

Mothers Make Art

Susan Hogan - University of Derby

Duration: 41mins
Spoken language: English

Abstract

In The Birth Project we are exploring women's experience of childbirth and the transition to motherhood using the arts and then presenting the research findings in films and exhibitions.

Our overarching questions are concerned to explore what role arts engagement might have to play in antenatal and postnatal provision, especially where post-birth trauma is being translated into bodily symptoms. In particular, the Birth Project is interested in exploring to what extent clinically related birth practices are implicated in iatrogenic outcomes and post-natal distress. Furthermore, we are also concerned to investigate what is distinctive about an arts-based approach in terms of expressing narratives about the transition to motherhood.

Several sets of workshops have been run to-date for The Birth Project. A participatory arts group, 'Mothers Make Art', has been facilitated by the artist Lisa Watts. Watts has a distinctive art practice called Live Art, described by Gorman as 'an art practice that presents the living body to encourage a self-reflective exploration of subjectivity, art and knowledge production' (2014 p.6). One aspect of this way of working is that is 'engages with how the audience experiences the performing body's interaction with objects and materials' (Watts 2010 p.2).

Mothers Make Art, asks questions in two ways: what are the effects of participation in workshops for the makers of the art and then what are the effects on others who experience the art that is produced as viewers. The Mothers Make Art group comprised eight women who live in a city in the north of England. They self-selected to participate in a series of twelve workshops. Some of the women were trained in the arts, some not, but all had an interest in visual arts, and an openness to learn and to make. The brief was to use a participatory framework to enable the women to explore any topics they wished with respect to the birth experience and motherhood.

In Mothers Make Art structured techniques were used to enable the participants to explore the nature of meaning making and to construct and deconstruct works (physically and metaphorically). An important method employed was the use of everyday objects, (ornaments, clothing, mothering paraphernalia, toys), to help to create stories. There was also an opportunity to be meditative with everyday objects (cling-film, tin-foil, kitchen paper). Rather than making a representation or literal object referring to their birth or mothering, the women focused on the formal aesthetic qualities of the materials. This way of working explores objects with a focus on their material capabilities, rather than having a predetermined vision of where the art making might lead. This not only provided a self-reflective space, but functioned to give the women the skills and confidence to manipulate materials to be able to create their own original art piece at the end of the series.

The art works were varied; one women pegged up her boys clothes from the tiny newborn garments to the larger ones representing fads and crazes. She acknowledged the preciousness of each stage with an acute awareness of the fleeting nature of the experience, a heightened awareness of temporality, with poems and a monologue.

Another of the installation pieces explored the maker's sense of stability, with a series of finely balanced and delicately poised fragile mixed-media pieces, comprising living plant bulbs, glass and plastic containers, wire and wood and other materials. Rachel, a medical consultant, spoke of valuing

the time and space to make art work. She said that the work was about seeking equilibrium between the domestic, professional and personal realms of her life, as well as exploring notions of what it is to be a good mother. She invited the group to say what her piece evoked: precariousness, balance, complexity, giving the bulbs space to grow, were a few of the reactions.

Exploring Birthing Identities and Iatrogenic Illness: Transitions to Motherhood
Presenting session: June 27, 17:00-17:30, Focus 1

The Future is Today

Morena La Barba



Duration: 53mins

Spoken language: French, German, Swiss-German, Italian

Subtitles language: English

Abstract

The film will present the results of an audiovisual research project at the University of Geneva, as part of the 25th anniversary of the Youth Session and its strategic reformulation. The project was conceived to allow the actors of the Youth Session, past, present and future, to know each other and to recognize in a common framework of belonging, to become aware of history, transformations, problems and potentialities of the Youth Session.

The idea of making a film about the Youth Session meant that it was participatory. The culture of the Youth Session is first and foremost participation. It promotes the political participation of young people, but also the participation as a basic principle of the project organization by the volunteers and within the CSAJ. It allows young participants as well as volunteers to develop their skills and to be in constant process of exchange of ideas. It is in this sense that film was also conceived.

