

---

## THE BOX

January 1–31, 2014

### Lucia Koch

#### *Night Fever* (2010)



Image courtesy of the artist

*Listen to the ground:  
There is movement all around.  
There is something goin' down  
And I can feel it.*

*Night Fever* by the Bee Gees

We all know that feeling of anticipation, when a kind of nervous energy takes hold and all you can think about is the magic moment of beginning. It's fitting that this month's Box video, by Brazilian artist Lucia Koch, captures that sense of anticipation and those final moments of waiting before the curtain goes up and the show begins. January is filled with anticipation for everyone at the Wexner Center, whose ambitious four-year-long research project *Via Brasil* culminates at the end of the month. On January 22, *Cruzamentos: Contemporary Brazilian Documentary* begins with three incredible films about Brazilian politics and social unrest,\* and on January 31 the public is invited to preview the exhibition *Cruzamentos: Contemporary Art in Brazil*. Together, the exhibition and film series offer an expansive view of contemporary art and culture in Brazil.

Koch's video *Night Fever* builds from a body of photographic work that she has developed over the past 15 years. In the series called *Fundos* (*backgrounds*), Koch photographs the interiors of everyday commercial boxes and containers and blows them up into enormous images, transforming these tiny spaces into immersive architectural environments. The images are cinematic, carefully lit, and cropped to highlight the unique details of the space and to create an ambience. For Koch, a pasta box, a coffee bag, or a plastic berry basket all have the potential to exist on a larger-than-life scale. By simply manipulating scale and lighting in *Night Fever*, Koch transforms an ordinary box into a dramatically evocative diorama of a dance floor.

Step outside the Box and you might see Koch or one of her assistants working on a new lobby installation that will premiere with the exhibition. In her first US museum commission, and created as part of her Wexner Center Artist Residency Award project, Koch will transform the Wex's lower lobby using a dazzling installation of mirrors. This work was inspired in part by her research into the theories and designs behind the camouflage used to disguise ships against German U-boats during World War I—a rather unusual style that was dubbed “dazzle camouflage.” The mirrors in the lobby will be strategically placed in ways that both highlight and conceal architectural details.

Koch's body of work includes photography, video, sculpture, and architectural interventions, but regardless of medium, her underlying impulse is to manipulate our perception of space. Her architectural interventions include altering skylights and windows with perforated screens, colored filters or translucent material, and the installation of large-scale photographs of three-dimensional interiors (effectively creating spaces within spaces). These acts are all intended to create a tension between interior and the exterior and to challenge the ways in which we perceive the space around us. Koch, quite literally in the case of our lobby installation, transforms the very skin of the architecture and, as a result, the ways in which we understand and inhabit it.

*Lucia Koch* (b. 1968, Porto Alegre, Brazil) has participated in exhibitions worldwide including at the biennials of Pontevedra, Spain, 2000; Mercosul, Porto Alegre, 1999 and 2005; Istanbul, 2003; Göteborg, Sweden, 2005; São Paulo, 2006; the first Biennial of the Americas in Denver, 2010; and the Aichi Triennale in Nagoya, Japan, 2010. Her solo exhibitions include *Conjunto nacional* (House of Mirrors), São Paulo, 2009; *Casa acesa* (Lit up house), La Casa Encendida, Madrid, 2008; *Correções de luz* (Light Corrections), Centro Universitário Maríantonia, São Paulo, 2007; *Matemática espontânea* (Spontaneous Mathematics), Torre Malakoff, Recife, Brazil, 2006; and *Matemática moderna* (Modern Mathematics), Casa Triângulo Gallery, São Paulo, 2005. She lives and works in São Paulo.

Jennifer Lange  
Curator, Film/Video Studio Program

\**Cruzamentos: Contemporary Brazilian Documentary* continues through April 3. For film listings please visit [wexarts.org/film-video](http://wexarts.org/film-video).

---

**Lucia Koch**  
*Night Fever* (2010)  
4 min., 40 sec.; HD video

*Via Brasil* is organized by the **Wexner Center for the Arts** and made possible by **The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation**. Lead support is provided by **Morgan Stanley**.

---

**Wexner Center for the Arts**  
The Ohio State University