
PRESS STATEMENT
BASEL | AUGUST 12 | 2020

Art Basel Film curator Filipa Ramos to present an exclusive digital summer film program

Inspired by the phenomena of solastalgia, which describes an emotional reaction to change, in particular to environmental change, 'Wild Tales' is a program of artists' films that look at forms of personal and collective responses to a sense of strangeness of being in the world. The program brings together eight films by artists from various contexts and generations. The films combine live action, found footage, animation, and CGI to narrate outlandish stories of joy and awe, ecstasy and fear, where different relationships and alliances are established.

Filipa Ramos says: 'Solastalgia is the definitive disease of the 21st century, but only a few even know its name. The symptoms include a sense of loss, a vague sensation of being torn from the earth, a general out-of-placeness, and homelessness without leaving home. You have probably felt it without knowing what it was. Solastalgia is the unease we inflict on ourselves as we create a world we don't want to inhabit, a world stripped of nature.'

Each film will be streamed on artbasel.com and will be available for a week. The films will be accompanied by interviews between Filipa Ramos and the artist.

Full schedule of films

Wednesday, August 12, 2020

Pauline Curnier Jardin, 'Explosion Ma Baby', 2016, 09:12 min. HD video, color, sound.

'It's August. Feel the suffocating heat of the sun penetrating your skin. All around you, an abundance of flesh is spinning. Thousands of men offer up the naked bodies of baby boys to the angelic icon of San Sebastian. Screams, colors, chants, and explosions. Money-garlands. Imagine no women except me. Wait, yes, behind us women are following with devotion, all dressed up in well-pressed clothes and their stocking feet. Now, come back here. Imagine how badly I fell in love with this. I desperately want to be part of it. To be there. I wanted to belong. But I know I can't. So, I try to capture it on film. I go there and film it every year, over and over, again and again. One day I will tell the story of a poor and sterile man who wants to replace San Sebastian. But more summers will have to pass before our hero appears,' says Pauline Curnier Jardin.

Wednesday, August 19, 2020

DIS, 'A Good Crisis', 2018, 03:48 min. HD video, color, sound.

The short video 'A Good Crisis', made by the New York-based media collective DIS, is part of their 'Public Service Announcement' trilogy. Produced ten years after the 2007-2008 global financial crisis, the series' three chapters draw on the missed opportunity for economic revolution. In 'A Good Crisis', a smartly dressed and well-spoken devilish

creature reflects on the complex deregulatory effects of the crisis and how they benefitted few and brought harm to many.

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

Kara Walker, 'Fall Frum Grace, Miss Pipi's Blue Tale', 2011, 17:00 min. video, color, sound.

In 'Fall Frum Grace, Miss Pipi's Blue Tale', artist Kara Walker uses cut-paper shadow puppets against a backdrop of iridescent hues to portray and bring to life an episode of racism and abuse during the antebellum South period. The film tells the story of the brutal outcome of Miss Pipi's sensual relationship with a Black slave, who is punished, beaten, castrated, and finally murdered for his acts. The film's music accompanies and enhances the feelings and emotions of the various moments, bringing the narrative together with its contrasting melodies and rhythms.

Wednesday, September 2, 2020

Korakrit Arunanondchai and **Alex Gvojcic**, 'Painting with history in a room filled with people with funny names', 2018, 31:00 min. HD video, color, sound.

Korakrit Arunanondchai's 'Painting with history in a room filled with people with funny names' series started in 2013, for which the Thai artist has been combining video works, performance, and installation to explore the relationship between nature, technology, and societal emancipation. In this fifth episode of the series, Arunanondchai collaborates with Alex Gvojcic to explore the relationships between humans and other animals in the context of contemporary Thailand, intertwining ritual, fiction, and reality and reflecting on the past and future of the country.

Wednesday, September 9, 2020

Camille Henrot, 'Psychopompe', 2011, 50:00 min. HD video, color, sound.

In 'Psychopompe', artist Camille Henrot incorporates material from various sources—such as B-movies, indoor climbing videos, scientific footage, and records of postcards and written documents—to explore the past and present imagery of Frankenstein, whose existence complicates the distinctions between human, animal, and machine, and questions the divide between nature and culture. Filmed on an amateur handheld camera on night shot mode and originally conceived to be accompanied by a live performance featuring improvised music, 'Psychopompe' is a hypnotic ritual of metamorphosis.

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Rachel Rose, 'Wil-o-Wisp', 2018, 10:07 min. HD video, color, sound.