Presenting session: June 26, 10:00-12:00, Focus 1

Every Soul Dies. Elegy for Majid

Ottavia Salvador



Duration: 32mins

Spoken language: Italian / Arabic / German

Subtitles language: English or French

Abstract

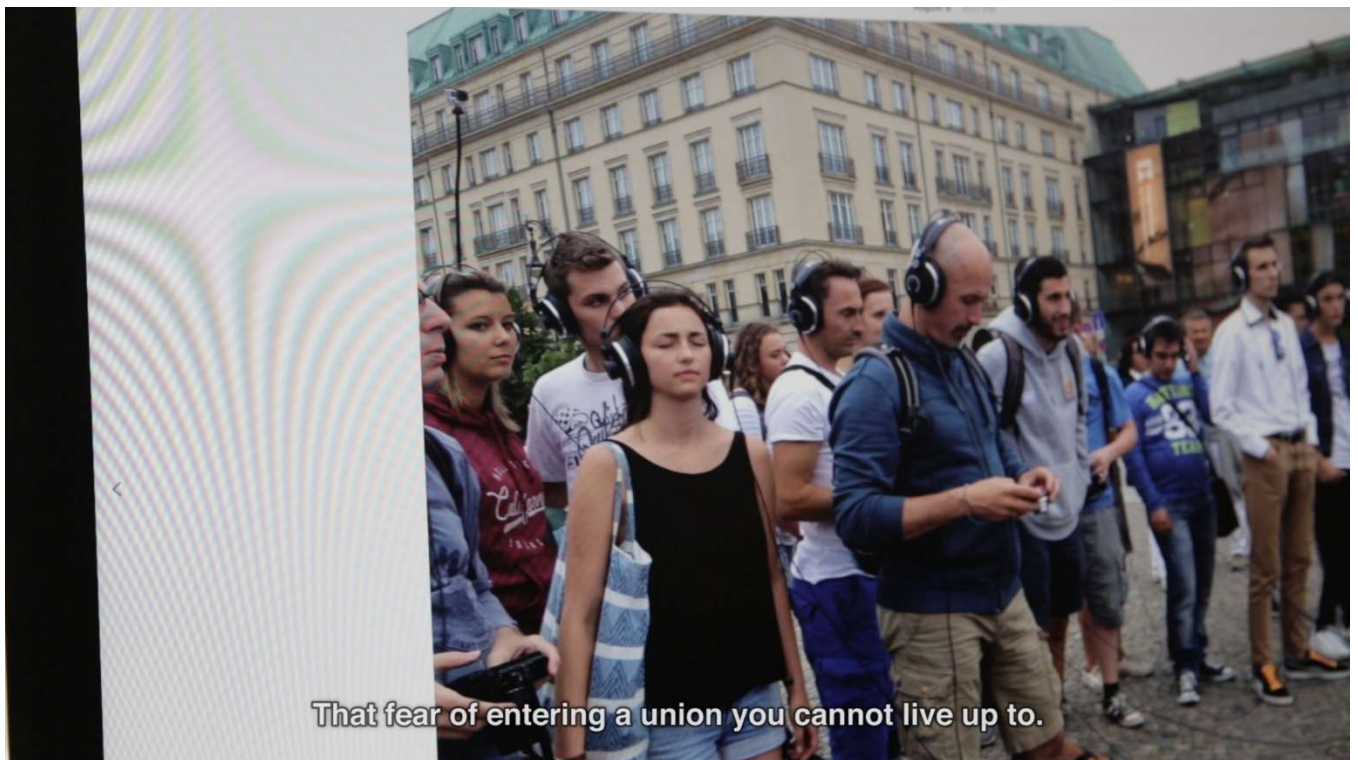
Majid was the name of a man. On August 13th, 2013, while being held in the detention center of Gradisca d'Isonzo, in Italy, in circumstances not yet clarified, he had a serious head injury. Someone told that he was trying to break out, jumping from the facility's roof, during days of inmates' unrest. He died in an Italian hospital, after spending several months in a state of coma. His body was repatriated to Morocco, in the province of Taounate, and buried near the house where he was born in 1979.

Throughout the research of Majid's story in Morocco, Italy and Switzerland, this documentary film explores the multi-situated trait of death in migration, and the "grief work", trying to answer the following questions: What kind of unfathomable depth has left his faraway death, his absence, in the loved ones' lives? What emptiness has arisen in the world he left? What kind of opacity the "political order" has determined around his death and how this affected his relatives' grief?

