



## Michel Auder - Heads of the Town

Opening: Friday, 6 February 2009  
7–9 p.m.

Duration: 7 February – 7 March 2009

Location: ScheiblerMitte, Charlottenstraße 2 (in the alley)  
10969 Berlin

For over 40 years, Michel Auder has seldom neglected to record an event in his life. His singular approach has earned him worldwide recognition. His films are found in the Anthology Film Archives in New York and have been exhibited in major international museums including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, and the Centre Pompidou in Paris. In 2008 his works were shown at the European Kunsthalle in Cologne, at the Statens Museum for Kunst in Copenhagen and at the Berlin Biennale. In November 2008 he won the New Vision Award at the CPH:DOX Film Festival in Copenhagen for *The Feature*, an artistic collaboration with director Andrew Neel, filmmaker, junkie, and partner of Warhol's muse Viva and, later, the artist Cindy Sherman. The French experimental filmmaker, who lives in New York, was present for *The Feature's* world premiere at the 58th Berlinale and is now returning to Berlin one year later in time for this year's film festival.

Although the videos in the show are able to stand on their own, *Heads of the Town* is more than a screening of individual works. Viewed together, they condense to form an overall statement that may be understood as a criticism of the decadence of affluent society; yet, other interpretations are also possible. Michel Auder combines iconic images with those from the flow of everyday life. Baroque, fleshy and twisted bodies are juxtaposed with scenes from an orgy. His camera liberates masterpieces from their frozen states, rejuvenating and endowing them with contemporary relevance. The images are both beautiful and disturbing. Affluence, loss and memory are the leitmotifs of a highly poetic show. Jonas Mekas recognized this vein in Michel Auder early on when he wrote: "And yes, Auder is a poet; he isn't a realist. A poet of moods, faces, situations, brief encounters, tragic moments of our miserable civilization, the suffering. And yes, also human vanity, ridiculousness."