

“FOKUS 2016 VIDEO ART FESTIVAL”

**NIKOLAJ
KUNSTHAL**

PROGRAMME

FEBRUARY 11 – MARCH 6 2016

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INTRO

Recently, the Italian video art festival Magmart initiated a petition to draw attention to the fact that virtually no art museum, art centres or public support schemes in the country assume the task of promoting or subsidising video art. *Video art is the Cinderella of the art world* – was the rallying cry. And yet, video art has in many ways become an established part of the international art scene during recent decades. But the Cinderella story shows that what we consider to be the present or the future state of affairs is not necessarily evenly distributed from a geographical point of view.

At this year's FOKUS, we both show the up-and-coming and make room for some of the most outstanding video art that artists of our time have to offer. It is thus with considerable pride that we present the London-based John Akomfrah – an artist with a long and significant production to his name who has not so far been shown on any larger scale in Denmark. Akomfrah's works contain depth, complexity and powerful poetic statements, and with their focus on migration, identity and remembrance, they address highly contemporary issues. For FOKUS 2016, Akomfrah presents his large video installation *Vertigo Sea* from 2015 along with a selection of his previous works.

We are also happy to announce that the FOKUS open call this year received 250 newly produced works. The entries are both Danish and international, and together they paint a comprehensive picture of the variety of video art format and where it might be heading. A jury has selected 30 works to be shown for the duration of the festival period, at the end of which the jury will decide which three will be the winners of the FOKUS 2016 open call.

At FOKUS 2016, nine VR (Virtual Reality) pieces, challenging the way in which we experience film, will be installed all the way up through the Nikolaj Kunsthal tower. FOKUS welcomes this kind of experiments in which the artistic, psychological and ethical implications of a new medium may be tested, experienced and reflected upon by the public.

FOKUS explores the territories between video art and other genres, including electronic music. Together with Frost Festival, Global and the Roskilde Festival Foundation, FOKUS this year invites you to a special evening where Moroccan *gnawa* music will unite with electronic music and visuals commissioned for the occasion.

This year, we show two new productions by Danish artists. A new video by Niels Pugholm will be shown at the reading room of the Copenhagen City Archives, while Nikolaj Kunsthal houses the premiere of Tina Enghoff's latest work produced in collaboration with residents of the Folehaven residential area of Copenhagen. Norwegian Felleskassen also pays us a visit to conduct a silent movie performance. Finally this year, we will be testing a new way of presenting video art with the printed magazine FOKUS Special Edition, together with an app making it possible to experience 15 video works on your mobile or tablet.

Thank you to all participating artists, collaborators, partners and funders.

Johanne Løgstrup, curator
Andreas Brøgger, head
Nikolaj Kunsthal

JOHN AKOMFRAH

We are proud to present the London-based artist and film director John Akomfrah as the main feature of this year's FOKUS. With his unique montage style, he creates tableaux addressing migration, remembrance and postcolonialism in his film productions.

In his characteristic style John Akomfrah combines archival material, still pictures and recordings of selected text material. His works are characterised by an overall interest in personal and collective stories, memories as well as cultural, ethnic and personal identity.

He was a co-founder of the Black Audio Film Collective in London in 1982 with, among others, David Lawson and Lina Gopaul, both of whom he is still working with in the production company Smoking Dogs Film.

In their breakthrough film *Handsworth Songs* (1986), they employ archival recordings, still images and news stories to explore the events and the underlying causes of the 1985 riots in Birmingham and London. The film won several major international prizes, and with its multilayered visual technique it established Akomfrah's characteristic style.

Some of his later works are *The Stuart Hall Project* (2013), a moving portrait of the life and work of cultural theoretician Stuart Hall; *Peripetia* (2012), a visual drama attempt-

ing to recreate the story of two portraits of unknown persons, painted in the 16th century by Albrecht Dürer; Questioning the idea of England as the Promised Land, *Mnemosyne* (2010) centres on migrant experience in Great Britain by pointing to the economic and racial inequalities of the country.

John Akomfrah (1957), born in Accra, Ghana, lives and works in London.

John Akomfrah, Vertigo Sea (2015). Still.
© Smoking Dogs Films; Courtesy Lisson Gallery





John Akomfrah, *Vertigo Sea* (2015). Still. © Smoking Dogs Films; Courtesy Lisson Gallery

“VERTIGO SEA”

John Akomfrah's large-scale epic work *Vertigo Sea* is a three-channel video installation describing man's relationship with the sea. *Akomfrah* explores our ability to survive at sea from fishing to migration, war and conflict, slavery and colonisation of the world. *Vertigo Sea* is a poetic and meditative portrayal of man's relationship with nature, beauty, choice and defencelessness.