Presenting session: June 26, 10:00-12:00, Focus 3

Click to Remain

Valerie von Kittlitz, Maren Wickwire



Duration: 23mins

Spoken language: German, English

Subtitles language: English

Abstract

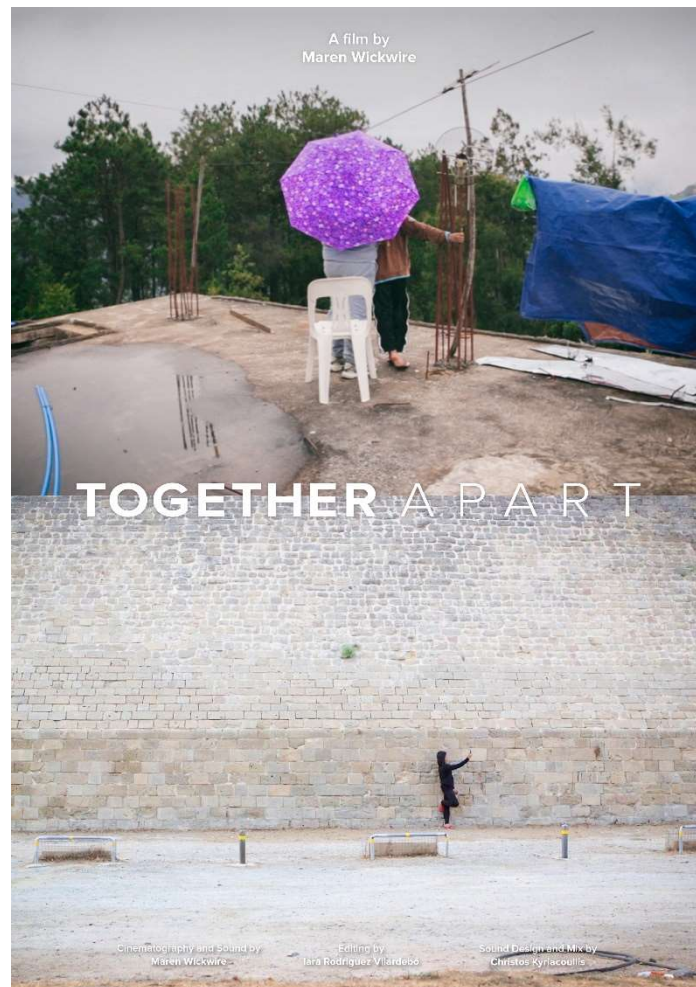
'Click to Remain' is a short essay film on digitally networked activism and the online petitioning platform Avaaz. Produced in the summer of 2016 as an Anthropology of Space and Place, it aims at a visual representation of the emotional and economic implications of clicktivism in the course of Brexit.

The film is the result of a research project on Anthropologies of Space and Place within the MA Visual and Media Anthropology, Freie Universität Berlin.

Presenting session: June 26, 13:30-15:30, Focus 4

Together Apart

Maren Wickwire



Duration: 38mins

Spoken language: English, Tagalog

Subtitles language: English

Abstract

Together Apart is an intimate family portrait of two indigenous women from the Philippine highlands, who left their families behind to seek work in Europe. Guil Ann, a twenty-five-year-old woman follows her mother's footsteps to work as a live-in domestic helper in Cyprus. Being separated for most of their lives, mother and daughter reunite for the first time in years, only to be separated again when Carren get's arrested by the immigration police. The film contemplates notions of self-hood, belonging and care, shifting between serial migrants' transitory present and projections onto the future.

Arctic Poem

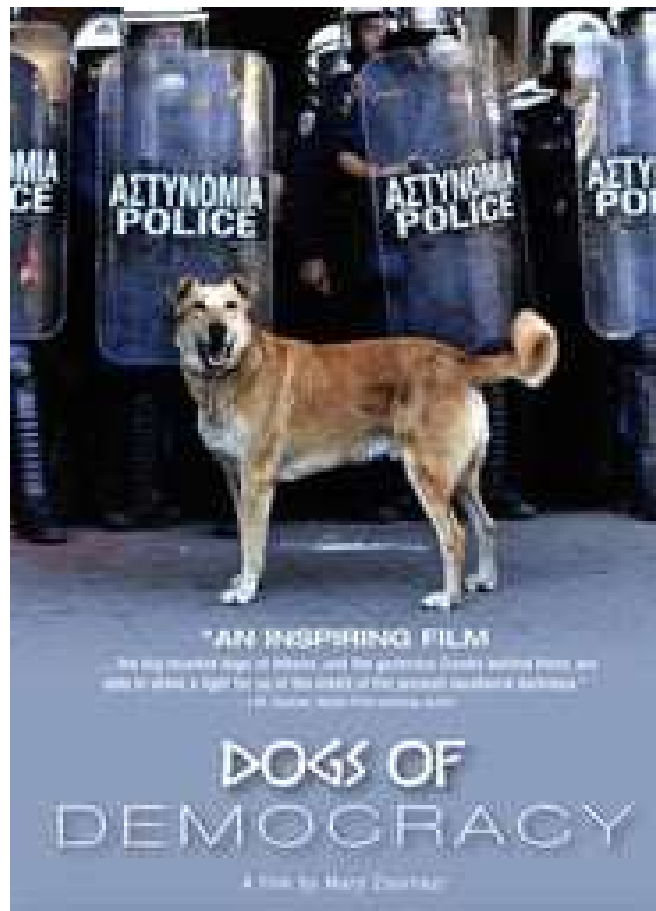
Victor Frankowski

Duration: 4mins
Spoken language:
Subtitles language:

