

<p>NATURE TRANSFORMER</p> <p>自然·变</p>	<p>Microwave International New Media Arts Festival 2009</p> <p>微波國際新媒體藝術節</p> <p>13/11-11/12/2009</p>
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<http://www.microwavefest.net>

Microwave New Media Arts Festival Hong Kong invited VideoChannel to present on the 2009 festival video art shows curated by Wilfried Agricola de Cologne, director and chief curator of VideoChannel.

Two different types of presentations were the result: a unique and extraordinary physical start of CologneOFF V - 5th Cologne Online Film Festival on 22 November 2009 in the framework of the festival, and a show which realised VideoChannel already earlier in September 2009 online, when Giorgio Fedeli, President of Visual Container Milan was invited to curate for Videochannel a show of video art from Italy

Body & Soul – 15:15:15
Presentation & world premiere and inaugural physical start of CologneOFF on 22 November 2009 manifested by Agricola de Cologne himself.



Memory & Identity
Italian videoart by Visual Container Milan curated by Giorgio Fedeli a public screening series 14 - 24 November 2009

Body & Soul – 15:15.15

Curated and presented by Wilfried Agricola de Cologne

The selection includes 15 videos by 15 different artists from 15 different countries and does not give only an idea of different artistic concepts, but also the context of different historical, cultural, religious and social backgrounds.

“Body and Soul” refers to the artistic concept of performing, expressing psychological and emotional situations and one’s identity by using one’s own body or the bodies of performers as tools.

The performative aspect represents generally a basic part of art video, the performative act a global language whose messages can be understood on all continents. The selected videos show what they may have in common, what all viewers can identify with, but also the secrets of the diverse backgrounds the artists are coming from which make the single artworks most exciting, individual and singular.

The presentation of Body and Soul on MICROWAVE represents simultaneously also the physical launch of CologneOFF V – 5th Cologne Online Film Festival

Participating artists

Hamza Halloubi (Morocco) , 2007

Ran Slavin (Israel), 2008

Marita Contreras (Peru), 2008

Vladimir Mitrev (Bulgaria), 2008

Julio Orta Villa Real (Mexico), 2006

Anna FC Smith (UK), 2009

Jamie Waelchli (USA), 2007

Virginie Foloppe (France), 2007, 2004

Philip Matousek (Germany), 2009

Margarida Paiva (Portugal), 2009

Alex Lora (Spain), 2007

Roland Wegerer (Austria) 2009

Alessandro Brucini (Italy) 2006

Rafael (Belgium), 2009

Bill Domonkos (USA), 2006

Memory & Identity

Curatorial statement: by Giorgio Fideli

Memory and identity have been major issues in videoart investigation in the last decade of the 20th Century. Since the inception of the “new-economy”, “post-modern” and “virtual reality” era, artists have suffered from a lack of identification and placement within the world, having all the traditional assertions of gender, religion and biological property been cancelled, infringed or mixed-up. Urged by the cyborg and bioengineering promises, during the late 90’s the electronic eye investigated the problem of giving an identity to objects and people within an unpredictable changeableness of roles and denominations, in most cases by simply shooting everyday life just as it was. At the beginning of Y2K era, challenged also by economy crises, terrorism and immigration flows in and out of mass participation, identity has still to be steadily and continuously looked for in ordinary life. In the last ten years the global world has gotten used to most of the ever-shocking technological and biotechnological innovation: we all have learnt to face blurring biological boundaries on Tv programs and to resort to “fluid” ways of existence and interrelationship thanks to the Internet and daily tech facilities. Apparently, we are more confident with our tools and with our new way of approaching ourselves and the others both physically and – more often – virtually. Yet, something is missing, some part of our self-identification eventually lacks in the complicate puzzle of our (post)modern, contemporary construction. The videoart world has never dropped the urge for addressing such a topic and now calls for attention in an only apparently less anxious bunch of outcomes. Many are the artists within VisualContainer’s archive who have in fact chosen to face the several disguises of everyday life, trying to ask questions about their – and our – identity right now and in a near future. Of course, no unique answer can be found from their works but an identifying line of poetical approach – a weapon as we may call it, for the most of them – seems to be fitting to the theme of memory. Again, memory is the mirror in which the artists dare search for their face and body, their ultimate inner skeleton and sensing to the outer world. Memory can thus become a revelatory physical matching with a parent, a more dramatic real match with a facing counterpart or just a heaping up of faces at the rhythm of most contemporary audio-video practises. Nevertheless, identity can also be sought in the presentation of the past after mixing up with current landscapes, or just through the contact to our very self imprisoned by the jail of our own body or by a crowd. A blink of identity can also suddenly peep in from an astonishing resolution of an ordinary event. All in all, where we eventually get to is not what/where we initially were at the “identification start” before playing the video: if not a solution at all, this is at least a good place to gather forces and dig into our presence.

Participating artists

Alessandra Arno’, Elena Arzuffi, Barbara Brugola, Pascal Caparros, Iginio De Luca, Pietro Mele, Patrizia Monzani, Christian Niccoli, Matteo Pasin, Cristina Pavesi, Sabrina Sabato, Enzo Umbaca

http://videochannel.newmediafest.org/blog/?page_id=278

VideoChannel presents

Body & Soul – 15:15:15

CologneOFF V – Taboo! Taboo? – 5th Cologne Online Film Festival
directed and curated by Wilfried Agricola de Cologne
guest curator Ali Zaidi (Motiroti/London)

Memory and Identity

contributed by VisualContainer Milan & curated by Giorgio Fideli
chief curator Wilfried Agricola de Cologne

The VideoChannel presentation on Microwave is financially supported by Goethe Institute Hong Kong
VideoChannel is powered by VAC – Video Art Consortium

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CologneOFF – Cologne Online Film Festival
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