers the music world
- Palestinian terrorist attack on Jewish athletes at Olympic Games in Munich
- Cylindrical university skyscraper in Jena
- German magazine "Spiegel" covers: "End of the abundance society" (Oil crises, 1973)
- The RAF (terror organization) takes Hans-Martin Schleyer for hostage and murders him
- Punks in West Berlin
- German magazine "Stern" covers: "Test-tube baby"
- Poster of Joseph Beuys for the ecological party during election (1970)
- International Congress Center (ICC) in West Berlin
- Germany wins soccer world cup (1974)
- Fashion in the 1970s: Bell bottom pants and wide high heels

FILM

- **Schoolgirl Report** (1970): director: Ernst Hofbauer
- **Harold And Maude** (1971): director: Hal Ashby, main role: Ruth Gordon, Bud Cort
- **Frenzy** (1972): director: Alfred Hitchcock, main role Barry Foster
- **Cabaret** (1972): director: Bob Fosse, main role: Liza Minnelli, Michael York
- **Rocky Horror Picture Show** (1975): director: Jim Sharman, main role: Susan Sarandon, Tim Cury
- **Jaws** (1975): director: Steven Spielberg, main role: Ray Schneider, Richard Dreyfuss
- **Star Wars – A New Hope** (1977): director: Georg Lucas, main role: Carrie Fisher, Mark Hamill
- **Saturday Night Fever** (1977): director: John Badham, main role: John Travolta
- **Nosferatu The Vampyre** (1979): director: Werner Herzog, main role: Klaus Kinski
- **Blues Brothers** (1979): director: John Landis, main role: Dan Aykroyd, John Belushi
- **The Tin Drum** (1979): director: Volker Schlöndorff, main role: David Brennet, Mario Adorf



IMAGE REPRESENTATION 1980 – 1989

SOCIETY

- Bruce Springsteen and Jackson Browne
- Police contingent during an anti atomic demonstration in Brokdorf
- New state gallery in Stuttgart
- AIDS epidemic is a new dangerous disease
- Large demonstration of freedom movement in East Germany with round about 1.3 million people
- Hafenstraße in Hamburg, quarrel between squatters and the senate
- Uwe Barschel (politician) is found dead
- Hostages drama in Gladbek is becoming a media circus
- East German soldiers (NVA) on top of the wall in front of Brandenburg Gate (Berlin)
- Helmut Kohl (chancellor 1982-1998), opens pedestrian border line between East and West Berlin
- Crowds of people from East and West Berlin celebrate the opening of the border
- A Trabi car drives to the western part of Berlin
- Design museum in Weil at river Rhine
- New German Wave (Nena "99 red balloons")
- Michail Gorbatschow receives Nobel Peace Price
- Erich Honecker (previous East Germany's prime minister)

FILM

- **The Lady Banker** (1980): director: Francis Girod, main role: Romy Schneider
- **The Candidate** (1980): director: Stefan Aust, main role: Alexander Kluge, Volker Schlöndorff
- **Marianne And Juliane** (1981): director: Margarethe von Trotta, main role: Barbara Sukova, Rüdiger Vogler
- **E.T. – The Extra-Terrestrial** (1982): director: Steven Spielberg, main role: Henry Thomas, Drew Barrymore
- **Ghandi** (1982): director: Richard Attenborough, main role: Ben Kingsley
- **The Never Ending Story** (1984): director: Wolfgang Petersen, main role: Noah Hathaway
- **Ghostbusters** (1984): director: Ivan Reitman, main role: Dan Aykroyd, Sigourney Weaver
- **Men** (1985): director: Doris Dörrie, main role: Heiner Lauterbach, Uwe Ochsenknecht
- **The Name Of The Rose** (1985): director: Jean Jacques Annaud, main role: Sean Connery
- **Platoon** (1986): director: Oliver Stone, main role: Tom Berenger, Charlie Sheen

IMAGE REPRESENTATION 1990 – 1999

SOCIETY

- Celebration of reunification in Berlin (October 3, 1999)
- Currency union, party for the last East German Marks
- German magazine “Stern” covers: Right wing attack full of anti-foreign feelings and orgies of violence
- Sculptures of Niki de Saint Phalle in Bonn
- Christo and his wife wrap the German Parliament Reichstag
- Mourning for princess Diana, she died in a car accident in Paris
- Love Parade
- Large building site in Berlin: Kanzleramt, Reichstag, Potsdamer Platz
- Gerhard Schröder (chancellor 1998-2005) and Oskar Lafontaine (politician)
- German magazine “Titanic” covers: Kohl (chancellor 1982-1998) had taken dope, end of his era
- Foreign minister Fischer is being hit by a paint bomb
- Christopher Street Day in Berlin, demonstration against discrimination of homosexuality
- The RAF dissolves in the nineties
- Mobil phones and computers conquer society. The new era of information has started
- Contraception against AIDS

FILM

- **The German Chainsaw-Massacre** (1990): director: Christoph Schlingensief, main role: Karina Fallenstein, Udo Kier
- **The Lion King** (1994): director: Roger Allers, cartoon film
- **Sense And Sensibility** (1995): director: Ang Lee, main role: Emma Thompson, Kate Winslet, Alan Rickman
- **Toy Story** (1995): director: John Lasseter, computer animated film
- **Titanic** (1996): director: James Cameron, main role: Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Winslet
- **Romeo And Juliet** (1996): director: Baz Luhrmann, main role: Leonardo DiCaprio, Claire Danes
- **Scream** (1996): director: Wes Craven, main role: Drew Barrymore
- **Run Loal Run** (1998): director: Tom Tykwer, main role: Franka Potente, Moritz Bleibtreu
- **American Beauty** (1999): director: Sam Mendes, main role: Annette Bening, Kevin Spacey
- **Matrix** (1999): director: Andy and Larry Wachowski, main role: Carrie-Ann Moss, Keanu Reeves
- **Erin Brockovich** (2000): director: Steven Soderbergh, main role: Julia Roberts, Albert Finney



