



**ART & DESIGN**

## Klaus Lutz: ‘Selected Stories’

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Art in Review

By **KEN JOHNSON**

The Swiss-born artist Klaus Lutz (1940-2009) moved to New York in 1993 and stayed to the end of his life.

Working in a small one-bedroom apartment in the East Village, he created goofy, densely layered, allegorically loaded short movies that look as if they’d been made by an experimental filmmaker in the 1920s.

In these works, which he liked to project onto large white balloons, Mr. Lutz acted the part of the protagonist, appearing as a miniature figure clad all in white, jerkily traversing terrestrial and cosmic spaces. He created all props and sets and used low-tech methods to achieve effects of hectic, dreamlike delirium, including double and triple exposures, stop-action animation, rotating turntables and various lenses.

It’s hard to figure out exactly what’s going on in the three films in this show (two projected onto balloons), but the exhibition checklist quotes Mr. Lutz’s synopsis of “Titan” (2008), in which the hero, Titan, “blows up a big balloon and travels to the Arabic Desert, where he falls into the ruins of a mosque.” After he’s nailed to rocks by a giant black figure, “a big fish rises up and gives him strength to free himself. Titan embraces the fish, and together they fly over the East River.”

The exhibition includes a 33-minute video documenting the creation of one of Mr. Lutz’s works called “The Beauty of My Island — Shooting Klaus Lutz,” by the Swiss filmmaker Frank Matter. It’s a fascinating portrait of a truly original artist.

*The Kitchen*

*512 West 19th Street, Chelsea*