

More meditation than dance

She is actually a dancer and choreographer, but her next passion is already shown on her website. Karen Böber loves the film - all the more, the more he deals with the dance. Now the woman from Düsseldorf has presented her second feature film. *S3NSE* could be understood as a meditative hike. You look in vain for a plot, but the images hold you captivated.



Photo © Susanne Diesner

S3NSE is an artistic reaction to life in the societal cloud chambers that are spreading everywhere. Democratic decisions, principles of international law and geopolitical borders are interpreted individually and thus lose their validity. The consequences can hardly be assessed, says dancer, choreographer and filmmaker Karen Böber, describing the current situation and thus the starting point for her new work. "Thanks to social media, social minorities push through topics and moods, grotesquely inflated, the discussion of which distracts the majority of society and leads to secondary theaters of war. It is completely unclear which forces will dominate in the end, she continues, and thus comes to the motivation that drove her to present *S3NSE* after her first film *D|S°Dance*, which has meanwhile won several international awards.

The Bambi film studio, built in 1965 and lovingly restored, is one of Düsseldorf's film art cinemas. Its specialty is „first performances, premieres and film art pearls“, and it is therefore wonderfully suited to presenting Böber's film to the public. The cinema hall is an experience in itself. The armchairs in front of the screen in a size that no one else dared to hang up today. There is a bar in the foyer where you can take drinks into the hall. And it goes without saying that it doesn't take long before the first clatter of coffee cups can be heard in the dark. By then,

however, the performance had already begun in front of a large audience.

A rainy night in the big city. Flashing lights in puddles. The condition of the streets makes it easy to guess that this is Düsseldorf. Yes, already in the first few seconds it becomes clear that the film will win if it is shown outside of the Rhineland. Because the Düsseldorf viewer involuntarily tries to „guess“ again and again where this or that sequence was captured by Susanne Diesner with the main camera in partly epic pictures, where Roman Reinert lets the drone fall over the edges of high-rise buildings or where the dancers are at the moment, if For example, Misael López climbs around the port of Reisholz.

López, born and studied in Chile, has lived in Cologne and Düsseldorf since 1987 as a choreographer, dance teacher and drama teacher. He takes on the role of the wanderer. He's the one driving the film that meanders between natural landscapes and urban impressions. When he's not pausing to work his armwork on the solution Bosser offers, trying to find a new balance. And that already reveals the „shortcoming“ of the film, at least for people who particularly appreciate Karen Böber's work as a dancer. Because there is little to see of her. The consolation: when she performs, she is particularly enthusiastic about the way she handles her blouse. She first showed the idea in Pieces of Manifesto with a bag in 2018, but is now excitingly developing it further. The fact that the two filmed each other for large parts of the film is lost in Dirk Dietrich Hennig's video editing without loss.

While the pounding bass makes the hall vibrate in many of Böber's works, Thomas Klein aka Sølyst has kept his music pleasantly restrained in order to underline the meditative character of the film. That succeeded. The film ends with a calm view of flowing water in the sunset. The circle closes, perhaps the balance has been found.

The English word *sense* means both intellectual and sensual perception. And that's a great title for the film, as it strikes a balance between poetry and images taken from today. It will be exciting to see how the international festival community will take to the work. It should not be missed under any circumstances if the opportunity arises.

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