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Launch of Crowdfunding Campaign on February 21, 2017

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Link to campaign:

www.startnext.com/mfiles

project photos available



Berlin-based artist to print out entire Fritz Lang movie. MFILES Crowdfunding campaign starts on February 21.

In a digital age, without electricity no trace is left behind. MFILES is an attempt to preserve the medium of film. All 157,200 film frames of Fritz Lang's film "M" are printed on paper, bound to 499 books according to the movie's takes, and collected in a handmade bookshelf.

On February 21, 2017, a crowdfunding campaign for the realization of MFILES will be launched on the German platform Startnext (www.startnext.com/mfiles). If the funding goal of 10,000 € is reached on March 21, 2017, production will take place in Berlin between April and June 2017.

The film is transferred image by image into printed pictures, while each single take (the smallest cinematic entity) defines a separate book. Books vary in length according to the length of the individual takes, but otherwise share identical width and height as well as outer appearance (white soft cover, sequentially numbered labeling). Rhythm and structure of the film – its DNA – become visible.

The 499 books will be handmade by the artist. This process of bookbinding, indispensable for the unique analogue character of the work, stretches over a period of two months, imposing a movie reception of extreme slow motion upon the artist. A two-month-long visit to the movies.

Changing the state of aggregation from liquid (film) to solid (book) is a method that can be applied to virtually any film. Fritz Lang's "M" was chosen for various reasons. The film is one of the artist's favorite movies and takes place in his home town. The psychological terror forced upon the city by the murderer gives the film an uncanny contemporary feel. The film marks the heyday of Weimar culture. Fritz Lang claimed that "M" was his favorite of all of his films.

The use of books makes the work an archive of a most enduring kind, a means of conservation beyond the age of electricity. MFILES is a sculptural statement of baroque dimension, transcoding time (103 minutes) into space (17 meters of paper), a sort of physical repercussion of the imperative of immaterialization. The massive amount of matter generated from the discarnate and fleeting phenomenon of film serves as counterpoint to the contemporary reception of movies, the 99-cent download.

About the artist: Stefan Zeyen is a visual artist based in Berlin, Germany. His conceptual multimedia art works focus on the language and grammar of film. His works have been shown at numerous exhibitions and festivals such as the Louvre in Paris and the Berlinale film festival.

Installation details:

Title: MFILES

Artist: Stefan Zeyen

Launch of Crowdfunding Campaign: February 21, 2017

Realization: March-May 2017

Specs: 157,200 b/w prints bound into 499 books, format A6, paperback. Assembled in a black wooden bookshelf, 240 cm x 200 cm overall dimension.

Project link: www.startnext.com/mfiles

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