



VIDEO ART FESTIVAL TURKU 2017

exhibition catalogue

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17.-21.5.2017

WWW.VIDEOARTFESTIVALTURKU.COM

Video Art Festival Turku (VAFT) brings international video art to the warehouses of the Old Great Square 17.-21.5.2017 for the second time. VAFT 2017 -exhibition introduces 14 works from 17 artists around the world. The exhibition is juried by Finnish media artist Salla Tykkä and the works were pre-selected by the board of Ääriö ry, the association behind the festival.

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Beyond (2016)



FOREWORD

(FROM THE JUROR)

I've had to make many choices, both great and small, over the past year. Consciously, I try to explain my choices with logic, but at the same time, I understand that these choices are guided by complex, and in many ways random or arbitrary, processes. I feel emotions of conflict and uncertainty growing inside me.

I received forty submissions for this year's Video Art Festival Turku, which I reviewed on my computer screen in my studio. I realized that my role as a viewer was different from if I were watching them for entertainment, or to learn about the works or their creators. I was put in an intermediate space where logical thought strove to guide my consciousness to make reasonable decisions, while images and sounds simultaneously filled my sensory fields, transporting my thoughts away from the timelines of my own unfinished pieces and the order of my mind.

I chose one kind of sampling for this exhibition. Perhaps I chose correctly, perhaps not.

The ultimate meaning of art is its potential to grow out of and away from conventions. There are a great deal of new technical methods in today's highly varied video productions. But to me, they convey the same things as the works prior to the digital revolution. The works grasp the imperfection of man, the uncertainty of existence, and at times they puncture through my own worldview.

The discussion of art is mercurial and ever-shifting in form. There are no simple rules for what kinds of works will be chosen to put on display, or which artists will stand out from the wide field of contemporary art. Science uses probability theory to represent the randomness of events. In the arts, we don't discuss probabilities – we want to believe that even when guided by chance, our actions and decisions are correct.

Helsinki, 30th of April 2017

Salla Tykkä



1 RESISTANCE, 2016

Huttunen, Hinni & Lindholm, Jemina
Country where filmed: Finland
Duration in minutes: 11'07

Resistance is a representation of solidarity, revolution and drumming as a form of activism. The drumming group playing on the video is part of a global drumming network titled Rhythms of Resistance that supports everyone struggling against exploitation, discrimination and oppression. The different groups play samba music in different demonstrations and direct actions all over the world. As artists, our work is based on the same values and we believe that contemporary art is an important part of the resistance against fascism and right-wing nationalism.

Hinni Huttunen (b.1990, Pieksämäki) and **Jemina Lindholm** (b.1991, Loimaa) are two Finnish visual artists working together with moving image and installation. The

working pair is interested in internet, feminism, scheduling and selfies. Huttunen and Lindholm have been working together since 2010. They are both founding members of Tampere Kunsthalle and active members of Rajataide Association. Huttunen is currently based in Stockholm, Sweden and Lindholm in Helsinki, Finland.

www.hinnihuttunen.com

www.jeminalindholm.com



Don't you understand?
I will really fucking do this! I can't wait!



TERRITORIAL MARKING, 2015

Djamo, Daniel

Country where filmed: France

Duration in minutes: 19'00

I'm marking the area surrounding the home of my mother in Nogent-sur-Vernisson (Loiret, France) with the flag of Romania. I marked a Romanian territory in France. My mother left the country when I was 20, being one of those who left in the first waves of immigration after the acceptance in the EU. She works as a doctor and has her own private business close to Montargis, France. The sound represents my mother's reaction to a work I had planned to do in Paris, on July 14th, 2014. I wanted to take yellow graffiti spray and transform all of the French flags from Champs Elysee into Romanian ones. Since Romanians have managed to steal everything the French owned in just 7 years, I decided to take away the last things remaining: their 14th of July and their national pride (in the shape of their flag).