**“Film and society are often reciprocal mirror images
that can influence each other.”**

FITZ WERNER

EPILOGUE

The first film was not shown by the famous brothers Lumiere, but by the brother and sister Max and Emil Skladnowsky. They invented about one hundred years ago the so called Bioscope, a system of double projected images. They showed their pictures to the public for the first time November 1, 1895, this was one month earlier than the brothers Lumiere. In those days, many people believed, films were nothing but a technical game, and barely anyone imagined that it would develop into the most important artistic contribution of the industrial age. Since this historical time, the beginning of film history, there is a huge collection of different film production. Many famous scenes and pictures taken from those films have remained in the collective memory of our society.

In retrospect, the twentieth century was the century of films. The new medium that had developed from photography, revolutionized the people's view of their surrounding world and gave them a really new understanding and perspective in matter of time and space. Film is art, a product of human representation and artistic design power. At the same time, every film is not only a single autonomous art project but one also always finds, in the films of a specific period, the spirit of the times of the relevant

epoch. From the beginning, films were the reflection of the current society. The conclusion to be drawn from this, is that the production of films, considering its enormous technical and personal expenses, always let the actual and social trends appear in films. Particularly concerning commercial films, the directors try to fulfill the wishes, needs and actual taste of the audience. This is why they treat actual themes in their films. For example, I would like to mention the series of Jurassic-Park films, which success is due not only to the progress of computer simulation but also to the development of gene technology, that was and still is of great interest to the people. In the successful films of an epoch, the wishes, expectations and fears of the audience are represented to witness the fashion and dreams of their time for the next generation.

Pretty early, the political leaders of different political systems discovered the power of pictures. Especially the propaganda films from the Nazi era showed how they could emotionally manipulate people and also give a cinematographic monument to their system, portrayed in the films of Leni Riefenstahl.

It is in human nature to actualize and put in pictures which has a spiritual aspect. That's why films can be seen as an expression form of human fan-

tasy and feelings. When going to see a movie, one leaves everyday's life for a few hours, to be transferred according to the movie style, in a thrilling, bright or romantic world. On the big screen, we see the main myths of our culture, the principle "good against bad" in always new variations. We want to be emotionally overcome or just be entertained and take part in a world which is mostly far away from reality. With technical progress, the development of fantastic style, becomes always more realistic. Before the aim was to make films look like films, now a days, the new technologies allow the almost perfect illusion. It is indeed the future development of films.

Since the eighties of twentieth century, the computer technology plays an important role in motion pictures that was till now a replication of recording procedure.

The computer animated films of today open many new possibilities for live action such as „Matrix“. We can look forward to the next development of the medium film. The film has an amazing past and perhaps an even more amazing future.

BIOGRAPHY



Karl Küffel was born on January 2, 1963 in Weissenborn, Hesse, Germany. In this early childhood Karl Küffel studied got in touch with two art teachers, Prof. Heinz Lembke-Rousseau and Jürgen Blum. Both, Lembke-Rousseau and Blum were private art teachers at the Rittershain Castle, near King's Forest (Königswald), Germany. This early education had an important and lasting influence on Küffel and his future work. From 1971-1979 the artist studied with Prof. Jürgen Blum at the Monastery Cornberg Station, where Küffel developed his beginnings in abstract painting. After this basic artistic training, he developed a distinctive style of painting and quickly established himself as an important young artist. In his new paintings he combines traditional artistic aesthetics with contemporary elements and high-quality technology.

In 1991, Karl Küffel organized his first major exhibition at Gallery Bauknecht, Munich. Since then, Küffel has exhibited in numerous other German cities including Gallery Differente in Hamburg, Gallery Perling in Krefeld, Morsum Huese Cultural Center on Sylt (Island) and Gallery Siejes Saeule in Berlin. In 2000, Küffel presented "Labyrinth of Passion" at the main church in Thuringia. In 2001, Küffel had a solo exhibition entitled

“Old Berlin - New Berlin“ at the Victory Column in Berlin. This exhibition was in collaboration with Dr. Dieter Vorsteher, Deputy Director of the German Historical Museum (Deutsches Historisches Museum), Berlin. In 2003 Küffel was represented at the art fair Kunstmesse, in Salzburg, Austria. Another solo exhibition “Film and Society 100 years“ took place in 2004 at the “Zeughaus“ at the German Historical Museum, Berlin. He also exhibited in 2005 at the Film Museum in Munich.

Currently Karl Küffel divides his time between Florida, United States and his studio in Northern Hesse, Germany.

Karl Küffel’s paintings are in private and public collections, including the permanent collection of the German Historical Museum in Berlin, in Weimar (Europe’s capital for the arts), Thuringia and in the New York Goethe Institute. He is currently represented by the Aldo Castillo Gallery, Florida, USA. Karl Küffel has received positive reviews by the famous historian and art critic, Prof. Dr. Hans Theodor Flemming and is published in many publications including the “Die Welt“ magazine.

