

HOMO URBANUS

A CITY-MATOGRAPHIC ODYSSEY



Film exhibition by Bêka & Lemoine



BÊKA & LEMOINE'S LARGEST EXHIBITION

With their seminal debut film, *Koolhaas Houselife* (2008), artists and filmmakers Bêka & Lemoine playfully disrupted the codes of architectural representation by portraying a celebrated masterpiece – OMA's *Maison à Bordeaux* – through the daily routines and struggles of its housekeeper.

Since then, the Italian-French duo has gained international renown for their close observation of how people inhabit, adapt, appropriate or endure the spaces that frame their lives. Their films cast light on the way people and places influence each other, to unveil how the built environment affects our physical, psychological and emotional state.

In parallel to a body of films that have sought to humanise the way architecture is perceived and represented, since 2017 Bêka & Lemoine have been crossing the world to explore the idea of the city as an ecosystem, observing the peculiarities of the species they name 'Homo Urbanus' in the international habitat it continues to construct – and be constructed by.

'Homo Urbanus. A citymatographic odyssey' is Bêka & Lemoine's largest and most ambitious project to date, constantly evolving since it's still ongoing. This large scale project has been exhibited from Bordeaux to Barcelona, Basel to Lisbon, each time showed in a different version, including new films and site specific creations.



HOMO URBANUS - A CITY-MATOGRAPHIC ODYSSEY

'Homo Urbanus. A citymatographic odyssey' invites the visitor to embark on a vibrant journey through countless situations and life stories captured on the sidewalk of 14 cities scattered around the globe – from Bogota to Venice, Tokyo to Mumbai.

Framing the street as a grand stage where the actions of daily life are performed, this vast fresco of contemporary living conditions captures the human drama, struggle and humour of everyday life on the street, and reflects the performative nature of people's natural behavior. A unique setting, meant as a living homage to the Homo Urbanus, anonymous hero of our times, both fragile and sublime.

The exhibition unfolds as a *dérive* through different space-time sequences, choreographically juxtaposed in a game of chance, mirroring the same notion of spontaneous encounters that guided the making of these films. This ever-changing composition of sounds and images from different cities proposes a reflection about how the way we look can be an act of editing itself.



EXHIBITION'S REVIEWS

“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

- MAC/CCB Museum of Contemporary Art - Lisbon, Portugal, 2024-2025
- SAM Basel, Kunsthalle - Basel, Switzerland, 2023
- Jim Thompson Art Center, Bangkok, Thailand, 2023
- LOOP Barcelona with Fundació Enric Miralles, Barcelona, 2021
- Arc en Rêve - centre d'architecture, Bordeaux, France, 2020
- CAMP - Center for Architecture and urbanism, Prague, Czech Republic, 2019
- MMCA Seoul, Seoul, Korea, 2018

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITIONS

- 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
- Villa Kujoyama, "Homo Urbanus", Kyoto, Japan, 2018
- Kuala Lumpur Architecture Biennale, "Power is to architecture", Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2017
- Agora Biennale de Bordeaux Métropole, "Paysages métropolitains", curated by Bas Smets, Bordeaux, France, 2017



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. The films invite the viewer to linger and follow the urban flow on screen.
- HD sound
- HQ projector (10000 lumens minimum) 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 (14 films), France, 2025
(Colour, 14 x 60 min approx, no dialogue)

Bangkokianus - Bangkok, 90 min
Bogotanus - Bogotá, 43 min
Habanus - La Havana, 58 min
Dohanus - Doha, 62 min
Kyotoitus - Kyoto, 84 min
Lisoboetus - Lisbon, 62 min
Mumbaianus - Mumbai, 58 min
Neapolitanus - Naples, 50 min
Petroburgumus - Saint-Petersburg, 41 min
Rabatius - Rabat, 50 min
Seoulianus - Seoul, 44 min
Shanghaianus - Shanghai, 72 min
Tokyoitus - Tokyo, 60 min
Venetianus - Venice, 62 min

