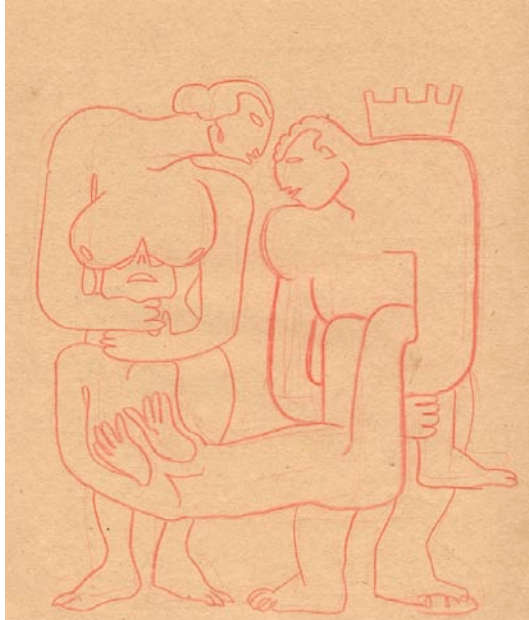


PRESS RELEASE

Sergei Eisenstein

The Mexican Drawings



03/04 – 21/06/2009

Press preview 2 April at 11.00, Extra City

Opening 2 April at 19.00, Extra City

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Curator Oksana Bulgakowa will be available for interviews from 1 April till 4 April and on 15 May 2009.

Sergei M. Eisenstein, drawing No. 4 of series *Duncan's Death*, 1931 (RGALI)

Extra City is proud to present the exhibition *Sergei Eisenstein. The Mexican Drawings*.

Sergei Eisenstein (1898–1948), the director of films like *Battleship Potemkin* (1927) and *Ivan the Terrible* (1941), is widely acknowledged as being one of most influential artists of the modern period. Eisenstein's radical concept of montage has become seminal within the theory and practice of the Avant-garde of the 20th century. Other aspects of his work, especially his unfinished scripts, theoretical projects, and drawings, have remained less known.

Sergei Eisenstein: The Mexican Drawings, organized in collaboration with MuHKA Antwerp, brings together an extensive selection of works culled from the Russian State Archives of Literature and Art in Moscow (RGALI), drawings that Eisenstein made during his visit to Mexico in 1931/32, including some that have never before presented in public. In Mexico, Eisenstein developed his drawings in a parallel manner to the Surrealists' *écriture automatique*, producing a large number of variations on recurring motifs based on Mexico's hybrid imagery. In a single dynamic line, Eisenstein explores the transformation of forms, obscenity, death and violence.

The drawings are an integral part of his larger intellectual project, a study of the historical relationship between rationality, sensual thought and image. Eisenstein had intended to publish the results of his research in a book entitled *Method*, on which he worked until the end of his life, but which remained uncompleted. In an attempt to approximate Eisenstein's non-linear conception of *Method*, extracts from that material and partial translations will be presented in a web platform established on the occasion of the exhibition.

The exhibition will further include short excerpts from the unfinished *¡Que viva México!*, the film Eisenstein was in the process of producing in Mexico, and which he would tragically be excluded from editing..

The exhibition *Sergei Eisenstein: The Mexican Drawings* is conceived as an introduction to the collaborative project *Animism*, planned to take place in 2010 at MuHKA and Extra City, which addresses the dialectics of subjectification and objectification, conservation and animation, in modern and contemporary art.

Curatoren: Oksana Bulgakowa en Anselm Franke

Tentoonstellingsarchitectuur: Guy Châtel (ssa/xx-architecten)

Met de steun van de Russische Staatsarchieven voor Literatuur en Kunst (RGALI) en de Ford Foundation, Moskou.

Mediasponsor



Extra City Center for Contemporary Art

Tulpstraat 79 – BE 2060 Antwerpen – T/F 0032 3 677 16 55 – info@extracity.org - www.extracity.org

MuHKA_media

Walsekaai 47 – BE 2000 Antwerpen – T 0032 3 260 99 99 – info@muhka.be - www.muhka.be

Eisenstein related events

3 April at 19.00 | 20.30

Lecture Oksana Bulgakowa on *¡Qué Viva México!*

¡Qué Viva México!, Sergei Eisenstein, Grigori Aleksandrov (US, 1932/1979)

Location: MuHKA_media

5 April | 10 May | 7 June | 14.00

Wandelgesprekken met gids

Location: Extra City

Eisenstein in Mexico (film programme)

Location: MuHKA_media

To coincide with the exhibition *Sergei Eisenstein. The Mexican Drawings* at Extra City, MuHKA_media presents a film season which takes Eisenstein's unfinished Mexican epic as a starting-point.

