



GERMAN
SHORT
FILMS



VOL » 3

EMERGING ARTISTS

CONTEMPORARY EXPERIMENTAL FILMS AND VIDEO ART FROM GERMANY

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WARNING: This film contains flashing lights or patterns which may trigger epileptic seizures.

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PRELUDE: CLOSE ALLIANCE

For the third time the German Short Film Association puts together a compilation of emerging artists. As the subtitle indicates, it is supposed to highlight contemporary experimental films and video art from Germany.

It is remarkable that film and video art can be brought together in one compilation - two worlds which seemed to fundamentally exclude each other until recently; two contrasted audiences were targeted, two different approaches to production were pursued.

But this compilation is symptomatic of a recent development in the moving image industry. In the last years the borders between cinema and art world have melted away. Film festivals all over the world but also the art markets show that filmmakers and artists are seeking solidarity.

Eventually the terms we use now - experimental film, short film, artists' film, video art, time based media art - will perhaps become irrelevant. Yet, it is crucial to acknowledge that young artists also have something to say, making a significant contribution to the current discourse. Because only through real innovations and new inputs something shall develop.

In this sense it is very exciting to present the emerging artists that were selected this year. Marlene Denningmann, Aleksandar Radan, Lotte Meret, Patrick Buhr, Vanessa Nica Mueller, Ines Christine and Kirsten Carina Geißer, NEOZON and Rainer Kohlberger - these are names we certainly will encounter more often in the coming years.

Olaf Stüber

Olaf Stüber is the initiator and curator of Videoart at Midnight, an artists' cinema project in Berlin, which he runs with the collector Ivo Wessel. He is also the publisher of Videoart at Midnight Edition, lecturer and art adviser.



WUNSCHKONZERT

12:47 | Germany 2016 | experimental fiction | German dialogue | English subtitles

director Marlene Denningmann

producer Marlene Denningmann

screenwriter Marlene Denningmann

editor Marlene Denningmann

director of photography Julia Lohmann

cast Lina Krüger, Laura Schuller, Wieland Schönfelder

sound Patrick Dadaczynski

sounddesign Ole Sünderhauf

colour design Tim Liebe

orchestra Spielmanns- und Fanfarenzug
Hahn-Nethen

synopsis

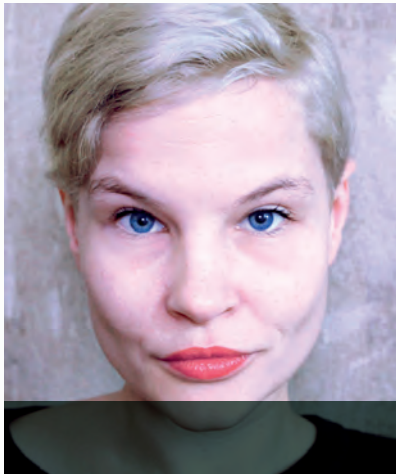
A collective is a social entity, whose voluntarily organizing members are connected by joint action. In this definition the term "harmony" refers to harmonizing sounds. The syllables are separated as follows: a society in which every individual can make their dreams come true by performance and competition.

bio Marlene Denningmann is a filmmaker and video artist based in Hamburg and Berlin. She is a co-founder of VETO Film.

about "Marlene Denningmann's work shifts between avant-garde feature film and video art. The narrative and performative elements of her work generate strong emotions, offering a precise analysis of contemporaneity while continuing to surprise in their conceptual and formal language. Through an interplay of familiarity and alienation Denningmann recreates reality as variable experience."

(Susanne Weirich)

"Denningmann does not indulge in illusions, but yet in hope." *(Olaf Möller)*



Marlene Denningmann

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IN BETWEEN IDENTITIES

8:50 | Germany 2015 | experimental documentary | colour | no dialogue

director Aleksandar Radan

producer Aleksandar Radan

screenwriter Aleksandar Radan

editor Aleksandar Radan

director of photography Aleksandar Radan

cast Aleksandar Radan

production designer Aleksandar Radan

music Aleksandar Radan

sound Aleksandar Radan

synopsis Somehow voyeuristic we observe in the film pawns in a virtual world, which are choreographed and directed by the filmmaker. We are part of the game of his own and the simulated identity. In these strange moments we explore innermost desires and curiosities, which we would never know otherwise.

bio Aleksandar Radan was born in 1988. He is studying Fine Arts at the Offenbach University of Art and Design since 2010. His works include experimental film/video, installation and performance.

about The computer game itself provides a wonderful space of possibilities. It is a clearly structured application, which, however, in use can provide surprisingly intuitive moments again and again. Within this limited, programmed environment a new freedom of expression is created, outside of otherwise lived realities. With the short film IN BETWEEN IDENTITIES Aleksandar Radan has created a own language to tell virtual or animated characters. We are watching the figures in the diffuse zone between the player's identity and the identity of the played character which are crossing this simulated space of possibilities.



