

Women Directors Cut – 13 : 13 : 13
13 films – 13 directors – 13 countries
curated by Wilfried Agricola de Cologne

compilation – duration ca 43 min

Selected artists

01. Misstar by Rahel Maher (Australia):	2:00, 2003
02. Happy Days by Larissa Sansour (Palestine)	3:40, 2004
03. Music in Cake by Unnur A. Einarsdottir (Iceland)	3:00, 2004
04. Warning: Women by Oksana Shatalova/Alla Girik (Kazakhstan)	3:12, 2006
05. In My Body by Beatrice Allegranti (UK)	4:00, 2005
06. Snow-white and red like a rose by Ina Loitzl (Austria)	5:00, 2005
07. Front by Johanna Reich (Germany)	2:00, 2005
08. Headphones by Letitia El Halli Obeid (Argentina)	2:33, 2001
09. Habit by Margarida Paiva (Portugal)	5:50, 2005
10. My Way by Sonja VUK (Croatia)	1:00, 2006
11. Inner Dialogue by Clare Ultimo (USA)	3:36, 2004
12 The Wall by Nancy Atakan (Turkey)	1:40, 2005
13. Prostituto/ta by Silvia Cacciatori Filloy (Uruguay)	4:40 2005

1.

Rahel Maher (Australia)

Rahel Maher has produced documentaries for both radio and film. She has worked as a radio journalist, trainer and project manager in community radio in Australia for many years and she also writes. In 2002 she studied Documentary Film and Television at the Victorian College of the Arts, in Melbourne. Her work covers many social and political subjects, and often explores the themes of identity and survival.

Title: **Misstar**

Year of Production: 2002, Length: 2 minutes, Format: Digital Video

In its simplest form, Misstar is film about a woman who dresses up as a man. This process appears to entirely change her identity but this film presents the question: what is her real identity? Perhaps people have many gender identities and it is about exploring ways to express them. Misstar is a short documentary exploring personal identity and one person's experiment with her own.

This film involves two characters: Lee and Misstar (Lee's drag persona). Misstar has many characters but this film presents just one of them: Johnny Gash. On many Friday nights Lee performs as a singing man in a Drag King shows. It's entertaining for the people who go to watch; often amusing, sometimes confronting. But for Lee it is about exploring and fulfilling an identity that she feels doesn't always breathe easily in her life daily life. Dressing up in drag allows her to find expression for a personal urge that materialises as both a committed performer and a convincing male personality.

This film presents the relationship between Lee and Misstar as a transition in gender identity. It traces Lee's process of dressing up as Johnny Gash and the actual preparation for performing in drag that night. So, we watch her dressing up physically and psyching up mentally to leave the private persona Lee for a while and become publicly recognisable Johnny Gash.

Lee's insightful descriptions of her identity offer a great commentary to the visual representation of the physical process of transition. We catch a glimpse of the dreams and the tradition that motivated and inspired Lee to create Misstar. And ultimately we observe Lee reveal in who she is and what she does.

2. Larissa Sansour

Born in Jerusalem 1973, Larissa Sansour studied Fine Art in Copenhagen, London and New York, and graduated with a master's degree in Fine Art from New York University.

Her work is interdisciplinary, immersed in the current political dialogue and utilizes video art, digital photography, experimental documentary as well as the internet.

Sansour's work has been exhibited worldwide in galleries, museums as well as film festivals. Her most notable upcoming shows include the Tate Modern in London, UK, in May and the National Museum of Queen Sofia in Madrid, Spain, in September 2007.

Besides videos, she has recently been commissioned to create a mega-billboard for the Images of the Middle East festival that took place in Copenhagen, Denmark, in the summer of 2006.

She has also helped in the curatorial process of the exhibition Coding:De-Coding last September for the Nikolaj Contemporary Art Gallery in Copenhagen, Denmark. She is currently co-curating the Mid East Screen festival that will take place this year in Denmark and Modca in 2009.

Sansour's work is presented in multiple venues ranging from the Debalie annual web fest of Genius Minds in The Netherlands, the Culturebase net to lectures at the Copenhagen University.

In addition, she works on productions for the independently run artists' channel TV-TV in Copenhagen.

Sansour is currently an International board member at the new concept educational school Chaos Pilots where she also contributes with her writing on arts, politics and education.

She lives and works in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Work title:

Happy Days

2004, 3:40

3.

Unnur A. Einarsdottir (Iceland)

Born in Reyjavik, Iceland 1981. Graduated from the Icelandic Academy of the Arts 2005, with a B.A. degree in Fine arts.

→

Performance in Smáralind on the international Buy noting day (2001).

"The death war", a co-exhibition with Kristín Eiríksdóttir in Gallery nema hvað (Reykjavík, 2003). -

"A certain turbulence" , performance festival in the Reykjavík Museum of Art (2003).