The season is divided into three parts:

1. Eisenstein in Mexico

Films using material shot by Eisenstein in 1931/2 for his Mexican project.

5 May at 20.00

Un banquet en Tetlapayac, Olivier Debroise (Mexico, 2000)

11 May at 20.00

Time in the Sun, Sergei Eisenstein, Marie Seton (Mexico, 1939)

+ Eisenstein's visit to the Netherlands (1929)

12 May at 20.00

Thunder over Mexico, Sergei Eisenstein, Sol Lesser (Mexico/US, 1932/34)

Death Day, Sergei Eisenstein, Sol Lesser (Mexico, 1934)

2. Disney's influence on Eisenstein

Eisenstein was a great admirer of Disney: he was impressed by the early Mickey Mouse and Silly Symphony cartoons and Disney's first animated feature *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*.

15 May at 19.00

Lecture Oksana Bulgakowa on Eisenstein/Disney

16 May at 16.00 | 20.00

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, Walt Disney (US 1937)

Aleksandr Nevski, Sergei Eisenstein (USSR, 1938)

3. Eisenstein's influence on Mexican cinema

The visual style of *Que Viva México* (although unfinished) inspired Mexican filmmakers in the 1930s and 40s. Film historians even make mention of an "Eisensteinian" current within Mexican cinema, of which the films made by director Emilio Fernández and his legendary cinematographer Gabriel Figueroa are the most representative.

17 May at 20.00

Flor Silvestre, Emilio Fernández (Mexico, 1943)

20 May at 20.00

Maria Candelaria, Emilio Fernández (Mexico, 1944)

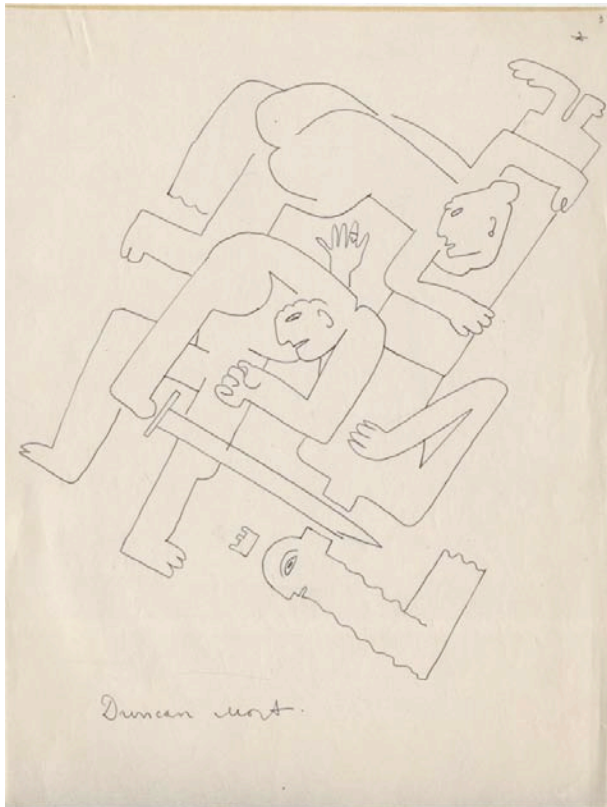
23 May at 20.00

La Perla, Emilio Fernández (Mexico, 1948)

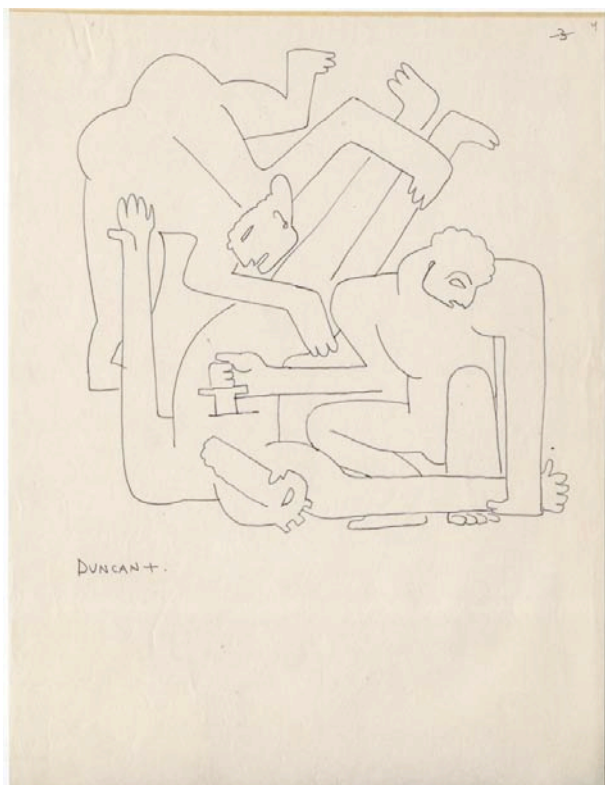
25 May at 20.00

Rio Escondido, Emilio Fernández (Mexico, Spain)

