

n:mond
The New Museum of Networked Art



WUOLU

Art Film & Video Festival

artvideo**k**oeln

CologneOFF 2017 India

@ Video Vortex XI @ Kochi Musiris Biennial 2016/2017
23-26 February 2017 - Kochi-Kerala-India

Program 2

W:OW Art Film & Video Festival

(We Are One World // Art Film & Video Festival)

Focus / World – The Refugee Film Collection

curated by Wilfried Agricola de Cologne

Maria Korporal (Netherlands) – Stay or fly away?, 2015, 0:49
Mauricio Saenz (Mexico) – Flight simulator, 2014, 4:17
Les Riches Douaniers (Gilles Richard & Fabrice Zoll) (France) – The Lonely Migrant, 2011, 16:15
Johannes Christopher Gérard (Germany) – disorientated displacement, 2016, 05:02
Masha Maria Yozefpolsky (Israel) – In Between SiO₂, 2016, 10:00
Oksana Chepelyk (Ukraine) – «Letter from Ukraine», 2014, 7:31
Mohamed Thara (Morocco) – As Long As I Can Hold My Breath, 2016, 9:40
Lucija Konda Labas (Croatia) – We are the dogs – Wir sind Hunde, 2016, 1:11
Anna Faroghi & Haim Peretz (Germany) – Lichtenberg Cleans Up, 2016, 4:34

Curatorial statement

The selection „Focus/World“ is based on „The Refugee Film Collection“ at The New Museum of Networked Art – initiated by Wilfried Agricola de Cologne in 2015 on occasion of the international refugee crisis. The selected videos created by artists from Germany, Israel, Morocco, France, Netherlands, Mexico, Croatia and Ukraine, deal with the globalwide phenomenon of transmigration which got these day a particular relevance through military conflicts and terror (Middle East, Ukraine), poverty and lack of perspectives (Africa, Asia, Latin America), also caused by failed national and international politics and economics and the natural and human-made climate change resulting countless individual human tragedies. The videos offer a view on different sides of transmigration, for those who migrate an uprooting but on the other hand a chance for survival, but for those who are supposed to give them shelter migrants are too often not experienced as a chance, but rather a thread causing a loss of privileges manifested in foreclosure, xenophobia, racism and violence. The artists dedicate their reflection to empathy and humanity.



Details

Maria Korporal (Netherlands) – Stay or fly away?, 2015, 0:49

One of the most neglected aspects about refugees is that they are in a situation of emergency in which they have to take a decision immediately, and whatever they decide, there is no turning back. Just as the butterfly in this video: "Fourteen seconds to decide, will you stay or fly away?" Whether the butterfly decides to stay or to fly, the circle closes anyway and takes away any possibility to go back on the tracks.

Mauricio Saenz (Mexico) – Flight simulator, 2014, 4:17

"Flight simulator" explores the concept of obstruction as a result of geographic borders and their given limits. By means of images generated at the banks of the Bravo River, in the Matamoros, Mexico and Brownsville, US border, the work converges on the idea of the impossibility of a displacement to a desired objective and the reaction caused by the feeling of transgression that every limit or prohibition carries within.

Les Riches Douaniers (Gilles Richard & Fabrice Zoll) (France) – The Lonely Migrant, 2011, 16:15

Developed by modifying the look of GTA IV, "The Lonely Migrant" is a meditation on transience, mirage, and illusion. Slouching towards the Promised Land, a man reaches the end of the road.

Johannes Christopher Gérard (Germany) – disorientated displacement, 2016, 05:02

The work tries to reflect the feelings of displacement, the traumatic experiences and flashbacks, finally the mental disorientation often resulting in a trauma. Matters you can't notice everytime from outside of a refugee

Masha Maria Yozefpolsky (Israel) – In Between SiO2, 2016, 10:00

In BetweenSiO2 is a critical video poetry of our turbulent contemporary existence in a world of diminishing resources. This is an era of immeasurable abandonment while ourselves are being stolen from us, lacking the 'shelter within', we are drifting towards contingent territories of obscure perspectives.

Oksana Chepelyk (Ukraine) – «Letter from Ukraine», 2014, 7:31

"Letter from Ukraine" video, fed by obscured history and political urgencies acts as a catalyst for the culturally charged encounters – a shared breath – that materialize in the performance. It is referring to the civilisational breaks we live now on the background with unnoticeable changes.

Mohamed Thara (Morocco) – As Long As I Can Hold My Breath, 2016, 9:40

Video installation that consists of three videos projected into a black room. The first video tells of the sinking of a migrant boat south of the Italian island of Lampedusa. An audiovisual recontextualization of the archives of the sinking. Opposite, the second video shows swallows that leave Europe in autumn to winter in Africa. In the middle, the third video is composed of excerpts from poems by Georg Trakl, an expressionist German-speaking Austro-Hungarian poet who died of an overdose of cocaine in 1914, and committed suicide at the age of 27. Poet of the apocalypse, decadences and transgressions. His poetry is dark, morbid, evil and perverse that feels the proximity of death, are still relevant.

Lucija Konda Labas (Croatia) – We are the dogs – Wir sind Hunde, 2016, 1:11

The work explores the multiple levels of concept of humanity in today's (post-human) time. In general it comments/criticizes very common inhuman approach and treatment of those who are different, subordinate, weaker or unprivileged. It is referring to the actual circumstances of the refugees on the borders of the European Union, and openly asking questions about the position of humanity in the modern era. The project emphasizes the main artist concept: "The being (the dog) which is not human is more humane than the man." The authenticity of this discourse is provided in artist's text on German called "Wir sind Hunde" narrated by indicative voice of a girl. German language in this context is a symbol of power, but also empathy and a kind of deliverance. The dog is a symbol of the oppression, but also honesty, courage and humbleness.

Anna Faroghi & Haim Peretz (Germany) – Lichtenberg Cleans Up, 2016, 4:34

The documentary observes a day at the initial reception for refugees AWO Refugium Lichtenberg. Residents, social workers and staff clean up the premises of the hostel in a joint action. The hostel is situated in a prefabricated panel building in GDR-style in an industrial area of Berlin. The action is completed by a grill party.



Credits

The screening program „**Focus/WORLD**“ - The Refugee Film Collection
is produced on occasion of the collaboration with
Video Vortex XI @ Koch Musiris Biennale 2016/2017
curated by

Wilfried Agricola de Cologne
for

W:OW Art Film & Video Festival

corporate part of the global networking project

„**The W:OW Project** – We Are One World - <http://wow.engad.org>

to be realized between 2017 and 2021 by

artvideoKOELN international - <http://artvideo.koeln>

and The New Museum of Networked Art

<http://nmartproject.net>

W.OW Art Film & Video Festival

is part of

ColognEOFF – International Festival Network

<http://ifp.newmediafest.org>

All videos © by the artists or owners

The program „Focus/World“ „The Refugee Film Collection – copyright © 2017 by
W:OW Art Film & Video Festival

The Refugee Film Collection – <http://refugee.engad.org>

Is a part of The Audiovisual Collections @ The New Museum Of Networked Art



Video Vortex XI