Abstract

Dogs of Democracy

Mary Zournazi



Duration: 58mins

Spoken language: English narration, Greek language, English subtitles

Subtitles language:

Abstract

Dogs of Democracy is about the big-hearted stray dogs of Athens and the generous people who take care of them.

Equally, it is a story about the Greek crisis told through the eyes of dogs and the insights of the local people as they experience one of the most unsettling moments in Greek history.

The Rembetika Project presenting session: June 26, 13:30-15:30, Focus 4

On the Traces of the Atomists: A Sidestep for a Sociological Field Researcher

Pascal Cesaro, Pierre Fournier



Duration: 85mins
Spoken language: Français
Subtitles language:

Abstract

Starting from an audiovisual archive to explore what it means to come to work in nuclear technology: an ethnographic research experiment to break the strange silence behind which people living near nuclear sites sometimes hide. And to go beyond the abstract representations of the public debate on this polemical subject?

Presenting session: June 27, 13:30-15:30, Focus 3

The student of the Opera

Christian Lallier, Mélodie D. Tabita



Duration: 122mins
Spoken language: French
Subtitles language: French

Abstract

Every year in France, more than 120,000 young people aged 16 to 25 "drop out" of the school system, without a diploma or qualification. This will increase unemployment and precariousness. Educational failure is a social issue that today mobilizes civil society: cultural institutions, economic actors... But how can we intervene in schools when we are not dependent on national education? By the "artists' entrance"!

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In the name of culture for all, art at school aims to fight against school dropout, by allowing students to cultivate their taste... the taste to learn. For three years, the Pôle de développement culturel of the Opéra national of Lyon conducted a large-scale artistic experiment in the Minguettes district in the suburbs of Lyon, with a school and a college: this scheme, entitled Opera at School, was financed in particular by the corporate foundations of the Total group and France Télévisions. Artists worked with 600 students, adopting the academic rhythm. For their part, the teachers had to adapt to the demands of the show. This project was also that of the Opera... at school: in other words, of an artistic institution which will have exercised, during three years, its cultural development activity within an educational institution. One question remains: the Opera does not go to school to learn... but to "make people learn". So, who's the opera student? School, was financed in particular by the corporate foundations of the Total group and France Télévisions. Artists worked with 600 students, adopting

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Presenting session: June 27, 10:00-12:00, Focus 1

The Court of Whispers

Gregory Cohen



Duration: 49mins
Spoken language: French
Subtitles language: English

Abstract

In a working class neighborhood of the Parisian suburbs, a director proposes to a band of teenagers to shoot a contemporary adaptation of Laclos's novel *Dangerous liaisons*. Issues of reputation, the place of rumor, hidden loves ... everything in the novel seems a good way to revisit the decor of the neighborhood. But young people do not represent things the same way : for them, the film is impossible because "the neighborhood does not make room for love!". Little by little another film is invented between fiction and documentary: life and cinema mingle and the word of young people is released.

Presenting session: June 27, 10:00-12:00, Focus 4

La Caminata Exstatica

Greg Scott



Duration: 20mins
Spoken language: English
Subtitles language: English

Abstract

La Caminata Extatica is an experimental, mixed-genre film about the 500-mile pilgrimage along the Camino de Santiago in Spain. The film employs observational documentary, narrative scripting, and choreographed dance sequences to convey an impressionistic account of the sacred and profane dimensions of ecstatic practice among secular pilgrims.

Presenting session: June 27, 10:00-12:00, Focus 4

Migrations. People and Knowledge on the Move

Pascale Hancart Petitet



Duration: 20mins
Spoken language:
Subtitles language: English

Abstract

The « making-of » a collaborative research in Lao PDR

Presenting session: June 27, 13:30-15:30, Focus 2

spondeo

Nadja Köffler, students of University of Innsbruck



Duration: 5mins
Spoken language: no language
Subtitles language:

Abstract

Spondeo is a short film which thrives into the abyss of unspoken social conventions at Austrian universities, visually addressing topics like homelessness, intimacy, sexual assault, drug abuse and suicide. It grew out of a one-year student project carried out at the University of Innsbruck (Austria) and involved the ideas of 25 students working together with two researchers in cultural sociology and media studies, an Italian artist and a Bavarian filmmaker.

