

# Krobath

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Curator: Ursula Mayer  
Artists: Anja Kirschner & David Panos  
Project: The Last Days of Jack Sheppard

The film installation “The Last Days of Jack Sheppard” is based on the inferred prison encounters between the 18th century criminal Jack Sheppard and Daniel Defoe, the ghostwriter of Sheppard's 'autobiography', set in the wake of the South Sea Bubble of 1720 – Britain's first major financial crisis. Shortly after Sheppard's death his biography became a model for Macheath in “The Beggar’s Opera” that, in turn, Bertold Brecht adapted in his “Three Penny Opera”.

A “critical costume drama” constructed from a patchwork of historical, literary, and popular sources, the film's fragmented narrative structure explores the connections between representation, speculation and the discourses of high and low culture that emerged in the early 18th century and remain relevant to the present day.

“The Last Days of Jack Sheppard” is presented within an installation fabricated from elements of the original set and a display of archival material including prints and popular cultural artifacts relating to Jack Sheppard. This laying bare of the film's structural elements plays on the notion of the 'historical construct' and provides clues to the interpretation of the many references contained within the film.

**Ursula Mayer, born in Ried im Innkreis, Upper Austria in 1970; lives and works in London. In her work with the medium film she questions conventions such as temporal linearity and cinematic narrative. Was awarded the Otto Mauer Prize in 2007. Recent individual shows include Frame (2009) at the Frieze Art Fair in London, Ellipse in Time (2009) at the Hamburg Kunstverein, Whitechapel Gallery in London (2009), Nought to Sixty (2008) at the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London, and The Crystals of Time (2007) at the Lentos Kunstmuseum in Linz. Participated in numerous international group exhibitions, such as at the Bonniers Konsthall in Stockholm, the Basel Kunsthalle, the P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center in New York, the Tirana International Contemporary Art Biennale, the Estuaire Biennale in Nantes, and the Athens Biennale.**

**Anja Kirschner (b.1977, Munich) and David Panos (b.1971, Athens) live and work in London. "The Last Days of Jack Sheppard" (2009) was commissioned and produced by Chisenhale Gallery, London and Centre for Contemporary Arts, Glasgow. It has also been exhibited at Badischer Kunstverein, Karlsruhe, Marres Centre for Contemporary Culture, Maastricht and Konsthall C, Stockholm.**