

HOMO URBANUS

A CITY-MATOGRAPHIC ODYSSEY

Exhibition by Ila Bêka & Louise Lemoine



Arc en Rêve - Bordeaux, France



CAMP - Praha, Czech Republic



São Paulo Architecture Biennial - São Paulo, Brazil



AN EXHIBITION BY BÊKA & LEMOINE

Homo Urbanus is a city-matographic odyssey by Bêka & Lemoine in the form of a touring exhibition. Shown in Bordeaux, Prague, Berlin, Sao Paulo, Graz, among others, the exhibition translates their latest mega-project, a free-wheeling journey around the world (10 films, 10 cities), as an immersive environment, offering a vibrant tribute to what we have been most cruelly deprived of in times of lockdown and social distancing: namely, the public space.

For more than 15 years, the artist-cineast duo Bêka & Lemoine investigates space and how we relate to it, we dwell in, adapt and subvert it, and this in a large spectrum of scales. From the most intimate sphere of the house with their first feature, the game-changer Koolhaas Houselife shot inside the Maison à Bordeaux by Rem Koolhaas, they then observed complex residential structures such as the Barbican in London (Barbicania) and the BIG's 8 House in Copenhagen (The Infinite Happiness), or more recently they moved to explore our relation to public space, (24 Heures sur place, Voyage autour de la Lune), drawing their influences from anthropology, literature, cinema, and philosophy.



HOMO URBANUS

With their latest mega-project, Homo Urbanus, Bêka & Lemoine stepped up their game, exploring the urban realm with their signature wit and humor, inviting us to observe the multiple forms and complex interactions that exist every day between people and their urban environments in detail.

“Homo Urbanus...but who are we in reality? What are we made of? What do we think about it? How do we live? What kind of relationship to space have we developed? Space for one and space for all...but where is the frontier? What do we share? How do we relate to our peers? What forms does this take, where, and how?”

Filmed from Rabat to Bogotá, from Shanghai to Doha and Venice, somewhere between visual anthropology and observational cinema, these ten films put the multifarious homo urbanus, the urban man, under the microscope encouraging us to take a closer look at individual and collective behaviors, interpersonal dynamics, social tensions, and the economic and political forces that play out every day on the grand stage of the city streets.

Through aimless navigation without a compass, without a map, in the territory of the city, Bêka & Lemoine seek for snatches of daily life, gestures, places, scenes that make a city what it is, depicting it in its present, in the simplicity of its daily life, listening to its rumble, the sound of its depths - slipping into its rhythm.



IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE

The flexible exhibition set up, curated by Bêka & Lemoine, aims to reproduce the urban spectacle in its integrity, posing the viewer inside the scene, using sound and image as tools for an immersive experience. Through a simple yet effective layout, composed of large screens posed at ground level and a careful sound design, thus creating a portable urban stage, the Homo Urbanus exhibition, in its preferred set up, transports far-away cities indoors, and provides its audience with the opportunity to reflect on how we live together and on how we will live together as cities become ever bigger and populated.

Homo Urbanus is also the theoretical and practical basis for the annual course Bêka & Lemoine are currently teaching at the prestigious AA Architectural Association School of Architecture in London, Homo Urbanus, Laboratory for Sensitive Observers, since 2019.



PRAISES FOR THE SERIES

“A jem!” - **Artribune**

“Masterpiece!” - **Der Standard**

“Amazing odyssey!” - **Domus**

“Amazing!” - **Architektur Aktuell**

“Huge, crazy and brilliant project!” - **Dezeen**

“Gorgeous images probably inspired by the draping to be found in Tiepolo, Tintoretto and Veronese! We always thought that Bêka & Lemoine are classic artists.” - **FIG Project**

“The camera work remains at eye level, the angle of view corresponds to the field of vision of the human eye. The view is unaffected, sometimes almost too direct. The cut is tough, there is no off-screen comment, no explanations and explanations, no background sound, just the authentic background noise of the city!” - **Bauwelt**

“An approach that combines the analytical capacity of the documentary with the narrative power of cinema!” - **Corriere della Sera**

“Homo Urbanus invites its viewer to identify itself as part of an animal species whose habitat could transcend the wall surrounding the projection black box: films could then be diluted in everyday reality.” - **Archdaily**

“Bêka & Lemoine have transformed the representation of contemporary architecture through their films.” **Radical Architecture of the Future, Beatrice Galilee, Phaidon**

“Parfois poétiques, parfois cruels, Ila Bêka et Louise Lemoine tirent des scénarios minimalistes étranges teintés d’un humour mordant, qu’ils mettent en scène avec un sens du cadre, du rythme, du détail merveilleux. Ils touchent l’âme de l’architecture!” - **Le Monde**



