



The Best of Cologne OFF

Selected videos from the festival editions I-III

Curated by Wilfried Agricola de Cologne

CologneOFF I - Identityscapes

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CologneOFF II - Image vs Music

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CologneOFF I



Digital Snapshot by **Daniel Lo Iacono** (Germany)

2003 , 2:30

is a kind of docu-animation dealing with the correlation of digital manipulations and candid documentary shots. It was produced as part of a Media Design diploma thesis from the University of Applied Sciences Mainz , Germany in 2003.

What does a moment look like? Can snapshots freeze a moment in time? In DIGITALSNAPSHOT, motion fragments were captured and rearranged in a new visual context via unconventional digital manipulations. A long take camera movement cycle generates a unique "digital painting". In this case DIGITALSNAPSHOT enables the viewer to experience a virtual walk through a beautiful park during summertime

Short bio:

Daniel Lo Iacono

born 06.02.1977 in Frankfurt/Germany

1998 – 2003 studied Media-Design at the University of Applied Sciences Mainz/Germany with focus on compositing and motion graphics 2003 diploma thesis "DIGITALSNAPSHOT", worked from 2003–2006 as a Designer and digital Artist at various german postproduction and design studios. Since 2006 lives and works as freelancer in Barcelona exploring new visual adventures....



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CologneOFF I



Women-World by **JiHyung Kim** (South Korea)

(3:34), 2003

The video is about fe-male identity.

Short bio:

JiHyung Kim is a Media artist, born in Seoul, 1968

MFA from Hongik University



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CologneOFF I



Traviata by **Lorenzo Nencini & Marco Urizzi** (Italy)

2004, 10:00

Something is happening in front of one of the most famous Opera Houses in the world: the Teatro Comunale in Bologna, in the country that is the temple of Lirica, Italy.

In the heart of university city, in between distrustful students and punks, a diseased Violetta and a post modern Alfredo meet, and fall in love straight away.

Based on what is probably Giuseppe Verdi's most famous Opera, Traviata is the trailer for what will be a really special set up, offering itself as a real event in a situation that becomes even more dangerous!

Short bio:

Marco Urizzi e Lorenzo Nencini met around two years ago, amongst the desks in Bologna University and fell in love straight away. A partnership, between a distant, aristocratic, theatre student and an exponent of underground culture, that is even a passionate melomaniac, eager to expose the falsehoods in most conventional stereotypes about the youthful and "Fine Arts" culture. Traviata is their first project together.



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CologneOFF I



Warning! Women by Alla Girik and Oksana Shatalova (Kazakhstan)

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.

Short bio

Alla Girik (born in 1965) 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)



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CologneOFF II



Mathieu Capel

Title: rupture, 2006, 4,00

((sirène)) – « mermaid » in French – is a project that aspires to propel you into a universe where visual effects and sound are unquestionably linked.

This concept isn't just about a musical composition nor just a video. It is about the simultaneity between the two, a union where hearing and sight are continuously exchanging. It is important to note that from the start, this piece has always associated sound with visual effects. The two elements were created at the same time in order to feel this idea of union. However, it isn't only designed to spectators, but it is also a useful process of creation for the artist. A line can inspire a melody just like a rhythm can suggest a movement. Hence the thought of this perpetual exchange initiated by the project.

Regarding the two videos, the body has been, as you may observe, my main material. These movements allowed me to hear sounds that I tried to pass on to the computer. In the first piece, each character on the screen corresponds to an instrument. Everything is built upon this movement of beam that we hear in the beginning which matches the bass. The rest of the piece has then grafted itself as to evolve upon this element. As for the second video, we can say it is less systematic; sequences are not perfectly fixed all along the musical piece. Visible fragments of the body product new forms almost abstract in reactivity with sound. Finally, I wanted to add that it is a project that I would like to expand during live representations in the future.



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CologneOFF II



Small Room Tango by **Gabriel Shalom** (USA)

2004, 3:40

A young man enters a small piano practice room and approaches the piano hesitantly. He finally sits at the piano bench and commences to play a passionate and difficult piece of music. At the song's completion, he sighs cathartically, stows his sheet music within the piano bench and exits the practice room.

