

DE FACTO

by Selma Doborac



SYNOPSIS

How can cinema engage with complicity in crimes against humanity, extreme violence and state terror without conniving in it? De Facto finds answers to this question via two actors, a precisely compiled collage of texts and a deliberately reduced setting.

For her second feature-length film, director Selma Doborac turns her attention to a difficult question: How can cinema grapple with perpetrators, extreme violence and state terror without conniving with them?

DE FACTO rejects direct representation to this end, nor is it remotely interested in re-enactment, whereby real perpetrators reproduce their crimes in front of the camera. Instead, the director engages two actors, Christoph Bach and Cornelius Obonya, places them in a pavilion in a Viennese park at a table designed by artist Heimo Zobernig and has them deliver texts in long, precisely composed shots and in isolation from one another, the out-of-frame addressees of which can be inferred. Passages from verdict statements,...

Austria, Germany 2023

130 min

FORMAL CATEGORIES

Crime, Arts/Culture

ORIGINAL LANGUAGES

German

PREMIERE

Germany (2023)

WORLD SALES

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FESTIVALS

2023

Caligari Film Award – 73 BERLINALE – Forum

DIAGONALE, Graz

CROSSING EUROPE Linz

21 doclisboa

18 UNDERDOX, Munich

40 Kassel Dokfest

16 this human world – International Human Rights Film Festival

CAST AND CREW

DIRECTOR Selma Doborac · SCORE Didi Kern, Philipp

Quehenberger · SOUND Claus Benischke-Lang · DOP Klemens

Hufnagl · PROTAGONIST Christoph Bach, Cornelius Obonya