

Document Citation

Title	Bilder der welt und inschrift des krieges
Author(s)	Fred Lombardi
Source	<i>Variety</i>
Date	1992 Jan 06
Type	review
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Bilder der welt und inschrift des krieges (Images of the world and the inscription of war), Farocki, Harun, 1988

BILDER DER WELT UND INSCHRIFT DES KRIEGES

(IMAGES OF THE WORLD AND THE INSCRIPTION OF WAR)

(GERMAN-DOCU)

Directed, written by Haroun Farocki. Narrator, Cynthia Beatt. Reviewed at Film Forum, N.Y., Nov. 7, 1991. Running Time: 75 MIN.

This occasionally provocative docu deals with two CIA employees' analysis of aerial photographs of the Auschwitz concentration camp during World War II and in the 1970s. Pic abounds in ironies as well as questionable assertions.

Director Haroun Farocki grinds out a Godardian deluge of information on the meaning of images, adding such diverse subjects as the development of metal pressing and photo scale measurements. His examination of the photos brings out the vagaries and limitations of perception as well as political and social mechanics.

For example, in an astute analysis of a picture taken of a woman prisoner at Auschwitz, he charts the strange interplay between the subject and the Nazi photographer.

Unfortunately, not all the elements coalesce, and the narration sometimes makes shaky assertions. Farocki's film also tries to make the obvious sound like personal discovery.

Discussing the camouflage of buildings during the war, the narrator proclaims that beside the real world a world of military fiction had been created. This should come as something less than a metaphysical breakthrough to even casual students of war, since distorting the reality of a situation to the enemy has always been a prime objective.

Farocki has made several other films before and after this 1988 effort. His erudition and fluidity in making associations may work better with them than in this flawed docu. — *Fred Lombardi*