

THE BATTLES

A FILM BY MICHAEL MACGARRY

KEYES ART MILE

01 FEB. - 08 MAR. 2018



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NO PRACTICE.**

► **The Battles**

Single channel video installation
2016
121 minutes, colour, stereo, 24 fps PAL
Edition 5 + 2 A.P.

This feature-length video work is focused on an existing film *The Battle of Algiers* (1966), directed by Gillo Pontecorvo, based on events during the Algerian War (1954–62) against the French Government in North Africa. Pontecorvo's film focuses on the years between 1954 and 1957 in the Casbah when guerrilla fighters regrouped and expanded, only to face a systematic attempt by French paratroopers to wipe them out. The film was banned for five years in France, where it was released as a cut version only in 1974. More recently the Pentagon has used the film as a key text in the analysis of asymmetric urban conflict within the context of the second Iraqi War (2003–2011).

The Battles (2016) employs the formal device of simultaneously overlaying two video channels of Pontecorvo's film over one another. The original black and white film has been digitally coloured green and red for each channel. The green channel plays forwards as originally made, whilst the red channel is the film played in reverse - each version overlaid on one another with a duration of exactly 121 minutes as per the original film. Both audio channels are also left intact and play over one another, one plays forwards and the other in reverse.





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FLIES.

A FILM BY MICHAEL MACGARRY

KEYES ART MILE

01 FEB. - 08 MAR. 2018

► **Flies.**

Single channel HD video

2014

9 minutes 21 seconds, colour, stereo, 25 fps PAL

Edition 5 + 2 A.P.

Written and directed –
Michael MacGarry

Editor –
Saki Bergh

Director of photography –
Jamie Ramsay

Original score –
Marcus Wormstorm

Sound design –
Robert Brinkworth

Visual FX –
Keno Naidoo

Producer –
Laurence Hamburger

Cast –
Louis van Niekerk
Phoenix Baaitse
Christo Fourie
Vuyisile Pandle

Shot on location at
Schubart Park, Pretoria,
South Africa

Set in Pretoria in 1995, this short film concerns an elderly Afrikaans former-civil servant whom – years after the death of his family in an accident – is the sole inhabitant of a large, derelict downtown apartment complex he once designed.

When he accidentally witnesses a political assassination, he is forced into a violent confrontation with modernity, and is killed by his own building.



Michael MacGarry is a visual artist and filmmaker based in Johannesburg, South Africa. He holds an MFA from the University of the Witwatersrand (2004). His work has been exhibited and screened internationally for ten years - including TATE Modern, Guggenheim Bilbao, VideoBrasil, Short Film Festival Oberhausen, International Film Festival Rotterdam, Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival and Rencontres de Bamako. MacGarry's practice is focused on researching narratives and histories of socio-economics, politics and objects within the context of Africa, principally in spaces where contemporary life is in a state of invention and flux.

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