DOCUMENTATION

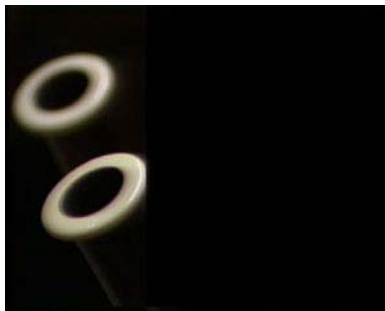**Identification**

Artist: Odenbach, Marcel

Title: As if memories could deceive me

Year: 1986

Duration: 00:17:48

Colour / Audio: Colour/ Stereo

Language: None

Production format: 1"(NTSC Standard)

Digitised format: U-matic (NTSC standard)

Data files: 43_Odenbach_PF.mov / 20,98 GB

Short description

The work starts with partial images of instruments occupying only part of the screen. It then goes on to show the New England Conservatory Symphony Orchestra rehearsing "Manfred" by Robert Schumann, under Piero Bellugis direction. After this sequence, the music changes to "Choaten entfuhrten Afrika- Drum and Gong Sounds" and the red titles are inserted on top of images of the Orchestra. The work goes on by showing images of a piano's keyboard on the bottom half and an Orchestra playing on the top half of the screen. Then documentary images are overlapped on the keyboard until the image changes to show a boy with his head resting on the keyboard. The next cut starts with a baroque door opening and starting a sequence of a baroque interior. The sequence ends with the image of Marcel Odenbach's head resting on the keyboard, as the boy had earlier. The work goes on with a projection of documentary images on the keyboard. There is another music change, back to "Choaten entfuhrten Afrika- Drum and Gong Sounds". The picture then changes to the image of the keyboard on the top half and images of the Nuremberg Trials in the bottom half. The bottom images then change to still pictures of fashion and models and finally to a panning of shoes in a shoe shop. The last sequence shows a Boston Louis menswear shop.

Background

Odenbach had been working with video since the middle of the 70's and was already a well-known artist when he was invited to produce this piece, his first in collaboration with a TV network. The work was the result of a 3-month residency in Boston, in the framework of the CAT Fund (Contemporary Art Television Fund).

Technical Realisation

The work was originally recorded on Betacam using a steadicam and then mastered onto 1" open-reel. The television standard used was NTSC.

Available versions

A U-matic NTSC sub master, made from the WGBH's 1", was made available by Marcel Odenbach. The 1" Master is stored at WGBH in Boston, but due to copyright clearance problems we could not get a copy of this tape. The content of the 1" and U-matic should be alike.

Digitisation

The digitisation was made from the version on tape 43/4-SM (U-Matic) because it was the earliest generation available.

The digitisation took place at the Laboratory for antiquated video systems in ZKM-Centre for Art and Media technology Karlsruhe.
For the digitisation a Sony BVT 810 player was used. The composite NTSC signal was then corrected with a TBC (unidentified) and digitised with an IO-LA Box. The digitised signal was transferred over a Firewire connection (IEEE 1394a) with a transmission rate of 400 Mbit/s into the G5 computer. The software used to control the digitisation was Final Cut Pro. The data was then exported as QuickTime uncompressed 8-bit NTSC, for the digital restoration.

Concept for the restoration

Image 1- both signal problems present in the video sequence

The tape presented 2 errors; each of them located in the top half of a single frame.
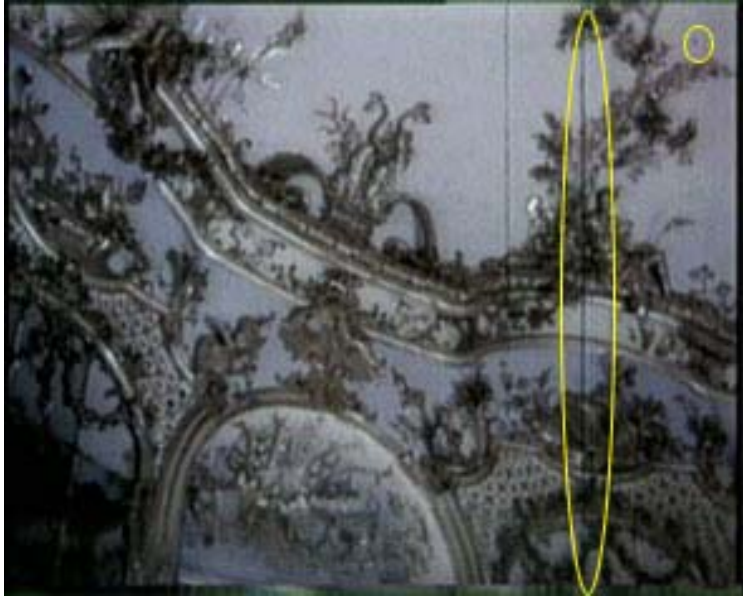
Image 2- Example of a frame showing typical film errors, namely scratches and dust.

All the errors (mostly scratches and dirt characteristic of film material) in the film footage must be kept, as they were present in the original material and therefore consciously or unconsciously made part of the work.

