

ARTHEMIS

Is pleased to present a roundtable on Michael Cowan's book
Walter Ruttmann and the Cinema of Multiplicity

With the participation of
**Michael Cowan, Malte Hagener and
Haidee Wasson**

September 11th, 17h15

EV 6,720

1515^{ste}-CatherineW.

The name Walter Ruttmann recalls enthralling and controversial contexts. A pioneer of experimental film, whose *Berlin: Symphony of a Great City* is still seen as the quintessential urban documentary of the 1920s, Ruttmann also worked extensively in advertising and other commissioned film genres throughout the 1920s and 30s. The first monograph on Ruttmann in English, Cowan's study examines this broader body of films and their institutional contexts, detailing the ideological and aesthetic shifts between Ruttmann's experimental animation, montage works and later propaganda. In the process, it attempts to rethink our understanding of early experimental film and its relation to "useful" cinema. The roundtable will be preceded by a screening of rare short films.

Member of ARTHEMIS, Michael Cowan is Associate Professor, at the Department of German Studies and Program in World Cinemas at McGill University where he also co-directs the Moving Image Research Laboratory (MIRL).

Malte Hagener is professor for the history, aesthetics, and theory of film at Philipps-Universität Marburg. Founding member of NECS (European Network for Cinema and Media Studies), he is editor of *NECSUS* – European Journal of Media Studies and chairman of the German association for media studies (GfM – Gesellschaft für Medienwissenschaft).

Member of ARTHEMIS, Haidee Wasson is Associate Professor at the Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema, Concordia University. Her published work concentrates on cinema, but explores the broader relations among media forms and practices (cinema and newspapers, books, radio, film, television, internet). Among many books, she co-edited (with Dr. Charles Acland) the award-winning *Useful Cinema* (Duke UP, 2011), a book about cinema beyond the movie theater.