Daniel Djamo (b.1987, Bucharest) is a young Romanian artist and film director, interested in personal and group histories and stories and in themes such as the national identity. He combines film with video art and installation with photography in order to evoke the past and to underline "the now." His videos have been screened in numerous video art and film festivals, while also winning several awards for his artworks in the competitions. Currently, Djamo is a PhD candidate in the third year of research at Bucharest National University of Arts.

www.djamo.weebly.com



3 MEMORIAL, 2016

Isaenko, Alexander

Country where filmed: Ukraine

Duration in minutes: 12'24



4 META-SEMIOPTIKA, 2016

Lopes, Luís

Country where filmed: Portugal

Duration in minutes: 12'00

Meta-Semioptika is a film about Art's own reflections about its position in today's world and how it will influence our Future as artists and, eventually, as species. The vision that translates into a parallel reality composed by these mirrored reflections reveals us possible dangers and solutions towards future artistic transcendence.

Luís Lopes (b.1982)

Filmmaker, born in 1982 at Porto, Portugal. Finished a 5 year degree course on Sound and Image at the UCP's School of Arts, Porto, Portugal, in 2006, specializing in Sound for Cinema. Sound designed for Radio, Theatre, Cinema and Experimental Audio Installations. Member/

founder of visual collectives Leitmotif, Ikix and Synkronos making mainly VJing and Video Art/Installations. Develops his work around Documentary, Experimental and Videoart. Meta-Semioptika is his first film.

www.synkronos.pictures



5 SANTA TERESA, 2016

Capuzzi, Alessandro G. & Dainotti, Emanuele
Country where filmed: Italy
Duration in minutes: 12'00

Santa Teresa is a city in the Mexican state of Chihuahua. Estimated population is 1.5 million people. Santa Teresa has gained further notoriety because of violence and as a major center of narcotics trafficking linked to the powerful Cartel, and for more than 1000 unsolved murders of young women from 1993 to 2003.

Director's note:

The film is composed by one long take, the final perfectly coincides with the beginning. You can loop it and make it infinite. Santa Teresa is the fictional name that Roberto Bolaño's gave to Ciudad Juarez in his masterpiece novel "2666". The victim of SANTA TERESA, as a sort of Sisyphus, is forced

in an infinite pattern death-resurrection-violence-death. The staging, cold, surgical, motionless, without editing cuts follows a detective who becomes murderess, then return to investigate, seamless.

Alessandro G. Capuzzi (b.1986, Milan) and **Emanuele Dainotti** (b.1987, Milan) are two Italian filmmakers. Their films have been screened in festivals and expositions in Italy, Spain, UK, Switzerland, Greece, Finland, USA, Colombia and Japan.

vimeo.com/emanueledainotti
alessandrocapuzzi.tumblr.com/



6 CEMENTA & TOYOTA - A FABLE OF TWO SISTERS, 2016

Sumari, Matti
Country where filmed: Sweden
Duration in minutes: 08'51

The video tells about a location in the industrial harbor of Malmö, Sweden. Two sisters, Cementa and Toyota, reside on the last strip of public land amidst a large depot of imported cars and a colossal cement silo. These two site-specific sculptures, one cast in concrete the other moulded in HDPE plastic from the area, reflect on their situation, vaguely aware of the synthetic, artificial nature of themselves and their surroundings.

Matti Sumari (b.1987)

"I work using video, sculpture and installation, concentrating on poetic interrogations of our terms of use regarding the public space and the Res nullius: right to utilize ungoverned goods. Through picking up my materials

from the flow of waste materials and leftovers from the metabolism of a city, I engage in a relationship with my surroundings. This relation can best be described as commensalism, which in ecology is a relationship between two organisms where one benefits from the other without damaging it. I see my works as distilling instruments. These distilling and mutating processes are placed in action in order to see what kind of relationship we have to each other and the world we've made for ourselves."

Matti Sumari is a Finnish visual artist who is currently based in Malmö, Sweden.

www.mattisumari.com



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BEYOND, 2016

Haapala, Lilli**Country where filmed: Finland****Duration in minutes: 36'20****Video- and sound installation (silk, sound, video projection)**

The relationship between human and nature is in constant change. How has this relationship changed over time? How do we perceive our surroundings? What is the furthest point that we can see, and what is the closest?

