

The Impossible Movie Project

By J&K / Janne Schäfer and Kristine Agergaard

At the core of this project is the notion of *Impossibility* itself. The work evolves around a quest for perfection, the perfect state of being, the perfect place, utopia realized, paradise on earth – the impossibility herein lies in humanity's paradoxical existence between striving towards ideals and the immanent failure hereof: the gap between the potential possibility and the experienced impossibility of reaching, representing or preserving a perfect state. The ancient Babylonian myth of 'the destruction of the tower by God before it reaches the heavens' symbolizes this very basic condition of human civilization and finally demarks our modern lives from a paradisiacal existence.

The Impossible Movie Project is a film that promises ultimate solutions to dangerous questions and therefore has to remain non-existent. Yet these questions need to be raised. Does a perfect state of being exist, but we are simply not able to access it? Do we at all want to give up our imperfect lives as they are, do we dare to reach for the stars and grab them? Is the strife towards ideals exactly what hinders us from living them? Is perfection located outside ourselves or does it simply need to be discovered within us? Should we just accept everything as it is and regard the imperfection of what is as perfection, and wouldn't this lead to a completely amoral state? How does an obstacle become a vehicle towards perfection and vice versa? Are we just constantly fooling ourselves by building models of a perfect life and thus will remain forever trapped in a hamster wheel of approximation?

We will scrutinize our own personal and artistic journey and desire towards a perfect life and a perfect work of art: Making a perfect movie, a movie that finally shows how to overcome human limitations and tears down the borders between art and life, between representation and experience. As this project circles around a non-realizable centre – the impossible movie on realizing perfection - we will go about it by creating what is usually regarded as the by-products and preliminaries of such a production: the film-set, the costumes, fragments of the performance and the cinema trailer.

The movie itself is an illusion – both as a medium and for what it sets out to do. It's a paradoxical task, and possibly an impossible endeavour. But it needs to be attempted, as it is our task as human beings to explore and challenge the relation between the possible and the impossible. We will climb the holy mountain! The path is the goal.

Footnote:

The Impossible Movie Project is a many-parted project and the last work of J&K's *Babylon Trilogy*. *The Perfect Stage* shown at Århus Kunstbygning, June 25 – August 15, 2010, is a film set where a performance exploring mystic, occult and ethnic rituals towards the realization of perfection will be filmed. A second public performance *Lecture on Perfection* is under development and will focus on the scientific-knowledge based approach towards perfection. Finally, the cinema trailer will be shown as an intervention into cinema preview programs during 2011.