

Institute of Contemporary Arts

PRESS RELEASE

Heimat is a Space in Time
A film by Thomas Heise

UK & Ireland Release: 22 November 2019



ICA CINEMA is pleased to announce its newest release, *Heimat is a Space in Time*, directed by German filmmaker Thomas Heise.

Shot in black and white, *Heimat is a Space in Time* traces the story of Heise's family over several generations, drawing on letters, diaries and other personal documents. Composed of a series of fragmented narratives, the 218-minute film is a monumental historical essay and moving account of a family torn apart by the upheavals of the 20th century.

The film premiered at the 2019 Berlinale, winning the Caligari Film Prize in the Berlinale Forum section. It was also awarded the best feature prize in the international competition at Vision du Réel.

The film's London premiere will be held at the ICA on 15 November, following its UK premiere screening at Leeds International Film Festival on 12 November.

Heise is known for his work in documentary, theatre and audio drama. The director's previous films include *Jetzt geht's los* (*Jammed – Let's Get Moving*, 1992), *Vaterland* (*Fatherland*, 2002) and *Material* (2008), which all deal with the social and political history of the GDR, as well as his own personal and family history. Heise's first film *Wozu den über diese Leute einen Film?* (*Why Make a Film About These People?*, 1980) depicted young people who refused to conform to the dominant ideology of the time, and was banned from public screening until the collapse of the GDR.

Heimat is in Space in Time is the latest release from the ICA's in-house distribution agency, ICA CINEMA, which brings groundbreaking films from underrepresented and emerging filmmakers to UK audiences. Since its relaunch in 2016, ICA CINEMA has distributed over 20 releases, supporting innovative, boundary-pushing work from international filmmakers.

Details

Heimat is a Space in Time, dir. Thomas Heise

Germany / Austria, 2019, 218 min.

German and Korean with English subtitles

[Trailer](#)

PRESS SCREENING

6 November 2019, 10:30am

ICA Cinema

OPENING SCREENING

15 November 2019, 7:15pm

ICA Cinema

KEY FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

Berlinale – Berlin International Film Festival, 2019

(Caligari Film Prize)

Visions du Réel, 2019 (Sesterce d'Or for the best film in the International Feature Film Competition)

Jeonju International Film Festival, 2019

Karlovy Vary International Film Festival, 2019

FIDMarseille, 2019

Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), 2019

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Heimat is a Space in Time picks up the biographical pieces of a family torn apart through the end of the 19th and into the 20th century. It is about people who, by chance, found each other, only then to lose each other. Now it is their descendants, their children and grandchildren who are beginning to disappear. This is all about speaking and silence. First love and happiness lost.

Fathers and mothers, sons and brothers, the affairs, the hurt and the joy in landscapes of transition – each bearing the intertwining hallmarks of their times. A collage of images, sounds, letters, diaries, notes, voices, fragments of time and space.

Heimat is a Space in Time is a journey of reflection of time and the love held within using sounds, images and language. Yet some of it shall remain forever lost. The material used in this film is what remains of my family. The remnants of those I knew, whose circumstances I had been part of or had otherwise experienced. Remnants that mirror history. A history that is just as much my own.



DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1955 in East Berlin, Thomas Heise trained as a printer before he started to work as an assistant director at the DEFA Studio for Feature Films in Potsdam-Babelsberg in 1975. He studied at the Academy of Film & Television in Potsdam, Babelsberg from 1978–83. Until the end of the German Democratic Republic, all of Heise's documentary work was either blocked, destroyed or confiscated. Heise acquired his MA at Berlin's Akademie der Künste in 1990. He was a member of the Berlin Ensemble until 1997, where he acted as contributing director for a number of productions. He was a Professor of Film and Media Art at Karlsruhe University of Arts and Design from 2007–13. Since 2013, he has taught at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. Since 2018, he has served as the director of Film and Media Arts at the Academy of Arts, Berlin.



Notes to Editors

ICA CINEMA

The ICA opened its first dedicated cinema when it relocated to The Mall in 1968. Since then, the ICA's film programme has presented the most challenging and underrepresented aspects of international narrative cinema, documentary practices and experimental moving image works that test the boundaries of film and video media, and often of the cinema auditorium itself.

The ICA's in-house distribution agency, ICA CINEMA, was relaunched in 2016, bringing groundbreaking films from underrepresented and emerging filmmakers to UK audiences. Since 2016 it has distributed over 20 releases, supporting innovative, boundary-pushing work from international filmmakers. Recent releases include RaMell Ross' Oscar-nominated *Hale County, This Morning, This Evening*, Wang Bing's *Dead Souls* and Mariano Llinás' 14-hour-long *La Flor*. Upcoming releases include Zhu Shengze's *Present.Perfect* (January 2020).

For press information and interview requests, please contact:
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For booking information, please contact:
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UPCOMING RELEASES

Present.Perfect

Dir. Zhu Shengze, USA / Hong Kong 2019, 124 min.,
Mandarin with English subtitles.

Due for release January 2020

A collage of intimate footage shared by twelve Chinese online streamers.

INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ARTS

Founded in 1946 by a collective of artists, poets and their supporters, the Institute of Contemporary Arts is an independent organisation and registered charity which supports the most pressing debates in contemporary culture. The ICA stages groundbreaking exhibitions, performances and keynote lectures by many of the world's leading thinkers. Previously home to the Independent Group, the ICA played a pivotal role in the development of Pop art and charted the course of punk, performance art and independent cinema. The ICA staged the first institutional exhibitions by Francis Bacon, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Tacita Dean, Damien Hirst, Mike Kelley, Mary Kelly, Barbara Kruger, Gerhard Richter, Dieter Roth, Cindy Sherman, Nancy Spero, and Cosey Fanni Tutti and early exhibitions by Bernadette Corporation, Robert Mapplethorpe, Steve McQueen and Tino Sehgal; many historic performances including those by Laurie Anderson, Einstürzende Neubauten and Yoko Ono; legendary concerts by The Clash, Throbbing Gristle, The Smiths, David Bowie and The Beastie Boys; and critical discussions by the likes of Kathy Acker, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Stuart Hall and Homi K. Bhabha. The ICA Cinema and its dedicated artist's film programme continue to showcase independent film and support pioneering filmmakers including Chantal Akerman, Kenneth Anger, Matthew Barney, Derek Jarman, Ken Loach and Laura Poitras. From its home on The Mall – the geographic heart of the UK establishment – the ICA is an organisation in which different modes of cultural production thrive on the mutual engagement with one another, and a programme that speaks to the challenges of the 21st century. www.ica.art

VISITOR INFORMATION

Institute of Contemporary Arts, The Mall, London, SW1Y 5AH
Opening times: Tuesday – Sunday, 12–9pm

Admission:

Cinema + exhibition ticket: peak £13 / off-peak £8

(Concessions for under-18s and over-65s, disabled people, job seekers allowance claimants, Westminster residents and education groups)

Free for Red Members, discounts for Green and Blue Members

For information about tickets and membership, please contact:
sales@ica.art / +44 (0) 20 7930 3647 / www.ica.art



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