Vertigo Sea combines found archival material, the reading of excerpts from classic literature with magnificent film recordings from Scotland, Norway and the Faroe Islands. Inspired by two principal literary works, Herman Melville's novel *Moby Dick* (1851) and Heathcote Williams' *Whale Nation* (1988) – an epic poem about whaling – moods and tableaux are interwoven in a timeless montage.

Vertigo Sea was premiered at the 56th Venice Biennial in 2015, *All the World's Futures*. The film is looped and runs for 48 minutes.

FILM PROGRAMME

Works by John Akomfrah



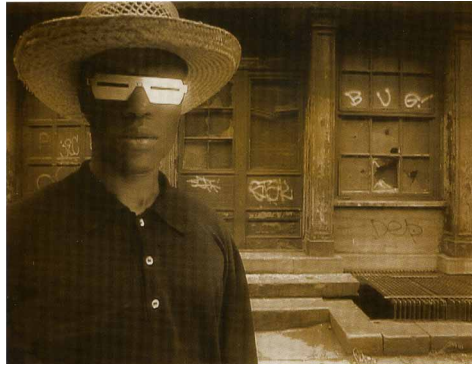
HANDSWORTH SONGS

1986, 60 MIN.

THE FILM IS SHOWN FROM
FEBRUARY 11 TO FEBRUARY 14.

Handsworth Songs takes as its starting point the riots of the Birmingham district of Handsworth and urban centres of London. The common denominator of the film is an investigation of what motivated the rioters, the root cause of which is to be found in British society's oppression of the black population. This is linked to the industrial decline in England to give a deeper appreciation of the situation. The "songs" of the title do not refer to music as such but instead allude to the poetic montage tradition of the documentary genre.

John Akomfrah, Handsworth Songs (1986). Still. © Smoking Dogs Films; Courtesy Lisson Gallery



THE LAST ANGEL OF HISTORY

1996, 45 MIN.

THE FILM IS SHOWN FROM
FEBRUARY 18 TO FEBRUARY 21.

The Last Angel of History is about *Afrofuturism*, a cultural movement trying to rethink and shed light upon African migration through techno culture and science fiction. During the film, we follow the so-called "Data Thief" travelling across time and space on the lookout for places where he can make his archaeological digs. The film proposes as a thesis that the drum, communicating across time, represents the first actual Afrofuturistic technology. Participants: George Clinton, Lee "Scratch" Perry, Derrick May, Samuel R. Delany, Nichelle Nichols, Juan Atkins, DJ Spooky, Goldie, Ishmael Reed, Greg Tate, Kodwo Eshun and many others.

John Akomfrah, The Last Angel of History (1996). Still. © Smoking Dogs Films; Courtesy Lisson Gallery



THE STUART HALL PROJECT

2013, 96 MIN.

THE FILM IS SHOWN FROM FEBRUARY 25 TO FEBRUARY 28.

The Stuart Hall Project investigates how identity is not an essential or fixed form, but rather something that constantly changing. Theories of identity and ethnicity are pursued through the personal story and research of cultural theoretician Stuart Hall (1932-2014). A co-founder of new approaches within cultural studies at British universities during the late 1960's Stuart Hall arrived from Jamaica to England to become of the country's most significant public intellectuals.

John Akomfrah, The Stuart Hall Project (2013). Still. © Smoking Dogs Films; Courtesy Lisson Gallery

FOKUS OPEN CALL

FOKUS 2016 has received 250 video works. We have selected 30!

With video works from 34 different countries, from Iran to the US and from Chile to Indonesia and Italy, and all submitted to our open call competition, we were prompted by the high quality of these many work, to organise our open call somewhat differently this year, notably expanding the format. We have selected a shortlist of 30 works to be shown during the entire festival period.

When a jury convenes to evaluate a certain material, criteria are established for how selection is going to take place. This year, one criterion was that the video medium should be investigated and challenged in an interesting manner. Other criteria were that the work should be topical and relevant or in short: it should be able to move and seduce.

Furthermore, current trends have been evident, and the works submitted can almost be classified into certain topics. This applies, e.g., to: the social or geopolitical, performative actions, nature, love, metaphysical and mental journeys. Within these various topics, the jury has considered the entire spectrum of works, compared them with each other, and finally deciding on the works which were found to be dealing with these topics in the most interesting manner.

The jury this year is visual artist Pia Rönicke, art critic Pernille Albrethsen, documentarist Lotte Mik-Meyer, Andreas Brøgger head of Nikolaj Kunsthal and Johanne Løgstrup, curator at Nikolaj Kunsthal.