Artist's Statement

In making Small Room Tango I decided to treat video the way I had been treating audio for quite some time before; as sample material. I found that when you treat visual information as an audio sample, a new lexicon of montage develops. This visual language has its own rules for continuity, storytelling, and composition which I am still in the process of discovering and understanding. The resulting synesthetic experience is a cousin of the music video, but would be properly termed videomusic. Despite being recorded on miniDV, this videomusic is both acoustic and digital. Defined more by the quality of the source than the recording technique, videomusic pushes past the analogue/digital dilemma of early video art and reframes the debate in musical terms. The rhythm track emerges from the tiny sounds of the door, bench and sheet music. The editing process strips the attack from the piano's tones; diageitic sound becomes synthetic sound. The images are simultaneously mundane and sublime. The rapid, rhythmic jump cuts distort temporal reality, transforming the small room into a theatre in which glitch and loop are the players.

short biography

Gabriel Shalom has a background in comic strips, electronic music and magazine design and holds a bachelor of arts degree in film and video from Bard College. Shalom is presently a graduate-level scholarship student of media art and film at the Hochschule für Gestaltung in Karlsruhe, Germany. To date his works in video have all had a strong relationship with music. His first video piece, "Small Room Tango", exhibited as part of festivals and installations in Washington DC, Stuttgart, London, Paris, Geneva, Düsseldorf and Basel. He is currently in the research and preproduction phase of a feature length movie about rare video synthesizers. He is also presently an artist in residence at the Zentrum für Kunst und Medientechnologie (ZKM) in Karlsruhe, Germany.



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CologneOFF II



Music in Cake by **Unnur Andrea Einarsdottir (Iceland)**

2005, 03.23 min.

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 show 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.

Short bio:

Unnur Andrea Einarsdottir is a videoartist living and working in Reykjavic/Iceland. She is participating in numerous videoart shows and festival nationally and internationally.



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CologneOFF II



Circles and Rounds by **Dennis Miller** (USA)
2006, 9' 22"

Circles and Rounds explores a variety of circular paths, processes and forms within a virtual environment. The work is in four sections and is unified by recurring visual and musical elements. All images were created with Maxon Cinema 4D, and the music was composed using a variety of tools, including Native Instruments Reaktor and Applied-Acoustics Tassman.

Short bio

Dennis Miller received his Doctorate in Music Composition from Columbia University and is currently on the Music faculty of North Eastern University in Boston where he heads the Music Technology program and serves on the Multimedia Studies Steering Committee. His mixed media works have been presented at numerous venues throughout the world



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CologneOFF III



Tomorrow by **Kaspars Groshevs** (Latvia)
2007, 1:04

The film "Tomorrow" is about a man who is going to visit tomorrow. On his way he meets a stranger who proposes a ticket to yesterday, however the man is determined to visit tomorrow. As he gets close to his aim the sky tries to warn him by saying "There is nothing in tomorrow", but the man just refuses to believe a sky. When finally he reaches the doors of tomorrow it turns out that there is nothing... because he man forgot to do a living to make a tomorrow for himself.

Short bio

Kaspars Groshevs (Latvia)

Born in 1983., in Riga, Latvia (at the time part of USSR).

Left highschool in the middle to start studies in J. Rozentals art school which had strong painting tradition.

However I finished the school with diploma work in video - 5 minutes long looped "poetic" work "Circle" (2005) for which I wrote a story, played a part as actor, did sound, music and editing and directing.

I got into Art Academy of Latvia, Visual communication department in 2005. In last few years I have exhibited in around 10 group exhibitions in Latvia and France. Since 2002 I am working on radio NABA, each week making a radio show "Visions" about contemporary music.

In 2006 I collaborated with Evita Vasiljeva on an educational computer 2d animation commissioned by AIDS Prevention Centre of Latvia and Nordic Council of Minister's Office in Latvia. Together with Evita we wrote the script, designed characters, did the computer animation, sound design, music, editing and directing. This cartoon was presented on the main television of Latvia and is now shown in high schools around the whole country.