"Manzanilla Rooms, Sesión de audio y video" , video festival of the Manzanilla art group in Mau mau underground (Barcelona, april 2004).

"Manzanilla Rooms, Sesión de audio y video", video festival of the Manzanilla art group in Mau mau underground (Barcelona, August, 2004).

"Dagskrá", co- exhibition with Icelandic artists, Gallerie Pulic (Paris 2004).

"Útskriftarsýning Listaháskóla Íslands", Kjarvalsstaðir, Reykjavík (2005).

"Grassroad", annual exhibition with young Icelandic artists, Living arts museum (Reykjavík 2005).

"Garnival", exhibition in association with Reykjavík Culture Night (Reykjavík 2005).

"Islandia", exhibition including artists, musicians and designers, KBB- Kultur Buro Barcelona, (Barcelona 2006)

"Apocalypse Lauw", Short film exhibition, Worm,(Rotterdam, 2006)

"Sound and Vision from Reykjavík, Iceland, The Tank, (New York, 2006)

Title Music in Cake

2005, 3:23

A young girl is sitting by a table. On the table is a pink and white cake and after a few seconds, little white mice come peaking out of the cake. A closeup shows that the girl is slowly pushing a small hook out of her mouth until it´s hanging from her mouth on a string covered in blood. With the hook hanging out from her mouth, she watches the mice run around on the table until she suddenly pulls one of them up by the tail and brings it to her mouth.

4.

Alla Girik (born in 1965, died 2006) and **Oksana Shatalova** (born in 1972) live in Rudny (Kazakhstan). They work in video, photo and installation.

Projects and exhibitions (selected)

1997–2001: issuing Literature and Art Magazine "Pygmalion" (Rudny).

October 2004: International Festival "Videoidentity: The Sacred Places of Central Asia" (Almaty, Kazakhstan).

June 2005: took part in video program "Art from Central Asia: a contemporary archive" under the Central Asia Pavilion of the 51st Venice Biennale.

September 2005: the event "Capturing Utopia" (Fournos, Center for Digital Culture, Athens, Greece)

October 2005: 2nd Bishkek international exhibition of contemporary art "In the Shadow of Heroes" (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan).

November 2005: VAD International Festival of Video and Digital Arts of Girona (Spain).

January 2006: SWGC Art Gallery's Contemporary Film & Video Festival (Corner Brook, NL, Canada)

Works title:

Title: **Warning! Women**

year of production : 2005, duration: 3 min. 12 sec

In non-modernized patriarchal societies (they are still the majority of humanity) the role of cultural organizing force, "intellect" and "consciousness" is traditionally given to male.

A woman symbolizes the power of the Unconscious, intuition, chaos. It's a kind of some impersonal force. She is dangerous like the nature (= threat of disaster).

The trilogy "Warning: Woman!" is a Rabelaisian illustration for ideas on woman as a "corporal bottom". It's an ironic illustration of feminophobia; an illustration of archaic myth (about "vagina dentata"). Woman here is represented as a brutal (though funny) monster that always can deprive a male of his phallic regalia.

5.

Beatrice Allegranti (UK) -

is a performer/choreographer/director from UK.. Her interdisciplinary work during the past decade includes performance for dance. She creates autobiographical solo work where she can express her own sexual identity and sense of gender through words and movement.

Title: **IN MY BODY**, video 2005, 4 min is a site-specific autobiographical solo film which explores the sensations and emotions of a woman in the nascent stages of re-constructing her identity following the death of her mother.

6.

Ina Loitzl (Austria)

Born in Klagenfurth/Austria, Ina Loitzl studied visual media at the Mozarteum Academy at Salzburg/Austria and moved then to Vienna in order to continue these studies at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. She participates in many exhibition in Austria and abroad.

Snow-white and red like a rose

Trick animation video with sound / 5' / 2005

Regularly "SNOW - WHITE" becomes "ROSE - RED"

Takes of her clean appearance

Goes wild, blooming and pulsating

To return again into white silence

This metamorphosis colours the red juice blue

Blood can not be denied

ALARM!!!

Womens' tears clean their "unsanitary mons veneris"

Marias' concentration on her body fluids

Made her think of a simple analogy

With the blood of her own son!

Which sanguine is now allowed to be drunk,

which blood is worth to be shed?

Oh, don't wish for a woman with no abdomen!

Could she serve better with a missing genital?

Clean, safe, marias' mouth can only swear....

The critical days are "my days"

Activity can be gained with injections or pills

The end is the absence of menorrhoea

But this hide - and - seek can take revenge

With bouts of the vagina

Because tampons can only stop, plug and tame

The juice floating with relish

7.

Johanna Reich

Lives and works in Barcelona, Spain and Cologne, Germany.