👁 Louis Henderson, *Black Code/Code Noir* (2015)



👁 Lin Li, *Fragments of Peace* (2014)

On Thursday March 3 at 7pm, the jury will name three works to be the winners of this year's open call. The winners will subsequently be shown on a large screen during the remainder of the festival.

SHORTLIST THE 30 SELECTED WORKS

SELINI HALVADAKI (DK) OFF-HISTORY

2014, 19:12 MIN.

Off-History explores the economic and social crises in Greece along with the mechanisms that contribute to the construction of our personal and collective memory.

Selini Halvadaki graduated from The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in 2014 and has recently participated at the Athens International Short Film Festival 2015.

HANNA ABRAHAMSSON (SE) JAG ÄR JAG

2014, 05:30 MIN.

Jag är Jag focuses on the desire to categorise other people on the basis of group affiliation and certain properties. Through five individual portraits of randomly selected older people, this inclination is problematised.

Hanna Abrahamsson (1989, Sweden), MA in ethnology and cinema studies from Stockholm's University. Studies photography at Fridhem Folk High School and documentary film at Nordic Documentary Film School, Biskops Arnö.

DUANE HOPKINS (GB) TWELFTH MAN

2014, 05:41 MIN.

In February 2014, thousands of Newcastle and Sunderland supporters faced each other in the hours prior to the second derby match of the season. The film focuses on the minutes before the game and shows the angst, antagonism and rivalry between opposing fans, but also the football supporter being a part of a group.

Director and artist Duane Hopkins recently released his second feature BYPASS which was selected for the Venice International Film Festival 2014 in the Orizzonti Competition.

OTHER STORY (DK)

JAN

2015, 09:25 MIN.

Other Story is a film project seeking to counteract the widespread dehumanisation of refugees that represents a danger in today's Europe. The project wants to emphasise the humanity of the individual faces that are hidden behind the term 'a refugee'. *Other Story* are performance artist Madeleine Kate McGowan, Anne Louise Carstens of Action Aid and folk high school teacher Laura Vilsgaard. In teams of two, members travel to places in Europe where immigrants are staying at the moment.

LIN LI (GB) FRAGMENTS OF PEACE

2014, 15:14 MIN.

Using a mix of interviews with local residents in the Scottish Borders and a fictional narrative inspired by an old Chinese tale, this video considers the questions of what constitutes peace and whether peace is attainable, particularly in relation to the idealised notion of rural living. *Originally from Hong Kong, Lin Li now resides in Glasgow. Coming from an academic and employment background in social sciences, Li has gradually shifted her vocation to fine art.*

**VLADIMIR TOMIC & ANA
PAVLOVIC (DK)**
DREAMLAND
2015, 18:21 MIN.

Dreamland tells a personal story of being in a vacuum between two cultures and not feeling quite at home in either. The point of departure is a group of friends who are all migrants living in Denmark and who have all experienced this particular feeling, manifesting itself in dreams, traumas, sorrow, comedy and absurdity.

Vladimir Tomic was born in Sarajevo, but lives in Copenhagen and graduated from The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts. He works with art films and experimental documentary. Danish-Serbian Ana Pavlovic also graduated from The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts where she graduated in 2014.

ELIAS HEUNINCK (BE)
LIGHTKEEPING
2015, 11:07 MIN.

Lightkeeping is a slideshow of scenes and letters selected from an archive of the correspondence of photographic inventor William Henry Fox Talbot. Technically, the film is based on Heuninck's exploration of a new kind of images created with his own camera which has a resolution of only 1 pixel. Whereas the conventional camera is a darkroom capturing light this camera functions more like a lighthouse.

Elias Heuninck (1986) studied media art at the School of Arts in Ghent. His works always touch on the material of film and the notion of cinema.

MALENE CHOI (DK)
NATUR
2014, 03:30 MIN.

Natur ("Nature") takes place in the backyard of a guesthouse in Seoul and in the Jukai forest at the foot of Mount Fuji. Here, people

have sought the final frontier in their quest for answers that they may or may not find. *Malene Choi graduated from The National Film School of Denmark as a documentary film director. Her work Skov ("Forest") was one of the FOKUS 2015 open call winners.*

NIKOLAI NEKH (PT)
**CONCORDÂNCIA DE MARÉS (TIDAL
RESTLESSNESS)**
2015, 08:26 MIN.

Several landing stages and platforms in a harbour play a concert for passing ships with their rocking and creaking. Over the months, the oscillation inside the piles is intensified by the tides, and the sound changes, right until the day when one of the platforms is removed.