What is unreal and what is real?

What can be existing?

Is existence a quality of some being?

The boundary divides space into two. It becomes between things. What about when it is impossible to perceive, feel or understand the other side of the boundary?

Then, when you are around something unexplained, miraculous and uncanny, how should you think about it or talk about it?

The world is full of secrets we cannot see. However, we can approach this invisible and hidden world through science and art. Indeed, my works often portray the layers and

boundaries between these different realities. What, after all, is reality, and how is it perceived by different people?

Lilli Haapala (b.1984) is a Turku-based artist who works with installations and mixed media. Through her works Haapala ponders human relationship with nature that surrounds us. Her works often typifies the interfaces between different realities. Haapala has graduated from the Turku University of Applied Sciences of Turku Arts Academy (2015) as a visual artist and she is currently undertaking her Fine arts Master's studies in Helsinki Academy of Fine Arts (Time and Space Arts department). Haapala is a member of the Photographic Centre Peri, Kuvankantajat and the Finnish Bioart Society.

www.lillihaapala.com





#2, 2017 (FROM THE SERIES "WE SHOOT FOOTAGE", 2017)

suominen/toivanen

Country where filmed: Finland, Estonia, St Petersburg, Hungary, Lahti

Duration in minutes: 08'45

*We shoot footage. Elämän lieveilmiöitä.
It's a shame I don't have zoom in my 4s, 4s.
Life is a loop.*

Sanna-Liisa Siik (b.1986)

A fine art second year student at Turku Arts Academy.
When I was a kid I forced my classmates to watch Bodyguard every time they visited my house.

Lydia Toivanen (b.1987)

A fine art second year student at Turku Arts Academy.
(BFA, Saimaa University of Applied Sciences). I haven't seen Bodyguard.

suominen/toivanen is a Turku-based sans contrefaçon video collective. Classmates who found each other lost (during a video course spring 2016).

www.instagram.com/lydiatoivanen/
www.instagram.com/sannaviivaliisa/
www.instagram.com/suominen_toivanen/
lydiatoivanen.tumblr.com/
sannaliisasiik.tumblr.com/





AARNE'S WINDOW, 2016

Autio, Pasi

Country where filmed: Finland

Duration in minutes: 07'29

The piece Aarne's window presents alternating images of close-ups from an old man's face and views outside from the window of an apartment building. In the close-ups time seems to be passing slowly, but exteriors show the year's whole cycle. Man's voice comments on minor events outside, but they seem to depict his own situation and condition as well, for example "The left side is moving, but is the right one paralysed?"

*The piece is acted by actor **Aarre Karén**.*

Visual artist **Pasi Autio** (b.1974, Vaasa) is interested in the interaction between human mind, body, and the surrounding reality. He is also attracted to everyday things, seemingly self-evident but at the same time complex

events like taking a single step. Autio uses video and sound to work with his themes. He creates pieces with their own inner world and logic. The dialogue between visual and audio play a pivotal role in his minimalistic and epitomised style, that often addresses large themes through small details.

Autio graduated in 2007 from the University of Arts and Design, where he studied photography. His works have been displayed in several private and group exhibitions since 2000. Autio is currently based in Helsinki, Finland.

www.pasiautio.fi





JOSÉ, 2015

Behaine, Natalia

Country where filmed: Colombia

Duration in minutes: 05'00

The work of art José is comprised of a video and a series of 15 photographs which have all been conceived from a collage. It relates the last years of the life of Jusef Behaine Gataz, the last living grandfather that I had and with whom I spent a long time listening to his limitless imaginary and silent world provoked by the Alzheimer disease.

José represents the profound desire to freeze the present, to contemplate life, death and decadence from the perspective of oblivion.

The video takes form thanks to the movement within the collage, discovering textures, exalting frames that tell fragments of stories accompanied by a track of broken accordion and the voice of one of his sons who whispers his story. More than two thousand layers of photographs are printed

and overprinted in a way that mimics the passing of time and the role of memory. It reminds us that the impermanence of everything is what allows us to see us as alive and understand that we are not alone.