1977 born in Minden, Westfalen; Germany

1999 student at the Academy of Fine Arts Muenster
(Kunstakademie Muenster)

2001 student of Guillaume Bijl and Andreas Köpnick

2003 since Oktober 2003 student at the Academy of Fine Arts in Hamburg (Gerd Roscher und Wim Wenders) Meisterschülerin

Work title:

Front

2005, 2:00

A young woman during her fight against the camera, against the observer.

I made a short experimental video called "front" (frontal attack) to portrait myself as a young artist also referring to the situation of bethlehem.

Beeing an artist for me it seems to be both: developing things that surprise your environment and to be surprised by the environment thats surrounding.

Bethlem is a place full of incredible stories, different point of views, freedom and fear, things that have astonished me.

The name "bethlehem" makes me think of the essential things concerning human life - as a symbol of peace but nevertheless it is already a place of danger and fight, revealing another part of the human nature . With my short video I want to reflect myself beeing a young artist, living in this world of media presence, that sometimes scares me, sometimes I would like to fight, sometimes I want to surprise the environment that surrounds me. But the fight indeed is always a lost one and not the solution...

8.

Leticia El Halli Obeid (Argentina)

Born in Córdoba, Argentina, in 1975. Studied Fine Arts at the National University of Córdoba (1995–2001). Invited as an artist in residence at Atlantic Center for the Arts in september 2001, by with Paul Miller a.k.a. Dj Spooky. Works mainly in video ever since. In year 2003 received a grant of Foundation Antorchas to develop a project in video with the advice of video-artist Gastón Duprat and Regisseur Lucrecia Martel. In December 2003 her video “To write, to read, to listen” received a mention in the contest “Premio Limbo-mamba”, organized by the Museum of Modern Art of Buenos Aires. In 2006 was selected to participate as finalist at the Prize Petrobrás-Arteba, with a subsidy to make an experimental documentary film which was showed at the International ArtFair. Her work has been exhibited at local shows, and out of Argentina in FAC (Fundación arte contemporáneo) Montevideo, Uruguay; KO videofestival, Durban, SouthAfrica; Centro Cultural de España, Lima, Perú; Zemos98 Festival, Sevilla, Spain, etc. Lives and works in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Title:

headphones

2001, 2:33 min

This piece was made with fragments of songs sung by a series of persons who were invited to pick a favourite song and sing it while they heard it through headphones. The point was that the volume had to be high enough so that they wouldn't hear their own voices. Thus, by loosing control of the result they are doing a sort of translation but, as it happens usually, the singer keeps a sort of illusion about his/her own voice: the sound that they are hearing replaces the real one and works as a sort of mask, giving them the feeling that they are singing like their loved solist or band.

9.

Margarida Paiva

Margarida Paiva, born in 17.05.1975 in Coimbra, Portugal, is a young artist living and working in Oslo. She received her 5-year degree in plastic arts and sculpture at the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Porto in 2000. During her studies she has been one-year guest student with a Erasmus grant at the Trondheim Academy of Fine Arts in Norway where she started to work with video and photo. In 2007, she finished her Master of Fine Arts the Oslo Academy of Fine Arts.

Paiva has been exhibiting regularly in Portugal and Norway, and participating in international video festivals since 2000. Her video works are based on fragmented stories that explore inner states of mind resembling dreams and memories. Melancholy, loneliness and fear are subjects that always remain in these works and are expressed through poetic imagery.

Work title:

Habit

2005, 5:56

Narrative placed in an imaginary space and time, in which a female character experiences the same dream several times.

10.

Sonja Vuk

Born and living in Croatia. Finished Academy of Fine Arts in Zagreb, Croatia; Academy of Fine Arts and Art Education in Tilburg, The Netherlands (graduate and post-graduate study); Filmmaking course, Documentary film course and film-editing course at Cinema Club and Film Association in Zagreb, Croatia.

Exhibited at more than fifty solo and group shows in Croatia, Hungary, Austria, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Estonia, USA, UK, Sweden, The Netherlands at places like Museum of Contemporary Art, Croatia; White Columns, New York, USA; Flint Institute, Michigan, USA; International Museum of Women, San Francisco, USA; Akureyri Art Museum, Iceland; etc. Leading art workshops with children and students at Museum of Contemporary Art Zagreb and teaching at Secondary Art School.

Works in collections at Institute of Contemporary Art, Dunaujvaros, Hungary; International Museum of Women, San Francisco, USA and Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Rijeka, Croatia.

Title:

«MY WAY»

2006, 1:00

The title and initial idea comes from furious Sid Vicious' performance of the song «My Way». Specific spiteful way of singing evokes track of rebellion but yet lack of strength to change anything. It, usually, happens in everyday life.

Everything depends on how and where we are raised, conscious and unconscious consequences of our education, political climate, tradition, religion, social and historical context, family relations... What we were, what we wanted to be and what we became...

