

Waiting Room. A Short Essay Film

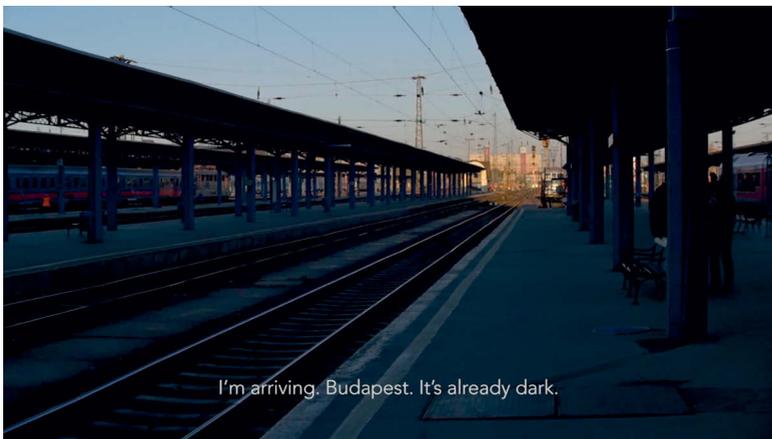
Tuna Kaptan / Mate Ugrin



Waiting room is a short essay film dealing with the recent European migrant crisis. The inadequate reactions from Europe's leading countries had irreversible repercussions upon the lives of many refugees. The aim of the film is to depict the condition of transit by reconstructing an experience of a Syrian immigrant unable to continue his journey.

The protagonist of the film, a thirty-three year old photo journalist from Damascus, confronts us with a fragmented story from the Keleti station in Budapest, while on his way to Germany. His narration is combined with recent clips from the station which are characterised by rich colours and suggestive chiaroscuro, trying to depict the distorted perception of time of the

protagonist. By using long static shots of people passing by in slow-motion the film comments travel as a form of privilege.



While as a tourist we mostly feel welcome and appreciated, the situation with migrants is radically different. During the most recent migration crisis the Keleti station becomes the real and symbolical place of collapsing of values like humanism and solidarity which are replaced by outbursts of violence and xenophobia. The shots of the station do not expose us to the moments when Keleti was resembling an immigration camp, which gives us space to reflect upon something that was considered unimaginable to happen in Europe. The protagonist evokes his own traumatic and tiring migration experience of being in transit in a hostile environment, the tedious feeling of anxiety is almost palpable.



Link to the film:

<https://vimeo.com/260457280>

password: waiting

