

FONDAZIONE PRADA PRESENTS THE PROJECT "SOGGETTIVA LUC TUYMANS" AND THE NEW FILM PROGRAM

Milan, 10 December 2018 – Fondazione Prada presents "Soggettiva Luc Tuymans", a film project organized in collaboration with the CINEMATEK - Royal Belgian Film Archive in Brussels and conceived by artist Luc Tuymans, curator of the exhibition "Sanguine. Luc Tuymans on Baroque," on show until 25 February 2019 at the Fondazione's premises in Milan.

The presentation of the new series of "Soggettiva" will take place on Friday 14 December 2018 at the Fondazione Prada Cinema. At 6 pm, a conversation will take place between Tuymans and the film director Hans-Jürgen Syberberg, followed by the projection of the first part of Syberberg's *Hitler, ein Film aus Deutschland* (Hitler, a Film from Germany, 1977). Entrance is free upon booking. The director will also meet the public on Sunday 16 December at 6 pm, before the projection of the first part of his film (entrance to the event is free).

Tuymans' selection includes nine feature films and seven short films that will be shown in Fondazione Prada Cinema until 15 February 2019: *Greed* (USA, 1924) by Erich von Stroheim, *Peter Weiss. Shortfilms 1952-1957* (Sweden) by Peter Weiss, *Le Mépris* (Contempt – France, Italy, 1963) by Jean-Luc Godard, *Medea* (Italy, 1969) by Pier Paolo Pasolini, *Malpertuis* (Belgium, France, Germany, 1971) by Harry Kümel, *Aguirre, Der Zorn Gottes* (Aguirre, the Wrath of God – Germany, 1972) by Werner Herzog, *Hitler, ein Film aus Deutschland* (Hitler, A Film from Germany – Germany, 1977) by Hans-Jürgen Syberberg, *Blue Velvet* (USA, 1986) by David Lynch, *There Will Be Blood* (USA, 2007) by Paul Thomas Anderson and *The Social Network* (USA, 2010) by David Fincher.

The film program selected by Luc Tuymans (Belgium, 1958) – which will be also presented at the CINEMATEK - Royal Belgian Film Archive in Brussels in March 2019 – includes movies which marked the artist's intellectual and artistic development at the time they were released and which he considers crucial for young generations for their "physical intelligence", "psychological and pictorial features," and modernity. These films investigate universal themes like power, revenge and greed, conveying an original political vision, one that is cynical and not optimistic about the human condition.

One of the most significant films selected by Tuymans is the breakthrough movie by Hans-Jürgen Syberberg (Germany, 1935), the most experimental and radical filmmaker in Neuer Deutscher Film (New German Cinema), an avant-garde movement of renewal formed in 1962 by such filmmakers as Werner Herzog, Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Margarethe von Trotta, Alexander Kluge, Edgar Reitz and Wim Wenders. Lasting 429 minutes, the film is a collective grief of the tragedy of Nazism, a cinematographic ritual that puts Hitler and the dominant strand of German thought on trial. In 1980 Susan Sontag reviewed the film as follows:

“Leavening romantic grandiosity with modernist ironies, Syberberg offers a spectacle about spectacle: evoking “the big show” called history in a variety of dramatic modes—fairy tale, circus, morality play, allegorical pageant, magic ceremony, philosophical dialogue, *Totentanz* (the dance of death)—with an imaginary cast of tens of millions and, as protagonist, the Devil himself. [...] Hitler is depicted through examining our relation to Hitler (the theme is “our Hitler” and “Hitler-in-us”), as the rightly unassimilable horrors of the Nazi era are represented in Syberberg’s film as images or signs.”

Tuymans considers *Hitler, a Film from Germany* fundamental to the present era, “during a period in which Europe is shot through with populism. Syberberg had a premonition of the meaning of Europe that today we have lost. I feel that his film is a very effective way to tackle themes like war, the Holocaust and culture. *Hitler* has the scope of an epic, in the sense of Greek theatre, and takes up a position in opposition to the Hollywood machine. All my work on the Second World War is bound up with Syberberg’s reflection.”

The director has commented on the projection of his film at the Fondazione Prada as follows: “Forty-one years after its screening in London and Paris, *Hitler, a Film from Germany* arrives in Milan as part of an exhibition project curated by a Belgian artist. As already perceived in New York in 1980, it shows us how Europe is today. An unprecedented answer to the history of this world in decline.”

The film program at the Fondazione Prada also comprises the section *Indagine* which brings together first releases and films that have not been distributed or are rarely seen in Italy. From Saturday 15 December, the film *High Life* (USA, Germany, Great Britain, Poland, France, 2018) from the *Indagine* section will be projected. Directed by Claire Denis, and starring Robert Pattinson, Juliette Binoche and André Benjamin, this recent film by the French director was presented at the Toronto International Film Festival and the San Sebastián International Film Festival. *High Life* is a unique science-fiction drama that deals with emotions and human relations; it tells the story of several prisoners who are persuaded to take part in a mission of space exploration, during which they will be subjected to experimental tests, with the false promise that they will receive their freedom once the mission is over. Saturday 29 December will be presented the new film by Jean-Luc Godard, *Le livre d'image* (Switzerland, France, 2018). Shown at the Cannes Film Festival 2018, the movie was awarded with the “Special Palme d’Or” prize, introduced for the first time in the history of the film festival.

All the films will be shown in 35mm or DCP in their original versions, thanks to the support of Anime Limited (Glasgow), CINEMATEK - Royal Belgian Film Archive (Brussels), Cineteca (Bologna), Columbia Pictures, Filmform (Stockholm), Filmgalerie 451 (Berlin), Memento Production (Nivelles), Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Paramount, Park Circus, Ripleys’ Film (Rome), Sony, Studio 4°C (Tokyo), Swedish Film Institute, Warner’s, and Wild Bunch (Paris).

The full program for December 2018 can be found on the Fondazione Prada website:
www.fondazioneprada.org

Information for the public

Entrance to "Soggettiva Luc Tuymans" at 6 pm on Friday 14 December 2018 (conversation between Luc Tuymans and Hans-Jürgen Syberberg and the projection of the first part of the film *Hitler, ein Film aus Deutschland*) is free admission upon booking. The number of seats available is limited. To request two seats, send an email with your name and surname and those of your companion to: soggettivaluctuymans@fondazioneprada.org. The registration will be accepted upon seats availability.

The showings of *Hitler, ein Film aus Deutschland* on Sunday 16, 23 and 30 December are free admission, while the other projections are on payment. For more information, call +39 02 56662674 or write to info.cinema@fondazioneprada.org.

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