

Lookalikes

Thomas Meinecke's Lookalikes resemble many people (Marlon Brando, Shakira, Justin Timberlake, or Josephine Baker), but not themselves. Illusion is their capital; imitation is their business. They stroll through Düsseldorf's posh Königsallee, reading, quoting, and plagiarizing their way through the history of pop culture and philosophy, exploring Categories of Realness in parallel worlds and digital chat forums, while another Thomas wanders Brazil in disguise, tracing the journey of Hubert Fichte and his doppelgänger Jäcki. In this endless play of similarities, all identity is lost. Between literary and sexual genres, mimesis and authenticity, fiction and reality, these lookalikes only ever find the Other, just as Meinecke's text duplicates itself in the furor of allusions and reference systems, constantly branching out anew, never remaining the same, always changing these so-called original signs. A literary tour de force through the symbolic landscapes of recent cultural history. A text in which everything is as it seems and nothing is as it is.

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