



Private Security, 2013

KARAKÖY KÜLAH,
DIRIMART TEMPORARY PROJECT SPACE

SEPTEMBER 10 - OCTOBER 12, 2013

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BJØRN
MELHUS
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Liberty Park

Dirimart is to host the German-Norwegian media artist Bjørn Melhus's one-person show Liberty Park - In God We Trust at its temporary project space Karaköy Külah, between September 10 and October 12, 2013. The exhibition will simultaneously run with Fabian Marcaccio's *Some USA Stories*, which is going to open at Dirimart's main exhibition venue in Nişantaşı on September 12, and the 13th Istanbul Biennial, which is to start on September 14. *Liberty Park - In God We Trust* is an 8-channel video installation tailored to the venue that deals with the rapid transformation of the urban texture of peripheral global cities like Istanbul. The work was conceptualized and named before Istanbul's breakneck urban intervention and their social effects came into effect, giving the work a brand new meaning in this context. The exhibition's entrance reflects the parody of an immaculate and white exhibition area. A single, vertical video displays Melhus as a Turkish private security guard who mumbles quotes from Hollywood movies, right next to a "SOLD" neon sign. Visitors then proceed to a gritty, former manufacturing area where images are projected on life-sized stand-up figures. These figures and banners act as an iconic *tableaux vivant* on Turkey's and Istanbul's recent urban transformation.

Bjørn Melhus (b. 1966) is a German-Norwegian media artist. In his work he has developed a singular position, expanding the possibilities for a critical reception of cinema and television. His practice of fragmentation, destruction, and reconstitution of well-known figures, topics, and strategies of the mass media opens up not only a network of new interpretations and critical commentaries, but also defines the relationship of mass media and viewer anew.

Originally rooted in an experimental film context, Bjørn Melhus's work has been shown and awarded at numerous international film festivals. He has held screenings at Tate Modern and the LUX in London, the Museum of Modern Art (MediaScope) in New York, and the Centre Pompidou in Paris, amongst others. The artist's growing interest in the city (since his participation at the 8th International Istanbul Biennial in 2003) has prompted him to visit Istanbul many times over the years.

KARAKÖY KÜLAH, DIRIMART TEMPORARY PROJECT SPACE

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Monday - Saturday 10.00 - 19.00

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