

HELIOS (flying studio)

Vrtr-Prof. John Skoog (Kunsthochschule Mainz)

Every semester the Filmklasse of Kunsthochschule Mainz work on a collaborative and public project.

This coming half-year the class will examine the boundaries and possibilities of cinematic projection. Taking its name from the moving-image pioneer Eadweard Muybridge's mobile photo unit 'Helios (Flying Studio)' it will look at some of the more radical strategies from the early days of cinema and see how they can be reinterpreted in a new way in our age of digital images.

By arranging a series of screenings around the city of Mainz it will activate both the space and the film that is being screened. For each event the Filmklasse will create a temporary cinema in shops, dead-ends and other public or semi-public places such as Mehrzweckhalle Feldbergschule, American Furniture Shop in Kastel, Connection Internetcafe & Mediamarkt. The moving images and sounds will be chosen collaboratively by the class according to the specific needs and possibilities of each site.

The series is an attempt to create a discussion about a free cinema that emerges out of a desire to make some of our private viewing habits public. At a time when public space is rapidly becoming private property and the collective attention is dissolving into the monetized distraction of streaming content in solitude, the digital age actually offers a new mobility of shared projection. Helios would seek to dissolve boundaries between different audiences through uncommon arrangements of films places and people.