



Transmediale 04: the art of hope by Gail Priest

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The Berlin festival [Transmediale] started out 17 years ago under the name Videofest, so it's not surprising that the Screening section makes up a large proportion of the event with 8 curated programs drawn from the Image entries. These are screened at specific times but also run as video-on-demand in a dedicated lounge area. Of particular interest is the re-emergence of narrative within the experimental video genre. The program Subtext Slides revelled in the trend, offering some fine examples such as Chubby Buddy by **Erika Yeomans** (US) in which a New York publisher in the midst of a mid-life crisis catches trains to the suburbs to steal stuffed toys (chubby buddies) from family houses; or 1.1 Acre Flat Screen in which a European family buys an acre of land in New Mexico on eBay and then attempts to recreate the cowboy existence. These narratives sound simple enough, however their gradual exposition and excessive attention to detail—a fetishisation of the mundane—shifts them into the surreal.