CologneOFF III



Where Stories Come From by **Lycette Bros.** (Australia)

2004, 4:08

A long, long time ago in a land far away, a woman called Agnes makes it her business to find out where stories come from...

Short bio:

Lycette Bros. (Australia)

Mark & John Lycette

John and Mark Lycette, formed Lycette Bros. in 1997, together they create a broad range of digital media including online interactive productions, installations and animations. The Lycette Brothers work is widely regarded and continues to be exhibited and awarded around the world. Lycette Brother's work changes to suit each project, while maintaining an attention to detail and craftsmanship, it has been said their work falls somewhere between art and design. Over the years Lycette Bros. has been awarded a number of accolades.



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CologneOFF III



Radiocar by **Hermes Mangialardo** (Italy)

2007, 4:00

Radiocar is the videoclip for the Italian band called "Shape Productions" (www.myspace.com/shapeprod), based on the book "Under the Skin" from M. Faber... We are in a car with the novel's central character, Isserley and we are on the road cruising the highways of the Scottish highlands...Isserley is looking for young man, she is only and she is very dangerous...

Short bio:

Hermes Mangialardo (Italy)

was born in 1975 in Copertino, a little town in the south of Italy...

After a childhood with a passion for italian comics and japanese cartoons, and after some graphic experiences, in 2001 he started to product his animations.

In the last years he has developed many clips and animations, and he has won many prizes, like the MTV Flash Awards at Hamburg Bitfilm Festival, the Giffoni music Concept for the best animation videoclip, the first prize at Independent film Festival in Florida, etc.

In 2006, with a crew of designer, he founded a multimedia agency, Plasmedia



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CologneOFF III



Smoked by **Rafaël Alcalá** (Puerto Rico)

2003, 3:00

Wasn't smoking said to be dangerous?

Short bio:

Born and raised on the Caribbean Island of Puerto Rico, *Rafael Alcalá* started and obtained his bachelor's degree in Architecture from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute at Troy, NY. After years of work as an architect, his interest in computer generated imagery and their malleability convinced Alcalá to currently pursue a Masters in Fine Arts with a concentration in Electronic Media.

As a Multimedia artist and educator his current work uses video and computer generated imagery to deal with issues of identity and the acceptance of human expendability in our society. To animate is to create, and as an artist Alcalá creates imagery that fuels the imagination. His work has been exhibited at The Arts Center of the Capital Region, Troy, NY and The Fulton Street Gallery, Troy, NY. Alcalá has taught courses in Web Design and Digital Content Creation at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.



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CologneOFF III



Disarmed by **Nick Fox-Gieg**

2002, 2:42

My cousins used to play this odd little game; they were about five and three years old at the time. The older one would pick up the remote control to the TV, point it at her sister, and say "Turn you off"-she'd obligingly fall to the ground and play dead. Then the remote changed hands, they'd change places, and the game would begin all over again. It was carried out with the solemn gravity of an execution by firing squad.

Short bio

Nick Fox-Gieg is an animator and video artist based in Toronto. His short films have been shown at the Rotterdam and Ottawa film festivals, at the Centre Pompidou in Paris, and on Canada's CBC TV. His theatrical video projections have been featured in the Festival d'Avignon production *Boxed In* and the Broadway musical *Squonk*; he's performed his live sound and video works at the Paradiso in Amsterdam and the Redcat Theater in Los Angeles.

Fox-Gieg received his MFA from the California Institute of the Arts in 2004, and his BFA from Carnegie Mellon University in 1999. He's received three U.S. state Media Arts Fellowships, and was awarded a Fulbright grant to the Netherlands in 2006.

Education

2007 Animation (Fulbright), Royal Conservatory of The Hague

2004 MFA Animation, California Institute of the Arts

1999 BFA Art, Carnegie Mellon University



CologneOFF*

Cologne Online Film Festival

ABOUT

Cologne Online Film Festival

was initiated by Agricola de Cologne for VideoChannel in the framework of [NewMediaArtProjectNetwork]:|:cologne a further development of VideoChannel and its video collections on the theme "memory & identity".