As an interdisciplinary team, they tried to tell a story about unspoken social conventions at Austrian universities, which have often remained hidden from social discourse. Following the concept of photovoice, the project team gave students a 'filmvoice', visualizing what they felt about being a student in Austria and having to cope with a series of grievances. The film offers hidden clues, which reveal that the protagonist is homeless, being confronted with the abyss of academic life – peeping through windows and slightly left open doors, underlying that what she comes to see is socially intolerable. Historical recordings pop up like flashlights, provoking the confluence of the present and past history.

Overall, the film portrays a fragmented and fast-moving academic world, which only touches a variety of issues so that the viewers are forced to use their imagination to think the storyline to an end. Spondeo does not answer any questions, rather coming up with a punch of question marks which should initiate a discussion in words afterwards.

7 years after the irruption of the 15M as a "place movement" : which consequences for the andalucian society?

Leïla Tazir

Duration: 15mins
Spoken language: Spanish
Subtitles language: English

Abstract

Presenting session: June 26, 10:00-12:00, Focus 1

The Lost Craft of Sakha

Ratan Kumar Roy

Duration: 13mins
Spoken language: Bengali
Subtitles language: English

Abstract

Sakha, conch bangle, has religious significance in the everyday life of the Hindus. According to Hindu mythology, sacred conch symbolizes the purity and chastity of women, and loyalty to their husbands. A pair of conch bangles is an essential adornment for all married woman as it brings fame and prosperity to one's husband in everyday life. It is a handcrafted work of art having a rich history and heritage since unknown time. This beautiful and delicate artwork is done by the Sakha artisans, the Sakharis. The Sakharis came to Dhaka (Bangladesh) during the 17th century, while the Mughals, impressed by their craftsmanship, allotted an entire area to these artisans now known as Sakhari Bazar, a neighborhood in Old Dhaka city. This age-old intangible cultural heritage of Bangladesh is on the verge of extinction today because of multifarious reasons relating to the life and livelihoods of the Sakha craftsmen. This visual narrative explores their struggle of everyday life and challenges they are facing under rapidly transforming social realities of Bangladesh.

Presenting session: June 26, 13:30-15:30, Focus 1

50 Years of Affirmative Action in Boston

Joyce Sebag, Jean-Pierre Durand, Jean-Pierre Lenoir



Duration: 52mins
Spoken language: English
Subtitles language: French

Abstract

Issues around multiculturalism make "Affirmative action" a major political and societal problem. Making a documentary film on Affirmative Action in the United States has been the opportunity to work with many researchers and theorists. It should participate in a thorough understanding of the history and the issues associated with the implementation of an affirmative action device. This documentary could be distributed in American universities and high schools in light of the Affirmative Action debates that cross these institutions. As part of this documentary, the interviews with the theoreticians (sociologists, philosophers, historians) of the Affirmative Action at Princeton, Harvard, MIT and with professionals working on the application of these principles (Boston and its suburbs) assumed a very broad knowledge of the problematics and therefore a characteristic work of any research in Social Sciences and more particularly in sociology.

Through contacts made during the first research, work could be continued and led to the shooting of a second documentary addressing the issue of positive discrimination in terms of the trajectory of a black American family this time. It can be a first step in the comparison between the United States (which has addressed the issue of the treatment of affirmative action since the 1960s and have significant experience in this field) and France where this idea is debated

Victory Day

Amandine Desille

Duration: 17mins

Spoken language: Russian and Hebrew

Subtitles language: English

Abstract

Russian immigrant Dr. Boris is the deputy mayor of the town of Kiryat Shmona. On March 2015, he campaigns for the national elections, supporting the ultra-nationalist party Israel Beitenu. At this occasion, we follow him in the organisation of the campaign, meeting with residents and fellow politicians, bridging between the Russian-speaking community he represents, and the Israeli society where he settled, under the shadow of xenophobic politics.

Presenting session: June 27, 10:00-12:00, Focus 3

Good Morning, Good Evening

Emilie Balteau



Duration: 53mins
Spoken language: French
Subtitles language: English

Abstract

In a suburb of Auxerre (France), the three old towers erected in the early 1960's gave way to small houses. Inside, inhabitants tell me this movement. What it conveys of breaks. What it transports of continuity - that of a common condition, all in all popular, and alive.

Presenting session: June 26, 13:30-15:30, Focus 2
