

Shimon Attie

RACING CLOCKS RUN SLOW: ARCHAEOLOGY OF A RACETRACK (2007)

3-channel High Definition Immersive Video Installation with 360 degree surround sound

I created the artwork on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the former Bridgehampton Motor Race Track. The track was located in Bridgehampton, Long Island before it was forced to close in the early 1990s due to local anti-noise ordinances. The race track is a throwback to a bygone era, when car racing was still primarily an amateur sport and not quite as "commercialized" as it is today – all this in spite of the fact that many well-known drivers raced at Bridgehampton, including Mario Andretti, Dan Gurney, Paul Newman and many others.

As with my other projects, this artwork has involved the community – in this case the community of individuals whose lives passed through the Bridgehampton track. These individuals still have very strong and profound memories and feelings about the track's heyday and its eventual passing.

I invited into the studio the entire human ecology of the former track, including both celebrity and lesser known race car drivers, pit crew and mechanics, fans and spectators, flaggers and racing officials, paparazzi, and so forth. All in all, I filmed approximately 70 individuals in the studio whose lives intersected at the Bridgehampton Race Circuit. There were no actors, photo stills or digital effects employed. It is a highly eclectic community of individuals who were brought together through a shared passion, both for a sport and for a particular place. Many of them fought tooth and nail for several years against the track's closing. While life has moved on, memories of their "heroic," and not so heroic, youthful days and achievements at the track have remained.

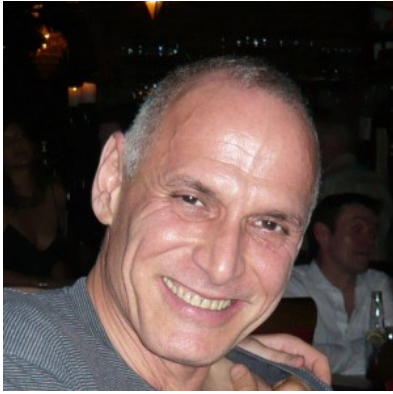
In fact, all that is left of the track are these very memories and a few select ruins, many of which appear in the artwork. I think of the video installation in part as a kind of "Requiem for a Racetrack". But even more so, I am trying to create a different register of space, time, speed and distance than what we usually associate with automobile racing; rather one loosely akin to the physical laws of the universe in which time slows down for very fast moving objects, i.e. "the faster we move, the slower time runs".

[nggallery id=6]

Shimon Attie

born in 1957 in Los Angeles (California, the USA), lives in New York (the USA)

shimonattie.net



Drawing upon multiple disciplines including video installation, photography, and public projects, Shimon Attie engages local communities in finding new ways of representing their past and present. Attie uses contemporary media to re-imagine new relationships between space, time, location and architecture.

Shimon Attie's site-specific projects focus on the lost histories of marginalized and forgotten communities. For "The Writing on the Wall", the artist projected prewar photographs of street life in Berlin's Jewish quarter onto the same or nearby addresses. In "Between Dreams and History", created in New York's Lower East Side, Attie created sophisticated laser projections on tenement buildings to illuminate the immigrant experience. More recently, in his 5-channel video installation *The Attraction of Onlookers*, Attie created an artwork with the Welsh village of Aberfan – a village that became 'famous' 40 years ago when it lost nearly all its children in a manmade disaster. And in his 3 channel video installation, *Racing Clocks Run Slow: Archaeology of a Racetrack*, Attie created a piece inspired by the former Bridgehampton Auto Racetrack in Bridgehampton, Long Island. He has also recently completed an 8 channel video installation in-the-round, *MetroPAL.IS.*, filmed with members of the Israeli and Palestinian communities of New York. *MetroPAL.IS.* was commissioned by the Aldrich Museum and is currently on a museum exhibition tour.

Attie has received a Guggenheim Fellowship (2008), a Fellowship from Harvard University's Radcliffe Institute (2006), and The Rome Prize (2002), among many others. Four monographs on Attie's work have been published, and his work has been widely exhibited by and is in the collection of many institutions, including MOMA in New York, the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, DC, and Centre Pompidou in Paris, among many others. Several films have been made by others about Attie's work that have been broadcast on PBS, the BBC, and ARD, among others.



GROHMAN'S VILLA

Tylna 9/11

opening hours

10.05 (Thu): 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

11.05–20.05 (Mon–Sun): 11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

latest entrance: 7.00 p.m.

opening: 10.05, 6 p.m.

exhibition will be held: 10–20.05