



Alexander Kluge, film still from *Glimpse into the Stellar Abyss*, 2017, © Kairos Film

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**Belvedere 21**  
Arsenalstraße 1  
1030 Vienna

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Wed to Sun: 11 am to 6 pm  
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## ALEXANDER KLUGE. PLURIVERSE

### The Poetic Power of Theory

6 June to 30 September 2018

In line with this year's motto 'Spirit of '68', the Belvedere 21 has dedicated a retrospective exhibition to the many years of work by German author, filmmaker, and former Adorno confidant Alexander Kluge (b. 1932). The show visualizes the core of his multimedia oeuvre and was developed in close dialogue with the artist himself.

Artistic director Stella Rollig remarks that, '*Clarity on the state of affairs, self-determination, and emancipation are motifs central to Kluge's body of work, in the sense that the potential for hope that arose in 1968 is constantly being developed anew. His multimedia works seek to mobilize the individual's thinking and feeling and position the individual against fatalism towards one's own life story and history in general.*'

An engaged poet, polyphonic chronologist, and seismographer of the present, Alexander Kluge has known the spotlight for quite some time. The trained lawyer can be described as one of the last polymath scholars and is undoubtedly one of the most prolific poets in the German-speaking world. Kluge sees himself as an author and filmmaker whose work tends to revolve around Modernism's greatest themes and queries. As a keen observer of our social reality, he detects questions and topics and negotiates this complex present of ours by way of his texts, films, and interviews. Kluge has received numerous international awards for his comprehensive, cross-genre work. In 2017, he was awarded the Jean Paul Prize for a lifetime of accomplishments in literature.

The exhibition *Pluriverse. The Poetic Power of Theory* dives into Alexander Kluge's topics, methods, and aesthetics. From images, films, texts, and objects, the author ever forms new constellations whose meaning is largely determined by the principle of montage. Historical events, cosmic realities, scientific findings, individual experiences, images, works of art, and his own literary texts form the source material. By piecing them together and Kluge-specific 'cross-mapping', i.e. the overlay of heterogeneous material and the combination of different arts, new contexts are created and narrated. The show in the lower level of the Belvedere 21 transfers this connection-generating process into three-dimensional space. Aside from Alexander Kluge's 'minute films', additional film works created especially for the exhibition will be presented. Moreover, for the first time, this show grants insight into Kluge's creative processes, his extensive archive, and his 'Pluriverse of Images'. The 'terminological star chart' elucidates key concepts and central themes in Kluge's text-and-image cosmos.

Curator Axel Köhne explains about the process: *'In an intimate collaboration with Alexander Kluge, we have adapted and further developed his first large museum exhibition, Pluriverse, which was on view at the Folkwang Museum until the beginning of 2018. Kluge's works seek the public sphere and connection to audience, which they accomplish by engaging participants both intellectually and emotionally. Alternating between the approximately 55 films shown, as well as the texts and objects, each visitor determines their own viewing time, a direction of movement, and thus generates new contexts and connections.'*

*'My moon does not shine if not illuminated by other constellations'*, asserts Alexander Kluge. The idea of exchange and cooperation is fundamental to Kluge's work. The subtext of the exhibition is cooperation and co-contemplation between artists, scientists, employees, and friends. The exhibition features works by Kerstin Brätsch, Thomas Demand, Anselm Kiefer, and Thomas Thiede in relation to Kluge's cinematic practice. Alexander Kluge transforms the exhibition space into a multimedia thinktank, which will be expanded to include an audio installation in the lower-level courtyard, a film program in the Blickle Kino, and the virtual space of visitors' smart phones.

Curator: Axel Köhne

*In cooperation with the Folkwang Museum in Essen, Germany*

## INTERACTIVE ART MEDIATION

With the smartphone app by the Viennese start-up 'Artivive', the exhibition will feature selected works from Alexander Kluge. *Pluriverse. The Poetic Power of Theory* digitally set into motion. The app offers new approaches to contemporary art and expands upon exhibited works in a variety of ways within the digital realm. Objects are augmented by film and sound material, and photographs are brought to life. Each clip approaches the works individually and does so within seconds. It's easy to use: you just download the app (the Belvedere 21 offers free Wi-Fi and download links for Android and iOS platforms), open it, and hold up your phone like you're taking a photo in front of each image marked with the Artivive symbol. The sound will work with headphones.

