

DEAD BIRDS FLYING HIGH

by Sönje Storm



SYNOPSIS

Birds, bugs and butterflies: The collection of northern German farmer and photographer Jürgen Friedrich Mahrt (1882 -1940) is odd and a little bit uncanny. The documentary Dead Birds Flying High explores the quiet eccentric's life and work. In 1919 he began to photograph the local flora and fauna and started to observe the extinction of species.

In a northern German attic: boxes of pinned butterflies, carefully hand-coloured photographs of the local flora and fauna, hundreds of stuffed and dusty birds – Jürgen Friedrich Mahrt (1882-1940) did a great job. His collections echo a present that doesn't exist anymore. And yet all signs of an ecological crisis can be found buried in them.

Dead or alive? There is an uncanny element in Jürgen Friedrich Mahrt's photos: One can't always be sure whether the animal captured in the frame is the result of hours of waiting or just a specimen staged to look lifelike. The ripples around the duck on the pond are missing, the bird of...

FESTIVALS

2022

Golden Dove – 65 DOK Leipzig

64 Nordic Film Days Luebeck

2023

Stranger Than Fiction Dokumentarfilmfest, Germany

Filmfest Schleswig-Holstein, Germany

Achtung Berlin FF

63 KFF Krakow

30 dokumentarfilmwoche hamburg

dokKa Karlsruhe

2024

19 ÖKOFILMTOUR – Brandenburgisches Festivals des Umwelt- und Naturfilms

CAST AND CREW

Germany 2022

83 min

ORIGINAL TITLE

DIE TOTEN VÖGEL SIND OBEN

FORMAL CATEGORIES

Biographie/Portrait, History, Sustainability, Nature/Animals, Ecology/Environment, Economy

ORIGINAL LANGUAGES

German

PREMIERE

Leipzig, Germany (2022)

DISTRIBUTED BY

[RFF Real Fiction Filmverleih e.K.](#)

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FILM LOCATION

Germany

LINKS / REFERENCE

PRODUCTION

Stormfilm Produktion

stormfilmberlin@gmail.com

<https://die-toten-voegel-si...>

DISTRIBUTION Germany

RFF – Real Fiction Filmverleih e.K.

<https://www.realfictionfilm...>

TRAILER

<https://vimeo.com/761044386>

<https://www.mdr.de/kultur/k...>