

21.F056 Visual Histories: German Cinema 1945 - Present

Meeting: October 2, 2003

Film: Percy Adlon, Bagdad Café, 1988

1. brief presentation by Marketa
2. Readings for next week
3. Discussion of film:
In the absence of narrative tension and dramatic unfolding of a story,
what makes “Bagdad Café” worthwhile seeing
A film can be “read” as
 - A historical document
 - A semiotic systems of signs (aesthetic construction and function)
 - A part of series of related films (intertextual functions)
 - A part of social praxis (political function)

Analyze in groups:

Variations of Leitmotifs

The aura of objects

The aura of nature

The use of music

Cinematography in the film

Utopian themes in the film