

GÚSTAV GEIR BOLLASON & CLÉMENTINE ROY *CARCASSE* (2017)

The first time you see *Carcasse*, you might think it was a documentary about a group of people living beyond civilisation. In calm black-and-white, the camera tracks the activities of humans and animals in a breath-taking landscape. Is this a hippy commune, a religious sect, a community of outcasts, or have these people deliberately chosen to opt out of society?

After a while it is clear that this is no documentary in the conventional sense, but a fictional tale with elements of science fiction set in a kind of post-apocalyptic environment.

Gústav Geir Bollason and Clémentine Roy have created a speculative narrative around the question of how easily human beings can adapt to different surroundings. The harsh, bare island landscape poses an existential challenge, and its inhabitants respond by recycling relics – objects and materials. The “carcass” in the title is a recurrent motif – whether in the form of a dead animal, or a rotting car converted into a boat, or a wrecked airplane serving as a cattle byre. Despite their morbid touch, these skeletons symbolise a new beginning and an ability to survive.

In this video the artists portray a utopia that is both archaic and futuristic about life beyond civilisation as we know it. And yet even this new world with its daily routines seems to be marked by rituals and consequently social (power) structures – and so this work interrogates the idea that humans can ever make a completely fresh start.

BIOGRAPHIES

Gústav Geir Bollason was born in Iceland in 1966. He studied in Reykjavik and Budapest and at the École nationale supérieure d'arts de Paris-Cergy (ENSAC), and he lives in Iceland. His artistic practice includes drawing, film-making and sculpture. He also runs an art space and organises artist residencies in Iceland. Clémentine Roy was born in France in 1974. She studied history and ethnology in Paris and art at ENSAC, and she has been living in Berlin since 2005. Roy works with the media photography, installation and film. She has also been publishing KIOSK Artist Editions online since 2009.

Gústav Geir Bollason and Clémentine Roy have been working together since 2000. *Carcasse* has been shown at several film festivals, including IFFR in Rotterdam, Stockfish Film Festival in Reykjavik, Kinodot in St. Petersburg and RIDM in Montreal.

CREDITS

Directors: Clémentine Roy and Gústav Geir Bollason

Screenwriter: Clémentine Roy and Gústav Geir Bollason

Cast: Sverrir Möller, Gústav Geir Bollason, Lene Zachariassen, Hjörvar Kristjánsson, Anna Elionora Olsen Rosing, Sigurður Þór Guðmundsson, Hildur Stefánsdóttir, Marino Sveinsson, Ágúst Marínó Ágústson, Elín Heiða Hlinadóttir, Ragnar Þór Jepsen, Þorvaldur Grétar Hermannsson, Axel Frans Gústavsson

Editor: Ninon Liotet

Cinematography: Clémentine Roy and Gústav Geir Bollason

Sound: Gábor Rippli

Colour correction: Unai Rosende

Post-production coordinator: Michel Balagué

Production: Parkadia Films, Clémentine Roy, Gústav Geir Bollason.