PREVIOUS EXHIBITIONS

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- Loop Festival with Fundació Enric Miralles, “Homo Urbanus”, Barcelona, 2021
- Euskadiko Arkitektura Institutua, “Homo Urbanus”, San Sebastian, Basque Country, Spain, 2021
- Arc en Rêve - centre d'architecture, “Homo Urbanus”, Bordeaux, France, 2020
- Haus der Architektur, “Homo Urbanus - A Citymatographic Odyssey”, Graz, Austria, 2020
- Festival Image de Ville, “Homo Urbanus”, Marseille, curated by Luc Joulé, France, 2020
- CAMP - Center for Architecture and urbanism, “Homo Urbanus”, Prague, Czech Republic, 2019

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- SAM Basel - Napoli Super Modern by LAN, Basel, Switzerland, 2022
- Berlin-Tempelhof Airport, “Living the City”, curated by Tatjana Schneider and Lukas Feireiss, Berlin, Germany, 2020
- XII Architecture Biennial of Sao Paulo, “Todo dia/Everyday”, curated by Vanessa Grossman, Charlotte Malterre-Barthes and Ciro Miguel, Sesc 24 de Maio, Sao Paulo, Brazil, 2019
- American Academy, “Cinque Mostre”, curated by Ilaria Gianni, Rome, Italy, 2019
- Bi-City Shenzhen Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture, “Urban Interactions”, Shenzhen, China, 2019
- Biennale d'Art Contemporain de Rabat, “Un instant avant le monde”, curated by Abdelkader Damani, Rabat, Morocco, 2019
- Manege Central Exhibition Hall, “Homo Urbanus”, Saint Petersburg, Russia, 2018
- Kuala Lumpur Architecture Biennale, “Power is to architecture”, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2017
- Viva Villa, “Homo Urbanus”, Marseille, France, 2018
- Agora Biennale de Bordeaux Métropole, “Paysages métropolitains”, curated by Bas Smets, Bordeaux, France, 2017



PREVIOUS SCREENINGS

- MDFF - Milano Design Film Festival, Milan, Italy, 2020, "Homo Urbanus Dohanus"
- ArchfilmLund, Lund, Sweden, 2020, "Homo Urbanus Tokyoitus"
- Architekturzentrum Wien, We are Neighbourhood - Urban Development in the Climate Crisis, moderated by Angelika Fitz, Wien, Austria, 2020, "Homo Urbanus Venetianus"
- Domus, online premiere on Domus web, 2020, "Homo Urbanus Venetianus"
- Mies.Shuffle - Mies. In Wonderland, by Wonderland - Platform for European Architecture, Wien, Austria, 2020, "Homo Urbanus Bogotanus"
- Archipelago: Architectures for the Multiverse by HEAD, Geneva School of Art and Design and HEPIA
- Geneva, Switzerland, 2021, "Homo Urbanus Shanghaianus"
- JAP Belge - Palais des Beaux Arts, Bruxelles, "Homo Urbanus Kyotoitus" and "Homo Urbanus Marathon", 2021
- ArchFilmFestival London: "The Temple of Beka & Lemoine", London, United Kingdom, 2021
- ICFF - Italian Contemporary Film Festival, Toronto, Canada, 2021, "Homo Urbanus Venetianus"



TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- The films should be projected in dark rooms, as to preserve the quality of the image through cinema-like conditions, on big screens or on smooth white walls preferred (4-6 meters).
- The image should be projected at ground level, as to create an immersive environment and reproduce the idea of an urban space, shared with the visitors.
- Seating space is required (as cushions, poufs, comfortable chairs) as the films all last around 1 hour. Though being non fiction documentaries in the form of visual notes, the films invite the viewer to linger and follow the urban flow on screen.
- HD sound
- HQ projector (10000 lumens) required

SET UP OPTIONS

- The films can be projected on multiple screens, one next to or facing each other, for maximizing and highlighting the qualities and the scope of the project. The films can start at the same time or at different times, having different lengths.
- Other options include: projection on loop on a single screen, in case of smaller environments; single or comprehensive screenings in auditoriums/cinema/festivals and as part of public programs.
- A selection of films can be made on the base of specific programs and/or collective exhibitions on different themes. The directors are available to discuss possibilities and options and to provide more detailed info on single films.



DATA AND ADDITIONAL INFO

FILM LIST

Homo Urbanus (10 films), France, 2020
(Colour, 10 x 60 min approx, no dialogue)

Bogotanus - Bogotá, 43 min
Dohanus - Doha, 62 min
Kyotoitus - Kyoto, 84 min
Neapolitanus - Naples, 50 min
Petroburgumus - Saint-Petersburg, 41 min
Rabatius - Rabat, 50 min
Seoulitanus - Seoul, 44 min
Shanghaianus - Shanghai, 72 min
Tokyoitus - Tokyo, 55 min
Venetianus - Venice, 62 min

CREW

Directors: Ila Bêka & Louise Lemoine
Image: Ila Bêka
Sound: Louise Lemoine
Editing: Ila Bêka & Louise Lemoine
Colorist: Melo Prino
Sound Mix: Walter Fuji, Lo Studio
Production: Bêka & Partners, France

TRAILER

<https://youtu.be/bKTQ-xHZIJo>

PHOTOS

www.bekalemoine.com/download/Homo_Urbanus_Photos.zip

















HOMO URBANUS

A citymatographic odyssey

Walking in unknown cities to collect impressions, to catch a vibration, to gather situations and things seen at the angle of a street, on a crossroad, from the top of a building. Depicting a city in its present, in the simplicity of its daily life. Listening to its rumble, the sound of its depths. Slipping into its rhythm.