Mr. Odenbach was concerned with a loss of image quality between the NTSC original and the PAL conversion. When comparing the NTSC digitised version and the PAL conversion there was only a slight loss of quality, unavoidable when the NTSC (720x480 lines) is enlarged to the PAL standard (720x576 lines).

Digital Treatment

Given that the errors present were few and well localized it was not necessary to import the work into Diamant. The restoration was done on the file already converted to the PAL standard. To perform the restoration we started by exporting the deteriorated frames, as well as the previous and subsequent ones using QuickTime software. We then replaced the deteriorated parts of the image to the corresponding areas of the adjacent frames. For the error on TC 00:02:54 it was better, due to the movement in the image to use the subsequent frame. In this case the fast movement of the conductor made it impossible to completely conceal the error, and so a slight staggering in the movement is perceptible. Another problem was the even yellowish background that due to the moving camera changed perceptibly from frame to frame, so that it was not possible to just paste the necessary areas and some colour correction had to be done. When inserting the restored frame in the final sequence, using Final Cut Pro we could detect another problem, as the restored area became suddenly much darker than the original background. After compensating for this colour change in Photoshop the frame could be reinserted and the colour was correct in the end.

For the error in TC 00:09:11 the previous frame gave a better result, and because there are no other movements besides the one of the camera nor important colour changes it was easy to make the correction invisible.

The restored file was exported from Final Cut Pro as a QuickTime 8 bit uncompressed file and then transferred to Digital betacam for archival purposes. The digital file is also being kept in LTO tapes.

Timeline for tape 43/4-SM

#	Image	From h:min:sec	To h:min:sec	Total h:min:sec	Observations
1	Black	00:00:00	00:00:07		
2	Wind instruments on the left side of the screen	00:00:07	00:00:14		Sounds of the tuning of the instruments starts
3	Black	00:00:14	00:00:21		Sound stops
4	Instruments on the left side of the screen, black on the right side	00:00:21	00:00:28		Sound starts again
5	Instruments on the right side of the screen, black on the left side	00:00:28	00:00:35		
6	Images of instruments on the right and left side with a black area in the middle	00:00:35	00:01:18		
7	3rd. Image in the middle	00:01:18	00:01:53		
8	Images of the Maestro	00:01:53	00:02:41		Music starts
9	Panning of the Orchestra and Conductor	00:02:41	00:03:53		
10		00:02:54			Error in one frame, top half, originating on the tape
11	Change from the rehearsal room to the concert hall	00:03:53			
12		00:03:58			Music changes
13	Title: Marcel Odenbach	00:04:00	00:04:14		
14	Title: As if memories could deceive me	00:04:14	00:04:24		
15	1984/86	00:04:24	00:04:42		
	Violin player	00:04:42	00:05:19		

Hands on Piano Keyboard/ Orchestra playing on the top half.	00:05:19	00:06:35		
Panning of the Halls ceiling, whole screen	00:06:35	00:07:00		
Projection on the Keyboard	00:07:00	00:08:18		
Child pianist with his head resting on the keyboard	00:08:18	00:08:23		
Entrance to a baroque palace, sequence of baroque interior	00:08:23	00:10:19		
	00:09:11			Error in one frame, top half, originating on the tape
Adult pianist (Marcel Odenbach) with his head resting on the keyboard	00:10:19	00:10:22		
Projection on the Keyboard	00:10:22	00:12:34		
	00:11:44	00:12:04		Music changes to "Choaten entfuhrten Africa – Drum and Gong sounds"
Keyboard on top, projection of the Nuremberg Trials on the bottom half	00:12:34	00:14:00		
Projection of fashion still images on the bottom half	00:14:00	00:14:17		
Panning of shoes in a shoe shop in the bottom half	00:14:17	00:14:33		
Louis, menswear shop	00:14:33	00:16:24		
Credits: Conceived, Directed and Edited – Marcel Odenbach	00:16:24	00:16:31		

	Credits: Featuring-The New England Conservatory Symphony Orchestra, Piero Bellugi, Conductor	00:16:31	00:16:42		
	Credits:	00:16:42	00:17:21		
	Credits: A co-production of "The Goethe Institute", Boston	00:17:21	00:17:23		
	Credits: and "The contemporary Art Television Fund" (a collaboration between the WGBH New Television Workshop and the Institute of contemporary art, Boston)	00:17:23	00:17:27		
	Credits: Funded by: The Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities, new Works Program	00:17:27	00:17:31		
	Credit: © 1986 Marcel Odenbach	00:17:31	00:17:48		

Digitisation Form

Digitisation		Type	Source	File size	Stored in
Information Support		U-matic 43/4-SM	Marcel Odenbach	20,98GB	
Technical Information		Via device	Capture Card	Norm	Adjustments
		U-matic BVT-810	AJA IO-Box Through a Firewire-connection (IEEE 1394A)	Composite PAL, 8-bit uncompressed PAL	
		No information about the TBC			

Tape 43/4-SM

Image 3- Cover of the tape 43/4-SM

Image 4- Tape 43/4-SM