

December 11, 2015 3:56 pm

Snapshot: 'Taiga 19' (1992), by Ulrike Ottinger

Susannah Savage

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The German artist retraced the footsteps of Adelbert von Chamisso across the globe and produced a cinematic account of her expedition



'Taiga 19' (1992)

In 1815 Adelbert von Chamisso, a German-French naturalist and poet, joined an expedition to Polynesia, Hawaii and Alaska.

Two hundred years later, "Chamisso's Shadow" is a project of rediscovery by Ulrike Ottinger, a German artist who turned to documentary film-making after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Chamisso's shadow in a literal sense, Ottinger retraced his footsteps across the globe, and, just as Chamisso recorded his experiences in his 1836 book *Trip Around the World*, so Ottinger has produced a cinematic account of her expedition. Her photographs of this shared journey bring

together the past and present, and explore the borderland between tradition and modernity.

Included in a new exhibition in Berlin of Ottinger's work is the image above of reindeer, originally photographed for *Taiga* (1992), a documentary about the nomadic people of northern Mongolia.

'Chamisso's Shadow' is at Johanna Breede PhotoKunst, Berlin, until February 27 2016

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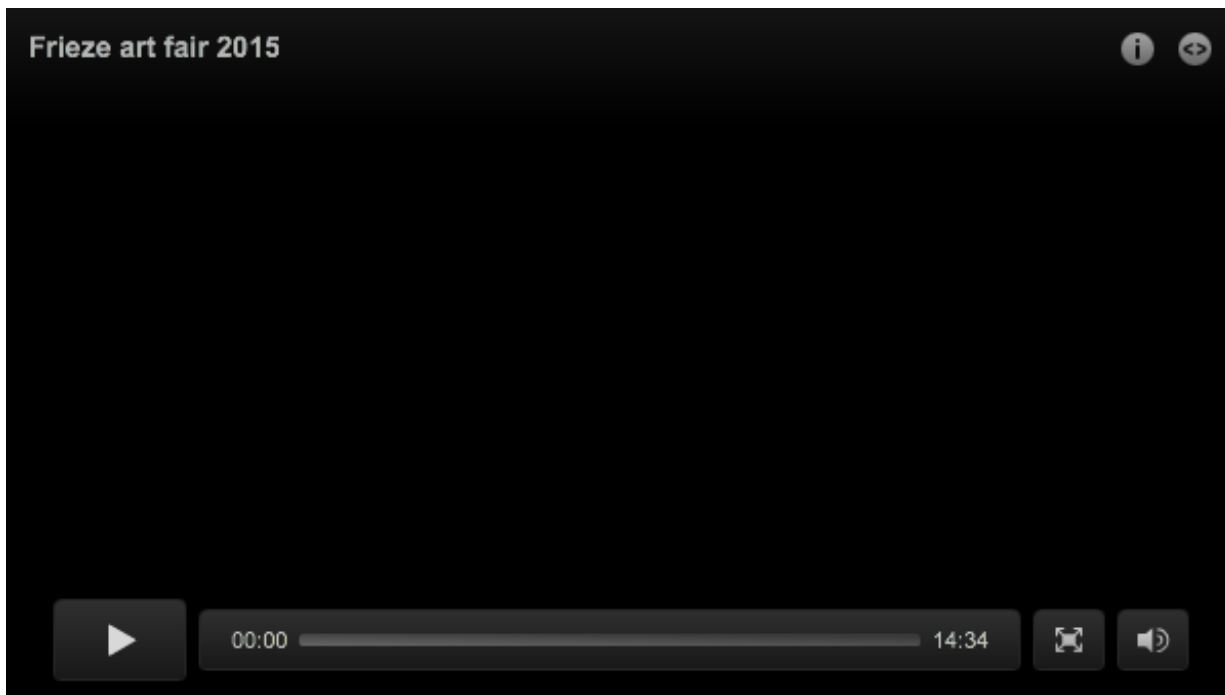
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