Available images (on request):



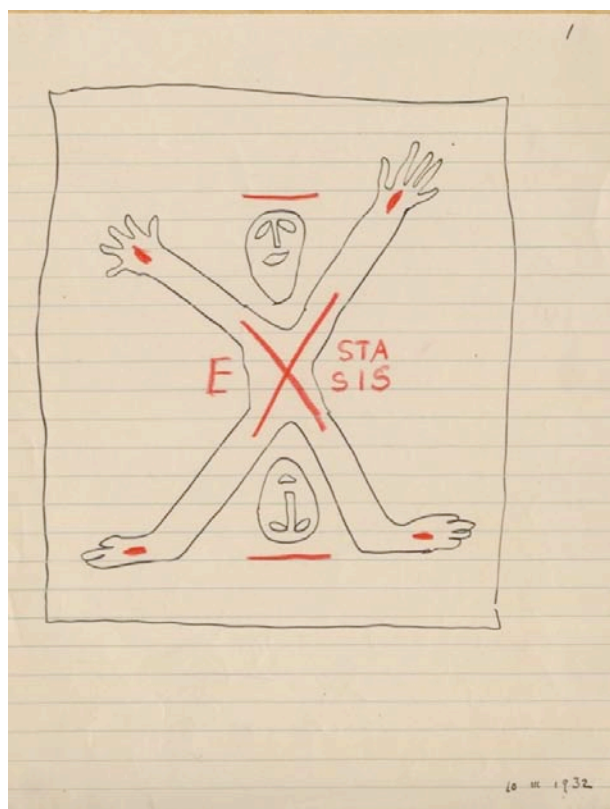
1.
Sergei M. Eisenstein. «Dead Duncan». Drawing of series «Duncan's death». Ink. June 6-8, 1931. 27,5 x 21 cm.
Russian State Archives of Literature and Art, Moscow



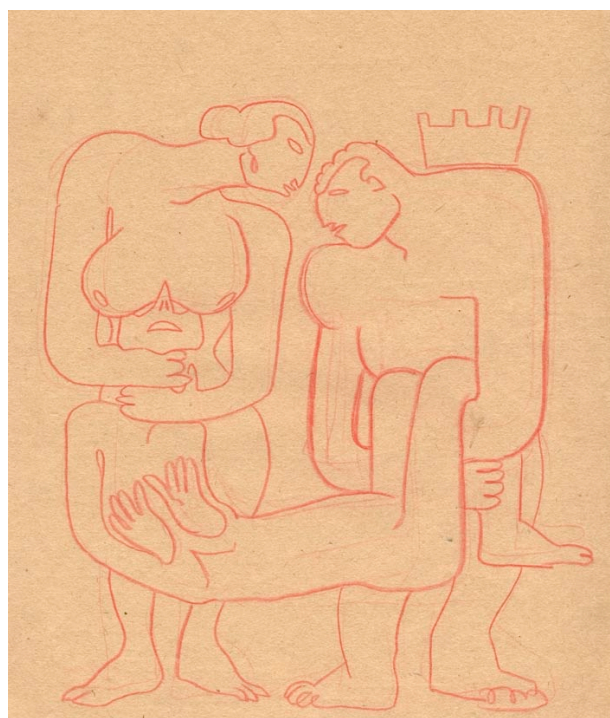
2. Sergei M. Eisenstein. Drawing of series «Duncan's death». Ink. June 6-8, 1931. 27,5 x 21 cm. Russian State Archives of Literature and Art, Moscow



3. Sergei M. Eisenstein. Drawing № 4 of series «Duncan's death». Ink. June 16, 1931. 27,5 x 21,1 cm. Russian State Archives of Literature and Art, Moscow



4.
Sergei M. Eisenstein. «Ecstasy». Drawing of series. Ink. Red pencil. March 10 1932. 27,7 x 21,5 cm.
Russian State Archives of Literature and Art, Moscow



5.
Sergei M. Eisenstein. Drawing № 4 of series «Duncan's death», 1931.
Russian State Archives of Literature and Art, Moscow