Aleksandar Radan

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SURFACE GLAZE

8:00 | Germany 2015 | experimental | no dialogue

director Lotte Meret Effinger

editor Hauke Kleinschmidt

director of photography Melanie Jilg

production designer Lotte Meret Effinger

music Florian Meyer

sound Florian Meyer

synopsis The video work SURFACE GLAZE deals with the dissolution of human bodies and their occupation by prostheses and parasites.

For this purpose an aesthetic is used which links to consumer - and advertising industry: Extreme close and slow-motion shots unite fungal, blemishes and scale skin, hair, mouths and eyes to an indefinable new monstrous body. By exploiting the technology of consumer industry values as uniqueness and Individuality become immanent. The commercial imagery is appropriated and reinterpreted that makes SURFACE GLAZE so seductive as it is disturbing.

bio Lotte Meret Effinger graduated from the Karlsruhe University of Art and Design in 2014. Since then, she showed her work in different institutions among others at the Berlin Art Prize, Videonale16., Cairotronica, Kunsthalle Basel, Art Nova 100 in Beijing, Kunsthalle in Baden-Baden, Arsenale in Venice, Biennale Brno, ZKM/Museum of Contemporary Art in Karlsruhe. Her work has been acquired by Lafayette Anticipation, Paris Fonds de dotation Famille Moulin and the Kunst-kredit Basel-Stadt.

artist's statement A fundamental interest of mine is to articulate the confluence of the individual, society and economy. Therefore, historic paradigm shifts of symbolic order, transformations of political movements and identity – crisis in general, consistently draw my attention. I work with an aesthetic that, on the one hand, fascinates and technically challenges me, and on the other hand, serves my analytical and critical discoveries. This is a strategy to highlight the effectiveness of power structures and hierarchies in the social space.



© Robert Hamacher

Lotte Meret Effinger

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SOMETHING ABOUT SILENCE

12:22 | Germany 2015 | animation | colour | English, Korean dialogue | English subtitles

director Patrick Buhr

screenwriter Patrick Buhr

editor Patrick Buhr

director of photography Patrick Buhr

voice over Erik Hansen

performance Vanja Smiljanic, Sina Seifee, Matthias Conrady, Lia Sudermann

music Marvin Horsch, Donghee Nam, Jonathan Kastl

sound Jonathan Kastl

animation Patrick Buhr

producer Kunsthochschule für Medien Köln

synopsis "You are here, because you are boring.

Let the audio-visual experience sink into your subconscious in order to become more exciting and fashionable."

bio Patrick Buhr is a media artist and animation freelancer based in Cologne; his work revolves around fragmented narration, ambivalent identities and contemplative association in animated short films

artist's statement My films are about fictional characters that struggle to construct or reassure their identities through fragments of narration, associations, metaphors and idiosyncratic digressions. SOMETHING ABOUT SILENCE deals with self-help culture, unprofessional hypnosis tutorials, the identity labour involved in living up to capitalistic “non-boring” standards and the negative consequences this might have on everyday relationships that not always conform to the carefully crafted self-image.



Patrick Buhr

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PLATEAU

12:43 | Germany 2015 | experimental | no dialogue

director Vanessa Nica Mueller

editor Vanessa Nica Mueller

director of photography Bernd Meiners,
Vanessa Nica Mueller

screenwriter Vanessa Nica Mueller

sound Nika Breithaupt

sound design Nika Breithaupt

cast Thelma Buabeng, Michael Klammer,
Mateja Meded

production designer Rena Donsbach

producer Ingmar Boeschen, Vanessa Nica Mueller

synopsis One seems lost in an empty, abandoned urban scenario. Two find a place of shelter in a provisional room. PLATEAU is about a dystopian alienation, an isolation which, arising from the inner world of the protagonists, has inscribed itself in the exterior world. The locations chosen for PLATEAU were so-called shrinking cities in Germany.

bio Vanessa Nica Mueller works in Hamburg as a media artist and filmmaker. She is born in Munich as human and cosmopolitan. She studied film and timebased media at the University of Fine Arts Hamburg and at the Bezalel Art Academy in Jerusalem.

artist's statement In her films and video art Vanessa Nica Mueller reflects the layers of our memory, the human in relation to encircling spaces and architecture, the uncanny and the cinematographic re-construction of inner conditions or emotions. She is focused on essayistic and associative narrative structures and combines documentary and poetic approach. Beside her last art films TRACES OF AN ELEPHANT (2011), HALBE NACHT (2012) and PLATEAU (2015) she realized some installations, for example MEMORY CRIME (2015). Concerning PLATEAU, finding the outside locations was an important part in the process of the film. The location research was focused on urban living areas with real problems of vacantness, mostly former industrial regions.



