

## Press release

Rotterdam, 1 November 2016

### Eric Baudelaire, *The Music of Ramón Raquello and his Orchestra*.

The artist's largest monographic show to date, including never before shown feature-length film *AKA Jihadi*.

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#### *The Music of Ramón Raquello and his Orchestra*

27 January – 7 May 2017

Opening Thursday 26 January 2017, 5 pm

Press preview: Thursday 26 January 2017, 4 pm

With *The Music of Ramón Raquello and his Orchestra*, Witte de With presents the largest monographic presentation to date of the work of artist and filmmaker Eric Baudelaire (1973). Spanning over a decade of artistic production across installation, print, text, photography and film, the exhibition follows his sustained attempts to find a form that accommodates the often catastrophic complexity of contemporary life. A centerpiece of the exhibition is Baudelaire's latest and never before shown feature-length film *AKA Jihadi*.



Eric Baudelaire, still from *AKA Jihadi*, 2017. Courtesy the artist.

*AKA Jihadi* follows the progress of a young man's journey from France to Syria, and back to France where he is currently incarcerated for allegedly joining Daesh. Based on real events, and drawn from thousands of pages of judicial documents, the film employs the

so-called landscape theory (*fukeiron* in Japanese), which originated in the film *AKA Serial Killer* (1969) co-directed by Masao Adachi. Paths to radicalism are rendered purely through a series of landscape shots filmed at the locations traversed by the subject: a biography determined not by what the subject did, but by what the subject saw, questioning how these landscapes reflect the social and political structures that are the backdrop for a journey of alienation.

Many of the works in the exhibition, titled after the fictional orchestra whose performance is disrupted in Orson Welles' radio rendition of the *War of the Worlds*, pursue Baudelaire's interest in juxtaposing fictions that have documentary tendencies with documents that open fictional spaces. The exhibition draws on a reoccurring leitmotif in Baudelaire's work, that of the 'return'. Here, historical trajectories become looping re-visitations rendered both through the art works themselves and ghosted through their spatial realization. Research material fragments, chronologies, images and texts that have informed Baudelaire's work process (often originating with his training as a social scientist) will unfold in the exhibition space as a large scale "source book".

### About Eric Baudelaire

Eric Baudelaire (1973) is a visual artist and filmmaker. His films *Letters to Max* (2014), *The Ugly One* (2013) and *The Anabasis of May and Fusako Shigenobu*, Masao Adachi, and *27 Years Without Images* (2011) were shown at the FIDMarseille, Locarno, Toronto, New York and Rotterdam film festivals. His research-based practice also unfolds as installations incorporating photography, printmaking, performance, publications and screenings. Recent solo exhibitions were held at the Fridericianum in Kassel, Berkeley Art Museum, Kadist Art Foundation in San Francisco, Bétonsalon in Paris, the Bergen Kunsthall, the Beirut Art Center, Gasworks in London, La Synagogue de Delme in France and The Hammer Museum in Los Angeles. He has participated in Sharjah Biennial 12, Seoul Mediacity Biennial, the Yokohama Triennial, the Taipei Biennial, Berlin Documentary Forum 2, La Triennale in Paris and the Baltic Triennial. His films and installations are in the collections of the Reina Sofia Museum in Madrid, the MACBA in Barcelona, the Centre Pompidou in Paris, M+ in Hong Kong, the Museum of Modern Art and The Whitney Museum of American Art in New York.

**Curators:** Defne Ayas, Natasha Hoare

**Thanks to:** Stichting Verzameling van Wijngaarden – Boot

### About Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art



Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art is an international public institution with Rotterdam as its home base. Established in 1990, Witte de With explores developments in contemporary art worldwide. Witte de With has been commenting on the social and political predicament since its inception through the presentation of curated exhibitions, symposia, live events, educational programs, and a bold publishing arm.

### **Contact Witte de With**

For press requests or for further information, please contact Milou van Lieshout via [press@wdw.nl](mailto:press@wdw.nl) or call +31 10 411 01 44.