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## **„Extensions“**

**Hans Op de Beeck, 2009**

Digital animated film on blu-ray disc, colour, sound

10 minutes 16 seconds (16:9 aspect ratio)

The multidisciplinary work of Belgian visual artist Hans Op de Beeck (\* 1969) consists of sculptures, installations, video work, photography, animated films, drawings, paintings and writing (short stories). Thematically, the work concentrates on our laborious and problematic relationship with time, space and each other.

In terms of content, the animated film „Extensions“ deals with cultural and subcultural rituals, science and technology as extensions of the human body, and as the physical manifestation of an unflinching belief in progress, which is both redemptive and ethically problematic.

The artist defines the extension of the body in very broad terms. Body extensions may involve objects such as computers, weapons, scanners, prosthetic devices, or large constructions such as shopping malls or waiting rooms – anything that seems to make Western life easier, serving to channel and automate life and present it in terms of data, grids, and patterns.

„Extensions“ takes the spectator on a quiet, nocturnal travel along abandoned buildings, interiors, objects and anonymous characters that appear from and disappear into the dark. The animated film, which is made using black-and-white watercolours based on photographs taken from the Internet and images from documentaries and educational videos, shows our technology-driven and globalised environment as a dark dream, a dark and intangible maze in which the individual tries to maintain himself by means of his rituals and habits.