

Press Book – IFFB 2012

DEMOCRACY UNDER ATTACK
An Intervention

with
Franziska Augstein
Friedrich von Borries
Carolin Emcke
Julia Encke
Romuald Karmakar
Nils Minkmar
Ingo Schulze
Joseph Vogl
Harald Welzer
Roger Willemsen

A montage film
by Romuald Karmakar
based on footage from Niels Negendank, kulturzeit, ZDF/3sat
and Haus der Kulturen der Welt

Video, Germany 2012, 16:9, 102 min

World Premiere
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International Press
Wolfgang W. Werner Public Relations
Tal 46, 80331 Munich, Germany
phone +49 89 38 38 67 0
fax +49 89 38 38 67 11
info@werner-pr.de

in Berlin
Christiane Leithardt, cell +49 179 104 80 64
Wolfgang Werner, cell +49 170 333 93 53

www.facebook.com/Demokratie.Intervention
www.romuald-karmakar.de

Synopsis

On December 18th 2011 Berlin-based *Haus der Kulturen der Welt* hosted an event called *DEMOCRACY UNDER ATTACK – AN INTERVENTION*. This intervention consisted of ten statements by German intellectuals raising concerns about the state of democracy in the face of the European financial crisis.

Politically speaking the »Eurocrisis« is less a matter of debts than of democracy-threatening rescue plans: Politics refer to »market-based democracy«, while institutions lacking legitimacy – such as the ominous Troika – emerge. Austerity measures provide excuse for curtailing democratic rights. So-called rescue efforts occur with an alleged time pressure caused by »the markets«. Hence, decisions taken with such urgency are considered to be »without alternative«.

Democracy is about weighing alternatives and it is constantly at risk – especially when apparent necessities suggest that there is no time to pass lengthy and time-consuming parliamentary procedures.

This *INTERVENTION* has been called to express growing concern about undemocratic decision-making processes in the EU, whose extensive consequences can neither be predicted nor deliberated in parliament.

With statements by Franziska Augstein, Friedrich von Borries, Carolin Emcke, Julia Encke, Romuald Karmakar, Nils Minkmar, Ingo Schulze, Joseph Vogl, Harald Welzer and Roger Willemsen.



*A filmstill from Romuald Karmakar's statement »Elliott Waves«
© Pantera Film GmbH 2011
download filmstill: <http://dl.dropbox.com/u/5888368/AADEI-Master-Foto.tif.zip>*

From the Statements

The markets are presented to us as if they were the Holy Ghost: omnipresent, omniscient. Unfortunately the Holy Ghost is sometimes in a bad mood. And He doesn't have a telephone number either. That's why we are told: There is 'no alternative' to present policies.

*Franziska Augstein, Journalist (Süddeutsche Zeitung) and historian, published amongst others
»Von Treue und Verrat. Jorge Semprun and his Century«*

Let's keep in mind that politicians are consciously designed products.

Friedrich von Borries, Professor of Design theory at the University of Fine Arts of Hamburg

If we don't talk about an European history which is more than a history of national interests or international markets, then Europe will remain an idea without qualities.

Carolin Emcke, Publicist, amongst others »Stumme Gewalt – Reflections on the Red Army Faction«

The specifications of the anonymous markets are seen as irrevocable,
resulting automatically in a logic of action.

Julia Encke, Journalist (Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung)

Ralph N. Elliott discovered that the movements of the markets were determined solely
by the psychology of the market players.

Romuald Karmakar, Filmmaker

Remember this: things are never really what we're told they are.

Nils Minkmar, Head of Arts Section (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung)

I have the impression that the language spoken in the chancellery or parliament
no longer does justice to reality, with a few rays of hope to prove the rule.
It is a language of self-certainty that is not scrutinized or relativized against anything.

Ingo Schulze, Writer

Everybody knows that at the moment, we are in an atmosphere, in a
situation, a milieu, like a coup d'état.

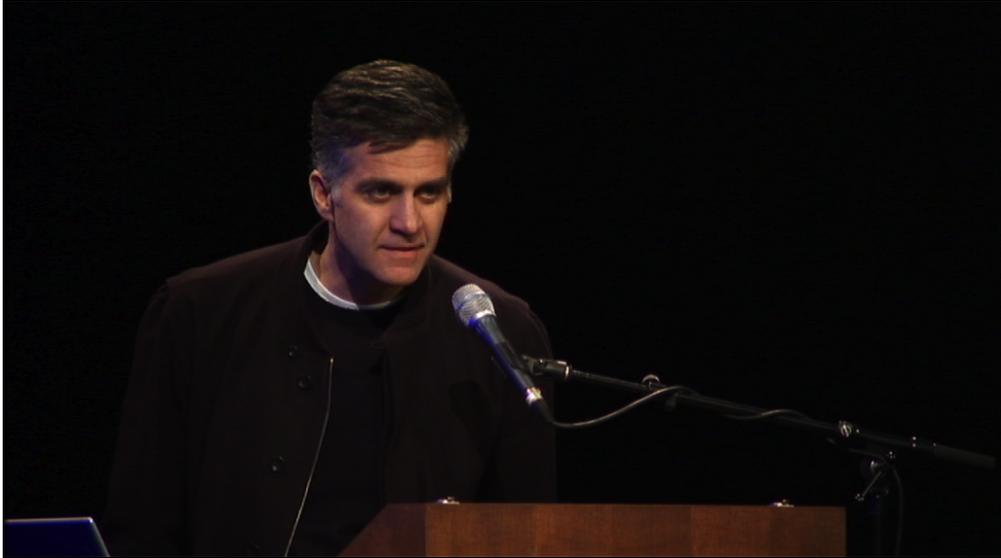
Joseph Vogl, Professor of Literature and Cultural Studies at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

And I believe that it's no longer acceptable, not for oneself nor for everyone else,
at least not if you think democracy is a good thing, to just swallow it all and maintain
the attitude: "it's nothing to do with me".

*Harald Welzer, Director of FUTURZWEI. Stiftung Zukunftsfähigkeit. Published amongst others
»Opa war kein Nazi«, »Täter«, »Klimakriege: What People Will Be Killed For in the 21st Century«,
»Soldaten: Protocols of Fighting, Killing, and Dying«*

But I don't get up in the morning and think about how democratic I am.

Roger Willemsen, Writer



Bio/Filmography of Romuald Karmakar
<http://www.romuald-karmakar.de/RK-CV.Feb2012.pdf>

ANGRIFF AUF DIE DEMOKRATIE – EINE INTERVENTION

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Credits

Director, Editor, Producer	Romuald Karmakar
Co-Producer	Harald Welzer
Junior Producer	Katja Lebedjewa
Camera Operator	Uli Köhler Manuel Forster
Original Sound	Rolf Bernhardt
Sound and Video Operator (HKW)	Andreas Durchgraf
Sound Editing / Rerecording Mix	Matthias Lempert
Colorist	Philipp Orgassa
Conform	Christian Tröger
Technical Coordinator	Alexander Falk
Postproduction Coordinator	Frieda Oberlin Lola Knoblach
Subtitles	Rebecca Stuart, Christina Gauglitz alias film + sprachtransfer John Middleton
Press Agent	Wolfgang W. Werner Public Relations
Legal Counsel	Thomas G. Müller
Visual Communication	Matthias Hafner, Frederik Birth

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In Co-Production with
ZDF/3sat
FUTURZWEI. Stiftung Zukunftsfähigkeit
Haus der Kulturen der Welt

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