More information at [artivive.com](http://artivive.com)

## CATALOGUE



### Alexander Kluge. *Pluriverse*

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## BIOGRAPHY ALEXANDER KLUGE

- 1932 Alexander Kluge is born in Halberstadt on February 14, the first child of the physician Ernst Kluge and his wife, Alice.
- 1956 After attending school in Halberstadt and Berlin, he begins studying law, history, and sacred music in Freiburg, Marburg, and Frankfurt am Main. He is awarded a PhD for a dissertation on the history and current legal form of university self-administration.
- 1958 Kluge is admitted to the bar in Berlin and Munich. He also completes a traineeship with Fritz Lang, who is in Berlin shooting his film *The Tiger of Eschnapur* at the CCC Film Studios.
- 1960 Kluge wins one of the six first prizes awarded at the International Short Film Festival Oberhausen for his first short film *Brutalität in Stein* (Brutality in Stone), made in collaboration with Peter Schamoni (1934–2011).
- 1962 Kluge becomes known as both author and filmmaker. Group 47, a literary discussion forum that stands for a radical new beginning in German literature in the post-war years, invites him to read from his prose volume *Lebensläufe* (Case Histories) of that same year.
- Kluge and twenty-five other young filmmakers sign the Oberhausener Manifest (Oberhausen Manifesto), in which they call for an end to the restorative cinema of the fifties and propagate the New German Cinema.
- Kluge also joins Edgar Reitz and Detten Schleiermacher to direct the newly installed Institut für Filmgestaltung (Institute for Film Design) at the Hochschule für Gestaltung Ulm (HfG, or Ulm School of Design).
- 1963 Kluge founds KAIROS FILM, a production company based in Munich that produces Kluge's films to this day.
- 1966 Kluge becomes the first German since the war to win the Silver Lion at the Venice Film Festival for his first feature film, *Abschied von Gestern* (Yesterday Girl), starring his sister, Alexandra Kluge. The success of his associative, analytical style promotes greater appreciation of the New German Cinema throughout Europe.
- 1968 The film *Artisten in der Zirkuskuppel: ratlos* (The Artist in the Circus Dome: Clueless) is awarded the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival.
- 1972 Kluge publishes the book *Öffentlichkeit und Erfahrung* (Public Sphere and Experience) in collaboration with the sociologist Oskar Negt (b. 1934). This long-lasting association leads to the publication of further books, such as *Geschichte und Eigensinn* (History and Obstinacy, 1981), *Maßverhältnisse des Politischen* (Power Relations in the Political Sphere, 1992), and *Der unterschätzte Mensch* (The Underestimated Subject, 2001).
- 1973– Kluge is appointed honorary professor at the Johann Wolfgang von Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main.

- 1975 Kluge wins the *Filmband in Gold* (Filmstrip in Gold) for the musical dramaturgy of his film *In Gefahr und größter Not bringt der Mittelweg den Tod* (In Danger and Deep Distress, the Middleway Spells Certain Death). The film will be presented at documenta 6 in 1977.
- 1978– Kluge initiates, and participates in, collective cinematic projects such as *Deutschland im Herbst* (Germany in Autumn, 1978), *Der Kandidat* (The Candidate, 1980), and *Krieg und Frieden* (War and Peace, 1982/83).
- 1979 Kluge is awarded the Fontane Prize as well as the Bremer Literaturpreis (Bremen Literature Prize) for his authorial oeuvre.
- 1982 Kluge marries Dagmar Steurer, with whom he has two children: Sophie and Leon
- 1987 He is awarded the Golden Lion in Venice for his cinematic oeuvre.
- The decline of art house cinemas in expensive downtown districts, conservative government policies directed against independent film, and above all the advent of private television put an end to the twenty-year golden age of auteur cinema in the Federal Republic of Germany. Kluge subsequently founds dctp (Development Company for Television Programs), in which, among others, the publishing company Spiegel Verlag also has a stake. dctp's independent program, including shows such as *Prime Time*, *10 vor 11*, and *News & Stories*, is broadcast in 'third-party airtime windows' on RTL and Sat.1, and later on VOX.
- 1993 The City of Cologne awards Kluge its Heinrich Böll Prize for Literature.
- 1994 Kluge's production company temporarily assumes general management of the commercial television station VOX, which at the time is in crisis.
- 2000 Kluge returns to literature with his two-volume *Chronik der Gefühle* (Chronicle of Feelings).
- 2003 The Deutsche Akademie für Sprache und Dichtung (German Academy of Language and Literature) in Darmstadt awards Kluge its Georg Büchner Prize.
- 2004 A symposium on and with Alexander Kluge takes place in Princeton, New Jersey. This also marks the launch of the Alexander Kluge Research Collection at Princeton University's Department of German.
- 2006 Kluge's work is honoured in a series of events at the Salzburg Festival titled *Magazin des Glücks* (Storehouse of Happiness). The Serpentine Gallery in London presents Kluge's two-hour film *Serpentine Gallery Program*, compiled from previous TV shows specifically for the temporary pavilion designed by architects Rem Koolhaas and Cecil Balmond.
- 2007 To mark Kluge's seventy-fifth birthday, the Goethe Institute, Filmmuseum München, and German Federal Cultural Foundation bring out all fifty-seven of his previously released films in a special DVD boxed set. On April 27, German President Horst Köhler honours him with the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Kluge continues to work with his interest in literature, music, cinema, and science, which he combines in the form of narratives in a publication called *Geschichten vom Kino* (Cinema Stories).

