

audiences of children, parents and grandparents to see how well the film functioned," Schesch recalls, pointing out that this animatic version – with characters' voices recorded by actors **Katharina Thalbach**, **Ulrich Noethen** and **Ulrich Tukur** – had also attracted distributors from Germany and France to come onboard.

Describing the positioning of this film, Schesch sees **Der Mondmann** as being "quite atypical for Germany because it isn't linked with a merchandising campaign or a long-running TV series. It is an original feature film for the cinema which will be more complex, subtle and cinematographic than *The Three Robbers*. Moreover, the figure of the man in the moon is someone every child knows."

Schesch's Berlin-based company **Schesch Filmkreation** has attracted France's *Le Pacte* as co-producer, theatrical distributor and world sales agent, while Ireland's *Cartoon Saloon*, the makers of the Oscar®-nominated *The Secret of Kells*, has boarded as a co-producer.

Concrete production based on the animatic storyboards is set to begin this autumn so **Der Mondmann** can be released in November 2011 to coincide with Ungerer's 80th birthday.

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Tenth Street, New York

Type of Project Documentary TV **Genre** Art, History **Production Company** Kunst gesehen/Munich **Producer** Caro Jost **Director** Caro Jost **Screenplay** Caro Jost **Director of Photography** Hans Albrecht Luszkat **With** Alex Katz, Philip Pearlstein, Irving Sandler, Jay Matisel and others **Format** HD, color, 16:9/1:1.78, Mono **Shooting Language** English **Shooting in** New York, May 2010

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In **Tenth Street, New York**, artist and documentary filmmaker **Caro Jost** takes viewers to the original locations at which the Abstract Expressionists were active from ca. 1940 to the beginning of the 1960s. These locations, at which art history was made, are the former studios and apartments, meeting places and bars, exhibition spaces and galleries.

Caro Jost follows in the footsteps of the artists of an era. In a mixture of walk and detective hunt, she shows what has now become of these once important places, e.g. designer lofts, a second hand shop, a business consultancy, whereas others, including entire buildings, have been replaced by skyscrapers.

The few still living witnesses provide interview testimony. The now world-famous artist **Alex Katz** (born 1927) meets his colleagues in the former rooms of a gallery where their careers first started. Peggy Guggenheim's granddaughter visits her grandmother's former gallery, today a sewing shop.

"The idea for the film came when I was working on a project about the artists of Abstract Expressionism in 2008," says Caro Jost, "and found out that some of these places still existed. They're not protected in any way and haven't been granted any official historic recognition either. In May 2010 I started preliminary filming. The title, **Tenth Street, New York**, stands symbolically for all the crucibles worldwide in which artists have come together, created something and surrendered to their calling; the continued development of art."

"Tenth Street, a street section between 3rd and 4th Avenue," Jost continues, "was in the 1950s the meeting place for many artists of the first generation of Abstract Expressionism. Directly close by were also artists' meeting places such as The Club and the Cedar Tavern. After 1953 many of the younger artists, the second generation of Abstract Expressionists, came to live and work in the Tenth Street area."

Left to their own devices, they jointly organized and ran galleries which became important exhibition spaces and also served as meeting places in which to exchange ideas and further develop their artistic positions. "In fact," says Jost, "these galleries often offered them the only possibility of exhibiting their works. I think it's essential their story be told and would welcome a co-director to further develop the project."

Abstract Expressionism was the most important current for all subsequent artistic directions of abstract painting around the world. It arose in the mid 1940s in New York; hence the representatives of Abstract Expressionism also being known as the New York School, the city itself having finally displaced Paris, and hence also Europe, to become the world center of artistic experimentalism.

Among the most important representatives of the first generation of Abstract Expressionism are Willem de Kooning, Franz Kline, Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, Ad Reinhardt, Clyfford Still, as well as Barnett Newman and Adolph Gottlieb. Paintings by some of these artists today sell for high two-figure \$million sums.

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