'Wil-o-Wisp' is the first of a trilogy of films in which artist Rachel Rose looks at the 17th century as a moment of major economic, environmental, social, and spiritual change that deeply conditioned the present times. Set in rural England, the film imagines the life of mystic Elspeth Blake as a mother, healer, and persecuted woman in this epoch of major transformation of natural and human landscapes. By exploring the language and imagery of fairy tales, the artist rethinks the ways in which history is narrated, concepts are normalized, and memory is built across time.

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

Superflex, 'Western Rampart', 2018, 15:00 min. HD video, color, sound.

Superflex's film 'Western Rampart' is set in the area of Vestvolden in the Southwest of Copenhagen, where a 14km rampart was built between 1888 and 1992 but has become obsolete since the end of World War I. A combination of visual and narrative poetry, magical realism, and documentarism, 'Western Rampart' is a fable featuring a gigantic Amanita muscaria mushroom, who is in conversation with the revived wall. While the rampart argues for borders and walls, the mushroom advocates for circulation and transformation.

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

Daniel Steegmann Mangrané, 'Fog Dog', 2020, 44:00 min. HD video, color, sound.

Entirely filmed at the Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka, Bangladesh, Daniel Steegmann Mangrané's 'Fog Dog' follows the daily and nightly activities of a group of stray dogs that live in the school, which has been designed by pioneer Bangladeshi architect Muzharul Islam (1923-2012) and is characterized by its organic relationship between the interior and the surrounding green urban spaces. The dogs' daily lives are traversed by many presences and signs—students and guardians, birdcalls and car horns, broadcasts and spiritual entities—which coexist more and less harmonically with one another.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Filipa Ramos

Filipa Ramos, Curator of Art Basel Film, is a Lisbon-born writer and lecturer based in London. Her research looks at human's engagement with animals in the contexts of art and artists' cinema. Her essays and texts have been published in magazines and books worldwide. With Andrea Lissoni she founded and curates Vdrome, a program of screenings of artists' films. She is Lecturer at the MRes Art at Central Saint Martins, London, and the Master Programme of the Art Institute of the Hochschule für Gestaltung und Kunst, Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz, Basel. She was Editor in Chief of art-agenda, Associate Editor of Manifesta Journal and contributed to documenta 13 (2012) and documenta 14 (2017). She edited 'Animals' (Whitechapel Gallery/MIT Press, 2016) and curated the group exhibition 'Animalesque' (Bildmuseet Umeå, Summer 2019, and BALTIC, Gateshead, Winter 2019/20). She curates the ongoing symposia series 'The Shape of a Circle in the Mind of a Fish' with Lucia Pietroiusti for the Serpentine Galleries.

About Art Basel

Founded in 1970 by gallerists from Basel, Art Basel today stages the world's premier art shows for Modern and contemporary art, sited in Basel, Miami Beach, and Hong Kong. Defined by its host city and region, each show is unique, which is reflected in its participating galleries, artworks presented, and the content of parallel programming produced in collaboration with local institutions for each edition. Art Basel's engagement has expanded beyond art fairs through new digital platforms and a number of new initiatives such as The Art Basel and UBS Global Art Market Report and The BMW Art Journey. For further information, please visit artbasel.com.

Partners

UBS, Global Lead Partner of Art Basel, has supported the organization for more than 27 years. As Art Basel's global network expanded, UBS increased its lead partnership to include all three shows, and as co-publisher of the Art Basel and UBS Global Art Market Report. UBS has a long record of engagement in contemporary art with the UBS Art Collection, one of the world's most distinguished corporate art collections with more than

30,000 works created by artists from more than 75 countries at its core. The firm actively enables audiences to participate in contemporary art through its partnerships with leading cultural organizations around the world. UBS provides its clients with insight into the art market, collecting and legacy planning through its Art Collectors Circle and the UBS Art Advisory Unit. For more information about UBS's commitment to contemporary art, visit ubs.com/art.

Art Basel's **Associate Partners** include Audemars Piguet, whose expanding activities in contemporary art include the Audemars Piguet Art Commission and NetJets – the world leader in private aviation. Art Basel is also supported globally by BMW, who has codeveloped with Art Basel the BMW Art Journey, Ruinart, Sanlorenzo, La Prairie, and On. Art Basel's Global Media Partner is The Financial Times.

Important Dates for Media

Upcoming Art Basel shows

Miami Beach, December 3-6, 2020

Hong Kong, March 25-27, 2021

Basel, June 17-20, 2021

Media information online

Media information and images can be downloaded directly from artbasel.com/press. Journalists can subscribe to our media mailings to receive information on Art Basel.

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