

Marcus Kaiser, Andree Korpys, Markus Löffler, **SUPERSAM**, 2002, video, 13 minutes
Curator: Agnieszka Sienkiewicz-Nowacka



Supersam – the first socialist supermarket in Eastern Europe, officially opened in 1962, designed by Jerzy Hryniewiecki, Maciej Krasiński, Waław Zalewski and Stanisław Kusia, was one of the most interesting and most innovative buildings of the late modernism. It was a cult object in Warsaw, yet in 2006 it was demolished in order to give place for new architectural complex erected at Unii Lubelskiej Square. Three German artists staying in 2002 at a residency at the Ujazdowski Castle – [Kaiser \(b. 1967\)](#), [Andree Korpys \(b. 1966\)](#) i [Markus Löffler \(b. 1954\)](#) – became interested in the Supersam due to its appealing architectural form, as well as because the staff working there had not changed for almost forty years. They produced a film containing conversations with people who linked their professional life with this object, and presenting the architecture of the place – from the outside and inside. It represents a type of staged document; employees of the Supermarket unemotionally speak about the opening ceremony of the Supermarket, about its offer and the principles of running the shop. Their statements often sound unnaturally, because they are read out from texts prepared by the artists. Hence, for instance, a confession that employees are “like one big family and that they have kept together for over 30 years, so their positive emotions are also felt by the customers” can seem rather amusing. The staged “interviews” stand in contrast with scenes constituting the record of everyday activities of the shop staff: cutting the meat, counting money, and lunch breaks during which artists recorded some instances of natural behaviour, jokes, and conversations. Because of that, the film is an interesting example of experimenting with the format of the document, while fans of modernist architecture can see it as a nostalgic souvenir of an already non-existent building of exceptional beauty. The film was first shown at the exhibition *A Need of Realism* at the CCA Ujazdowski Castle (04.10 – 29.12.2002, curator: Agnieszka Sienkiewicz-Nowacka), produced as a result of the project *A Need of Realism. Solitude in Ujazdowski*, which initiated the programme of residencies for artists at the Ujazdowski Castle. The exhibition features young artists, mostly interested in issues verging on art, architecture, and social change.