To be on the lookout, in a continuous wonder towards the imagination and creativity men have managed to develop to find a way to live together. Asking ourselves what makes a city, trying to understand its silent rules, its habits, its imperfections, its difficulties, and its unique way to answer the endless question: Where do we go? This project tries to collect a few elements of answer. These visual notes, made on the fly, look at the urban inhabitant within his group and in his deep solitude, redrawing the outline of each city following a sentimental geography.

Presented in a comparative dynamic through the lens of a selection of themes and issues linked with the street daily life, these films enable us to perceive each of these different urban contexts as an experimental, local and unique laboratory answering the same global challenge of how can we live all together.

CREDITS

DIRECTORS: Ila Bêka & Louise Lemoine

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Ila Bêka

EDITING: Ila Bêka & Louise Lemoine

COLORIST: Melo Prino

SOUND MIX: Walter Fuji, Lo Studio

PRODUCTION: Bêka & Partners, France

France, 2019, HD, colour, 10 x 55 min (approx)

Homo Urbanus:

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PRESS

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"Un approccio che unisce la capacità analitica del documentario alla potenza narrativa del cinema!" - **Corriere della Sera**

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INFOS

► TRAILER: vimeo.com/ondemand/homourbanus

📁 PHOTOS: www.bekalemoine.com/download/Homo_Urbanus_Photos.zip



BÊKA & LEMOINE

“Ila Bêka and Louise Lemoine are two of the foremost architectural artists working today. Their films focus on the relationship of people and space, emphasising the presence of everyday life within some of the most iconic architectural projects of recent decades.” - Barbican Centre

“Ila Bêka and Louise Lemoine are building a work at the crossroads of cinema, architecture and urbanism, questioning our ways of inhabiting the world with a poetic sense tinged with surrealism and a sometimes biting humor.” - Le Monde

Bêka & Lemoine have stood out on the international architectural scene for the last 15 years through a cinematographic work known for its innovative nature and its tender and biting humour, which has disrupted the usual representation of contemporary architecture by putting people and uses at the forefront. A project which defeats the question of genre, by placing itself at the edges of the documentary and video art, through a singular and highly subjective style. Thanks to an authentic artistic perspective on architecture, Bêka & Lemoine open new horizons to the relationship between architecture and cinema.

Presented by The New-York Times as the “cult figures in the European architecture world”, Beka & Lemoine’s work has been widely acclaimed as “a new form of criticism” (Mark) which “has deeply changed the way of looking at architecture” (Domus). Selected by the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York (the Met) as one of the “Most exciting and critical design project of the year 2016”, elected “Game Changers 2015” by Metropolis Magazine, selected as one of the “100 most talented personalities of 2017” by Icon Design, the complete work of Bêka & Lemoine has been acquired in 2016 by the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York for its permanent collection.

Their films have been widely presented in major biennials and international cultural events such as The Venice Architecture Biennale (2008, 2010, 2014), The XII Architecture Biennial of Sao Paulo in 2019, The Oslo Architecture Triennale in 2016, Performa 17 in 2017 in New York, The Chicago Architecture Biennial 2015, among many others. Their films are also frequently exhibited in some of the most prestigious museums and international cultural institutions, such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Copenhagen, the Victoria & Albert Museum in London. Bêka & Lemoine’s films have also largely been selected and awarded by some major film festivals such as Cannes Film Festival, Venice International Film Festival (Venice), Locarno Film Festival, CPH:DOX (Copenhagen), DocAviv (Tel Aviv), among many others.

Bêka & Lemoine are regularly invited to lecture in some important universities: GSD / Harvard University (USA), GSAPP Columbia University (New-York, USA), AAP / Cornell University (USA), Bartlett School of Architecture / UCL (London, UK). In 2018 they have been laureate of Villa Kujoyama, French residency program for artists in Japan, and Ila Bêka has been laureate Italian Fellow at the American Academy in Rome.

Bêka & Lemoine have been invited as guest professors at GSAPP / Columbia University (New York) for the New York / Paris Program, at Accademia di Architettura di Mendrisio (Switzerland), The Berlage TU Delft Faculty of Architecture (Netherlands) and at HEAD in Geneva (Switzerland). They are currently teaching the design Studio Diploma 16 (M.Arch.) at AA Architectural Association School of Architecture in London.