Natalia Behaine (b.1981) is a Colombian artist whose works have been featured in numerous galleries, museums and festivals in South America and Europe. Behaine has studied Social Communication (with emphasis on Audiovisual Production), Photography and Literature. In her art Behaine often explores the changing character of time. Behaine was born in Barranquilla, Colombia. She lived in Bogotá for 17 years but recently moved to France.

www.nataliabeaine.com



11 FLICKER, 2016

Skalar, Siegmund
Country where filmed: Austria
Duration in minutes: 11'00

An affluent neighborhood in the suburbs at dusk. Slow camera takes unveil three people in a dimly lit private residence. In a setting bearing close resemblance to the emblematic post-war cinema era, three well prepared actors take the stage. One might expect an opening line of the female lead, or a crucial event necessary for dramatic buildup. However, instead of well scripted dialogue and a cinematic exposition, the actors stay mute and somehow display repetitive motions and seemingly odd patterns of behavior. The scenario is being commented upon by an off voice, juxtaposing sound fragments of the 1957 film "On Performance" by dancer/choreographer Martha Graham.

*For the work Skalar collaborated with dancers **Esther Balfe** (AT/UK) and **Hannah Timbrell** (AUS/UK).*

Siegmund Skalar (b.1986) works with photography and film. He is interested in trying to bend filmic reality and question the conventions of cinematic narration. His works are meticulously staged and often rely on professionals, actors and a detailed screenplay. Skalar is currently based in Vienna, Austria, and has studied at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna.



12 SAVAGERY, 2015

Charre, Harold
Country where filmed: --
Duration in minutes: 11'10

A dark mass lies ahead, in nature. This nature, we do not know if she is dying or if she is overkill. An old priest observes this strange mass closely and decides to undertake a long journey. But is this really an escape?

Harold Charre (b.1980, France) has been a jazz pianist for 15 years, following musical training at the Conservatoire de Lyon and Paris. He studied Theology and rapidly turned to the self-taught making of films/videos and installations in which his passions for the moving image, music and the mysteries of mythology may express themselves. Charre is currently based in Le Pré-Saint-Gervais, France.



13 VESTAL FIRE, 2016

Ingersoll, Alex

Country where filmed: USA

Duration in minutes: 08'34

As carbon simmers, the digital blooms. An expectant mother receives a call after dark that opens up a world of absence. With this work, I'm interested in exploring cinematic media as a means by which nature is expressed and modified through experience and memory. This includes playing with affective techniques of anticipation and indirection as a mundane condition of the sublime. This project is rooted in the age of the Anthropocene and outlines a phenomenology of horror where we gesture towards a world beyond the human.

Alex Ingersoll (b.1984) is an Assistant Professor of Media Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Much of his work explores the aesthetic and sonic en-

vironments of our social imaginations of space and the tension among neglected and marginalized ideas and machines. Using experimental and animated approaches to the moving image, he is interested in the productive possibilities that come from our experiences and encounters that have undefined edges and features. His work has been featured in venues and festivals in the U.S. and abroad, including the Milwaukee Underground Film Festival, Currents International New Media Festival in Santa Fe, the Strange Beauty Film Festival in Durham N.C. and the Alchemy Film Festival in Hawick, Scotland. Ingersoll lives and works in Stevens Point, USA.

www.alexingersoll.com



14 THE STATE IS A LADY, 2016

Gates, Anna
Country where filmed: Germany
Duration in minutes: 14'28

*Beauty is illusive, as is impermeable security. But the Chair
Leader is forging dreams for everyone.*

*Contributing artists: **Elke Hennen** and **Ines Wuttke**.*

New Zealander **Anna Gates** (b. 1984) directed and produced *The State is a Lady* during her master's in Germany. Her artwork has always swayed towards politics, earning her a place in the New Zealand Digital Art Awards at just 20 years of age. Her interactive art has been shown at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image and elsewhere in Germany and Australasia. *The State is a Lady* is her first festival short as a director.

www.clingfilms.nz



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