TRAILER

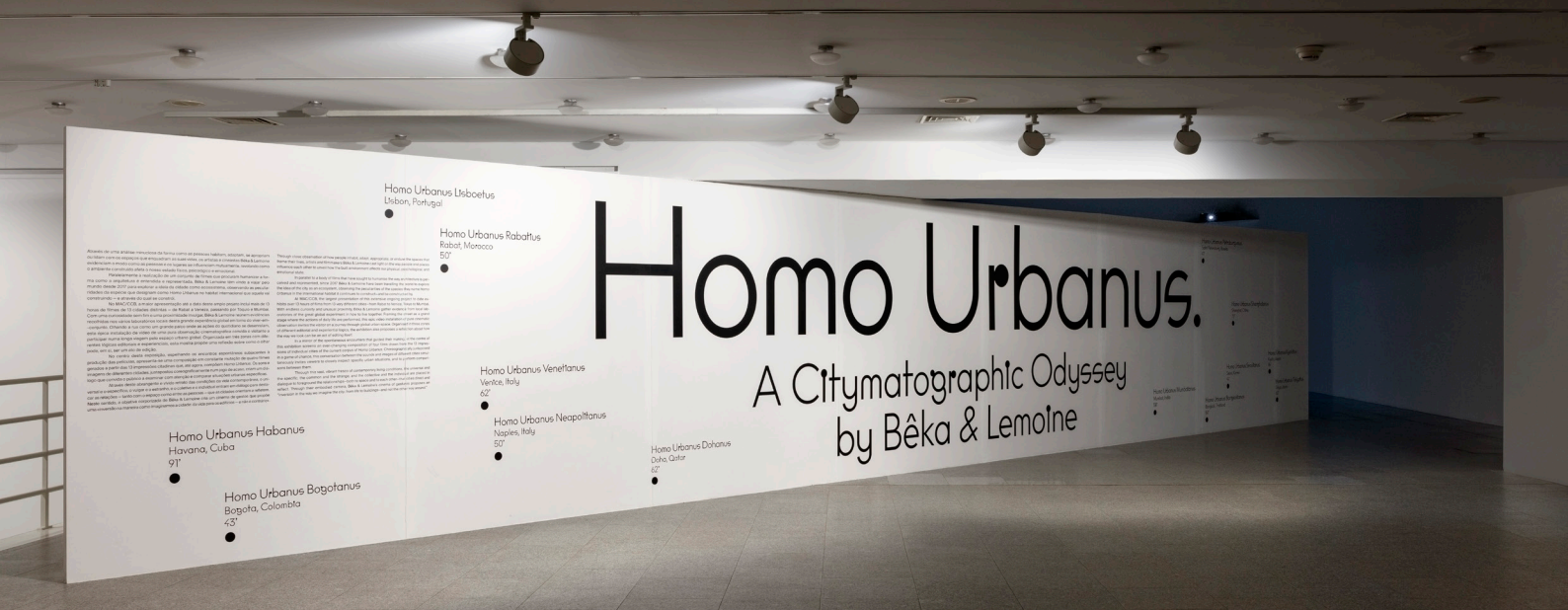
<https://youtu.be/bKTQ-xHZIJo>

PHOTOS

www.bekalemoine.com/download/Homo_Urbanus_Photos.zip

INFOS

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FILM CREDITS

Image, sound, editing: Ila Bêka & Louise Lemoine

Camera assistants: Francesco Guidicini, Simone Muscolino, Lorenzo Scoles

Color correction: Melo Prino

Sound mix: Walter Fuji - Lo Studio

Films produced by Bêka & Partners

PRODUCED WITH THE SUPPORT OF

Ville de Bordeaux, Institut Français de Paris, Institut Français du Japon, Institut Français de Russie, Ambassade de France en Corée, Ambassade de France en Thaïlande, Villa Kujoyama, Fondation Bettencourt-Schueller, Tasmem Doha, MAC/CCB Lisbon

ACQUISITIONS

Homo Urbanus Lisboetus has been produced with the support of MAC/CCB and the first copy out of five has been acquired for the museum's permanent collection.







Arc en Rêve, Bordeaux, France





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

Artists filmmakers working at the crossroads of visual arts, non fiction cinema and architecture. For the past twenty years they have been experimenting with new narrative and cinematic forms to explore how people experience, perceive, and relate to space from an emotional, social, and cultural standpoint.

Bêka & Lemoine have made over thirty films, among which ‘Koolhaas Houselife’ (2008), ‘Barbicania’ (2014), ‘The Infinite Happiness’ (2015), ‘Moriyama San’ (2017), ‘Tokyo Ride’ (2020) and the city-matographic odyssey in 14 films ‘Homo Urbanus’ (2017-ongoing).

Their films are widely shown at renowned international film festivals and prominent art and architecture museums and events, such as the The Venice Biennale, the Barbican Art Gallery in London, Fondation Cartier pour l’art contemporaine in Paris, Bozar in Brussels, Fondazione Prada in Milan, among many others.

In 2016, the MoMA - Museum of Modern Art in NY acquired the entire work of Bêka & Lemoine produced until that date for its permanent collection. Their films are also part of other important public and private art collections, such as MAXXI, The National Museum of 21st Century of Arts (Rome, Italy), CNAP, Centre National des Arts Plastiques (Paris, France), Fondazione Prada (Milan, Italy) among others.

Bêka & Lemoine are regularly invited to lecture in some leading 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.

The 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) and at HEAD in Geneva (Switzerland). From 2019 to 2021, they have been teaching the design Studio Diploma 16 (M.Arch.) at AA Architectural Association School of Architecture in London.

In 2023, they published the book « The Emotional Power of Space » (B&P ed.).