Vanessa Nica Mueller

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LUCKY

11:00 | Germany 2015 | animation | no dialogue

director Ines Christine Geißer, Kirsten Carina Geißer

producer Ines Christine Geißer

screenwriter Kirsten Carina Geißer,

Ines Christine Geißer

editor Ines Christine Geißer

director of photography Kirsten Carina Geißer,

Ines Christine Geißer

music Michael Jason Parker Beckett, Jan Kristian Fuchs

sound FUCHS & BECKETT

animation Kirsten Carina Geißer,

Ines Christine Geißer, Michel Esselbrügge

special effects Jan Kristian Fuchs

synopsis LUCKY is looking for happiness. This animated short is questioning our search as well as its aim: What does luck mean for the individual? Is failure the only possibility?

bio Ines Christine Geißer: Born 1982 in Naila, Germany; studied Comic and Animation at the School of Art and Design Kassel and graduated in animation in 2013; she then became a master student of Prof. Martina Bramkamp; Kirsten Carina Geißer: Born 1986 in Naila, Germany; she studied Fine Arts at the Burg Giebichenstein University of Art and Design in Halle/Saale; LUCKY is her diploma film

about "The film focuses on the pursuit of happiness. Failure and desire play a part, and the sweet smell of childhood lingers in the air, but it has lost some of its romance. The idea that this film is maybe not about horses at all suggests itself quickly. These precious friends are simply well-suited for being protagonists as their image is not yet as worn as Mickey Mouse and Bugs Bunny and they are still complex in terms of content.

The horses trot and gallop across the screen and even drink at the bar. These horses are not happy, maybe for one exception. Loss follows great success, love is only answered by a painful lack of understanding, Black Beauty turns into Broken Beauty. This film does not play in Wendy-mode and neither serves the romance of horse loving teenagers."

(Prof. Jens Gussek)



Ines Christine Geißer, Kirsten Carina Geißer

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MY BBY 8L3W

3:30 | France/Germany 2014 | experimental | English dialogue

director Art Collective NEOZODN

synopsis A thirty track installation about women who present their pets on the internet. They declare all their love of their pedigree dogs and cats.

bio NEOZOOM is a female art collective founded 2009 in Berlin and Paris.

artist's statement NEOZOOM's work focuses on the relationship between animals and humans, and how modern societies deal with both – dead and living animals. Neozoom actions take place in public spaces: city streets, public institutions and the web. Their artistic mediums range from collage to installations and film. Recycling found footage is also a recurring element in their work, where the group often employs amateur videos from YouTube. Amongst others their work has been shown at the Centre Pompidou in Paris, the HKW in Berlin, the Internationale Kurzfilmtage in Oberhausen, the ZKM in Karlsruhe and at the IFFR in Rotterdam.



Art Collective NEOZOOM

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MOON BLINK

10:00 | Austria, Germany 2015 | animation | no dialogue

director Rainer Kohlberger
producer Rainer Kohlberger
screenwriter Rainer Kohlberger
editor Rainer Kohlberger
sound Rainer Kohlberger
animation Rainer Kohlberger

synopsis MOON BLINK was entirely generated by complex software, no camera was used. The result of this formal method is an abstract digital artwork that not only manages to convince thanks to its mathematical precision, but primarily also due to its incredible beauty and surprising narrative structure.

bio Rainer Kohlberger is an Austrian born freelance visual artist / film maker living in Berlin.

artist's statement My work is based on algorithmically composed sounds and images with reductionistic aesthetics influenced by flatness, drones and interference. Within there lies a layer of noise, that fascinates me as a sense of the infinite, which is both the ultimate abstraction and inveterately fuzzy. I use the possibilities that the present, digital projection technology offers in a radical way to provide the audience with powerful physical and metaphysical experiences. Image surface and image space meld into one (consciousness-)state, in which categories such as being and non-being, material and immaterial appear obsolete.



Rainer Kohlberger

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PROGRAM AVAILABLE
FOR FESTIVAL AND
ART GALLERY SCREENINGS.
CONTACT US!

For the third time the AG Kurzfilm – German Short Film Association and German Films compiled a program, dedicated to the young experimental film and video art from Germany. “Emerging Artists” wants to support experimental, highly artistic works that can not only be seen at film festivals but also in museums or galleries. This curated program is available for screenings in various formats. There is also the possibility to invite filmmakers for presenting the program. Please contact us for booking and details.

We thank the jury who selected the seven works for the second edition of “Emerging Artists” from more than 120 submissions – Giovanna Thiery (Stuttgarter Filmwinter - Festival for Expanded Media), Insa Wiese (International Short Film Week Regensburg), Alfred Rotert (European Media Art Festival), and Gerhard Wissner (Kassel Documentary Film and Video Festival).

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