Further, how we deal with our inhibitions, with more or less success and failures in life, the way we choose, way which was imposed by context of life...

My generation in Croatia grown up as good Tito's pioneers. The word and the meaning of the word we have learned during initiation at the first day of elementary school.

Every letter meant affirmative word:

P - being honest, I - sincere, O - daring, N - imperturbable, L - truthloving, R - diligent.

That was optimistic time of our childhood when was expected to follow these ideals. Also, we had dreams about future, about what we want to be, what we want to do...

But, personal stories destroy common ideals from the childhood. We, often, turn into opposites not even knowing how and when it happened. Although, we struggle sometimes but often can't struggle enough against our determinate way.

11.

Clair Ultimo

is an interdisciplinary artist who lives and works in NYC. She is currently an MFA candidate enrolled in the Hunter College Interdisciplinary Media Arts program.

Ultimo began an award-winning design studio in Manhattan in 1986, and has created Poetry Dog Tags and Friendship Tags, (wearable poetry) published by Chronicle Books.

She has shown her work at the Ward Nasse Gallery and the Judson Memorial Church in NYC as well as the Eyedrum Gallery in Atlanta.

Work title:

Inner Dialogue

2004 (3:36)

Inner Dialogue is an experiment in personal response, made public. This was done as an in-camera edit and the dialogue is a internal question and answer session, that mainly deals with the questions of accountability and belief systems.

I listened and responded visually on camera to a series of metaphysical styled questions that brought me to an uncomfortable realisation at the conclusion.

12.

Nancy Atakan

Born in the United States, Nancy Atakan has lived and worked in Istanbul since 1969. In 1995 she received her Ph.d in art history from Mimar Sinan University in Istanbul. Between 1996 and 2002 she taught twentieth century art history at Bosphorus University. In 1998 Yapı Kredi Bank Publishers printed her book entitled Arayışlar (Searching for Alternatives to Painting and Sculpture). Since 2001 she is participating in numerous international media art exhibitions and had three solo shows.

Work Title:

The Wall

2004, 1:40

13.

Silvia Cacciatori Filloy

She was born in Montevideo, Uruguay, in 1962. Graduated in Visual Arts in the School of Fine Arts in the National University of Uruguay. She works in multimedia since 1996 and her interest is in genre themes, discrimination and violence. She has participated in several festivals around the world.

Film Title:

Prostituto, ta. 2005, 4:40

Prostituto,ta. is the thesis with which I graduate of the school of Fine Arts. It is an investigation on the Spanish language in that I looked in the dictionary for all the prostitute's synonymous ones. The animation of 104 words develops on the front of the building of the Royal Real Academy. The language reflects the system of collective thought, and across it they transmit values. From the language there is defined not only the form of utilization of the words but also it is where rule, it legitimizes and judges, across the concepts and adjective that they define to the words. In Prostituto, ta show some of the actors who from different places have legitimized - and they continue doing it-, supported and sentenced to the prostitute, already be from the religion, from the philosophy, from the art. The history has been created for males, for this motive, they are the principal actors in this animation. In the closing of the animation, the credits present one more controversy about the definition of prostitute: "woman of art", that´s I am!

About VideoChannel

VideoChannel is the video project environment in the framework of [NewMediaArtNetwork]||:cologne, (The Network) the experimental platform for art and New Media operating from Cologne, Germany.

VideoChannel chief curated and directed by Wilfried Agricola de Cologne, who is also the founder of The Network, is dealing thematically basically with the aspects of “memory and identity” and incorporates currently about 20 curators and about 250 artists and more than 250 films and videos.

Founded in 2004, VideoChannel is organised completely online, all currently available more than 250 videos can be viewed online with free access. Each year a couple of new curated video projects are realised under changing themes.

Since 2005, VideoChannel is successfully presenting curated selections of its film and video collection on numerous festivals, and it was presented in its totality several times: Biennale of Electronic Art Perth/Australia 2004, Biennale of Video and New Media Santiago /Chile 2005, Art Gallery of Knoxville (USA) 2006.

Powered by VideoChannel, CologneOFF - Cologne Online Film Festival , a new type of film/video festival which is simultaneously organised online and offline - was founded in 2006, and realised its first two festival editions in 2006 and the 3rd in 2007.

Women Directors Cut is a program series featuring female director and video artists incorporated in the project environments of The Network.

[NewMediaArtNetwork]||:cologne - www.nmartproject.net

VideoChannel - video project environments - <http://videochannel.newmediafest.org>

CologneOFF - CologneOnline Film Festival - <http://coff.newmediafest.org>

SoundLAB - sonic art project environments - <http://soundlab.newmediafest.org>

AND - Artists Network Database - <http://and.nmartproject.net>