It represents a new type of film festival taking place simultaneously online and offline in cooperations

Founded in 2006, CologneOFF realised until 2008 3 festival editions

- CologneOFF I - Identityscapes
- CologneOFF II - Image vs Music
- CologneOFF III - Toon! Toon! - art cartoons and animated narratives

In cooperation with

2008

- Digital Media Valencia/Spain - 17 April-14 May
- 3rd CeC & CaC - India International Centre New Dehli/India -11-13 Feb
- Les Inattendus - Film Festival Lyon/France - 21-27 January
- Videoart on Kinolevchuk Lviv/Ukraine - 12 January

2007

- 3rd International Digital Art Festival Rosario/Argentina - 15-17 Nov
- 6th Digital Art Festival Maracaibo/Venezuela - 7-17 Oct
- 1st Digital Art Festival Bahia Blanca/Argentina 13-14 Sept
- VIP Art Gallery Belgrade/Serbia - 19 Nov
- Mobile Institute Brussels/Belgium - 24 AUG
- ENTER Caravansarai Festival Istanbul/Turkey 29/30 June
- Dutch Electronic Art Festival - unDEAF - Rotterdam/NL 15 April
- 2nd CeC & CaC - India International Centre New Dehli/India 11/12 Feb

2006

- PI 5 InterMedia Festival National Museum Szczecin/Poland - 20-22 Oct
- 2nd Festival International Arte Digital Rosario/Argentina - 16-18 Nov
- Chroma - Festival de Arte Audiovisual Guadalajara/Mexico - 11-17 Nov

URL

<http://coff.newmediafest.org>

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Cologne Online Film Festival is a corporate part of [NewMediaArtProjectNetwork]:|:cologne - www.nmartproject.net
the experimental platform for art and New Media from Cologne/Germany

Media/Art/Cologne - <http://www.mediaartcologne.org>

Cologne OFF - Cologne Online Film Festival - <http://coff.newmediafest.org>

VideoChannel - <http://videochannel.newmediafest.org>

Cinematheque at MediaArtCentre (MAC) <http://cinematheque.le-musee-divisioniste.org>

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CologneOFF*

Cologne Online Film Festival



CologneOFF

Director & curator

Wilfried Agricola de Cologne

is a multidisciplinary media artist and founder & director of [NewMediaArtProjectNetwork]:||cologne - www.nmartproject.net, As the director of his video films , he is mostly also their producer, editor, composer of music and other film specific functions.

As an artist, he had more than 100 solo exhibitions in cooperation with for than 70 museums throughout Europe, as a curator he organised between 1989 and 1994 several cultural projects in Europe and curates since 2000 the numerous New Media projects of [NewMediaArtProjectNetwork]:||cologne.

He is co-organiser and curator of several media festivals and exhibitions, and is participating since 2000 in more than 300 media exhibitions and festivals around the globe (52th Venice Biennale 2007, Documenta 12 Kassel/Germany 2007, Budapest International Shortfilm Festival 2007, Museum of 21th Century Art Rome/Italy 2006/2007, Moskow International Film Festival 2006, Canariasmediafest 2006 & 2002, Athens Videoart festival 2006 & 2007, Japan Media Art Festival 2006 & 2002, ZKM Karlsruhe/G 2005, Biennale of Video & New Media Santiago/Chile 2005, Biennale de Montreal 2004, Biennale of Electronic Art Perth/Australia 2004 , Biennale of New Media Art Merida /Mexico 2003, Venice Biennale 2003, FILE Sao Paulo 2001-2007, FILE Rio 2006- 2007, Ars Electronica 2001-2006, Videoformes 2001-2007, Art on the Net 2001, 2002, Mediaterra Athens 2002, ISEA 2002 Nagoya/Japan, SENEFF Seoul 2004, 2005, 2007 etc) with his online and offline multi-media works

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