Kluge presents the installation *Mehrfachbilder für 5 Projektoren* (Multiple Images for 5 Projectors) at the Haus der Kunst in Munich.

- 2008 Another collection of DVDs, *Nachrichten aus der ideologischen Antike* (News from Ideological Antiquity) on Sergei Eisenstein's planned screen adaptation of Karl Marx's *Capital*, is released. The German Film Academy presents Kluge with an honorary award for his 'outstanding services to German cinema'.
- 2009 The DVD collection *Früchte des Vertrauens* (Fruits of Trust) on the financial crisis of 2008 is released just one year after the events described. dctp.tv goes online, and Kluge henceforth publishes his TV reports on the Internet.
- The City of Frankfurt am Main awards Kluge the Theodor W. Adorno Prize.
- 2010 Alexander Kluge receives a Grimme Prize for his services to the development of television. Publication of *Dezember* with photographs by Gerhard Richter and texts by Alexander Kluge. Kluge works on several projects with artists; for example, with Georg Baselitz on an anthology of drawings and stories that turn on the Japanese painter Katsushika Hokusai (2017).
- 2012 Kluge delivers the distinguished poetics lecture at the Johann Wolfgang von Goethe University Frankfurt. The reviews are enthusiastic, and a year later the lecture is released on DVD. He contributes to the documenta 13 project, *100 Notizen—100 Gedanken* (100 Notes—100 Thoughts), a series of notebooks in a wide variety of formats, with a work called *Er hat die herzlosen Augen eines über alles Geliebten* (He Has the Heartless Eyes of One Loved Above All Else).
- 2013 dctp produces the eight-hour documentary *Die Geschichte des Menschen: 70.000 Jahre Überleben, Erobern, Kämpfen* (History of the World) in collaboration with the BBC.
- The Cinémathèque Française honours Kluge with a retrospective of his films.
- The play *Alexander Kluge—Hoffnung und Widerstand* (Hope and Resistance) is produced in collaboration with the Gleimhaus Literaturmuseum in Halberstadt and the Nordharzer Städtebundtheater. The project includes a small exhibition on Kluge's literary oeuvre, supplemented by a screening room.
- 2014 The City of Düsseldorf awards Kluge its Heinrich Heine Prize.
- 2015 Kluge participates in the 56th Venice Biennale with a three-screen installation showing an abridged version of *Nachrichten aus der ideologischen Antike*.
- 2016 La Virreina Centre de la Imatge in Barcelona presents its first Alexander Kluge exhibition, *Gardens of Cooperation*, comprising an outline of his creative corpus, a supporting program, and a cinema retrospective.
- 2017 The Fondazione Prada in Venice mounts the exhibition *The Boat is Leaking: The Captain Lied*, in which Kluge's films are presented in spatial installations by Anna Viebrock along with photographs by Thomas Demand.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Exhibition Title	<i>Alexander Kluge. Pluriverse The Poetic Power of Theory</i>
Curator	Axel Köhne
Duration	6 June to 30 September 2018
Exhibited Works	The entire installation contains 55 films
Location	Belvedere 21 Arsenalstraße 1, 1030 Vienna
Opening Hours	Wednesday to Sunday: 11 am to 6 pm Extended Evenings: Wednesday and Friday 11 am to 9 pm (also valid on public holidays)
Tickets	Regular   €8 Annual ticket Belvedere 21   €21 Reduced   €6 Children and teenagers under 18   free
Web	<a href="http://belvedere21.at/en">belvedere21.at/en</a>  #pluriversum21

The press release as well as high-resolution press photos are available for download under the following link: [belvedere21.at/press21](http://belvedere21.at/press21)