Nikolai Nekh lives and works in Lisbon. He graduated from The Fine Art University of Lisbon in 2009. His artistic practice consists in production and distribution of images.

FLEMMING ROLIGHED (DK)
DØDSBO
2014, 09:24 MIN.

In the film *Dødsbo* ("Estate of a Deceased Person"), the artist is alone for the first time in the estate of his deceased father, telling us what has really happened in the house. *Flemming Rolighed graduated from The Jutland Art Academy in 2008 and works with themes such as gender, identity and sexuality.*

LOUIS HENDERSON (GB)
ALL THAT IS SOLID
2014, 15:26 MIN.

All That Is Solid is both a technological and demographic study, filmed in the Agbogboshie electronic waste ground in Accra and in the illegal gold mines of Ghana. The video constructs a *mise-en-abyme* in which the theme is repeated and expanded

upon in different contexts as a geopolitical critique.

Louis Henderson is a British film artist whose works examine the network-based connections of colonialism, technology, capitalism and history. He was educated at the London College of Communication and Le Fresnoy in France.

LOUIS HENDERSON (GB)
BLACK CODE/CODE NOIR
2015, 20:50 MIN.

Black Code/Code Noir unites temporally and geographically disparate elements into a critical reflection on the murders of Michael Brown and Kajieme Powell by the American police in 2014. Archaeologically, the film argues that behind this situation is a sedimented history of slavery, preserved by the Black Code laws of the colonies in the Americas.

Louis Henderson is a British film artist whose works examine the network-based connections of colonialism, technology, capitalism and history. He was educated at the London College of Communication and Le Fresnoy in France.

SØREN THILO FUNDER (DK)
THE VANISHING TABLE
2014, 14:13 MIN.

In *The Vanishing Table* a group of numismatics are gathered around a large wooden table where they are carefully studying 20 extremely rare historical coins. The coins are not visible, they only exist as imaginary objects, producing in the numismatists a collective fantasy.

Søren Thilo Funder lives and works in Copenhagen. He was educated at The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in 2008, and prior to that he studied at The School of Art and Architecture, University of Illinois, Chicago.



👁 Duane Hopkins, *Twelfth Man* (2014)



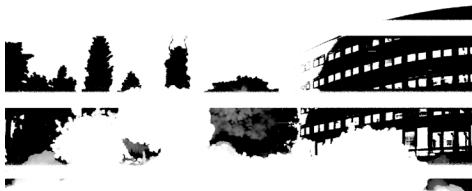
👁 Rafael Guendelman, *Ana men Chile (I am from Chile)* (2015)



👁 Søren Thilo Funder, *The Vanishing Table* (2014)



👁 Other Story, Jan (2015)



👁 Elias Heuninck, *Lightkeeping* (2015)



👁 Jeppe Rohde Nielsen, *Game* (2015)



👁 Nanna Rebekka & Pernille Lystlund Matzen, *Breaker of Horses* (2015)



👁 Linea Ojala, *Hvid Busk* (2015)

ANNICKEN THRANE-STEEN

(NO)

DET ER DET JEG EGENTLIG KAN
SI JEG KAN DA, OG SÅ HADDE JEG
PIANOTIMER

2014, 08:52 MIN.

The starting point of this video is an interview with a young man showing signs of Asperger Syndrome. The camera captures the way in which his hands and feet move during the conversation, and thus the artist seeks to recreate the mood and the emotional experience of a nervous body language. *Annicken Thrane-Steen* has an MA from *The Oslo National Academy of the Arts*. Through photo, video and installations, she works with the verbal and physical articulations and expressions of individuals.

LINEA OJALA (DK)

HVID BUSK

2015, 04:12 MIN.

In this video, the artist walks back and forth in front of a white bush. Each time she passes the bush, she picks a twig and puts it in her pocket. The ninth time she stops and disappears into the bush.

Linea Ojala studies at the talent school *Kunst/Design* in *Næstved* and works with video and performance art as well as painting and drawing.

JEPPE ROHDE NIELSEN (DK)

GAME

2014, 10:49 MIN.

In *Game*, we follow Ike, one of two soldiers living deep underground in a bunker. Their task is to monitor a military console, and they both have to insert a key and turn it round if the signal to do so comes from the outside. But no such signal comes, and the soldiers are challenged by boredom and isolation while time gradually seems to dissolve.

Jeppe Rohde Nielsen was educated at *Time Based Art and Digital Film* at *Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design* in *Dundee, Scotland*. For the past six years, he has been working with short films, music videos and experimental films.

NAUToFON (SE)

AN INBODY EXPERIENCE

2015, 11:11 MIN.

Through a tangled-up mix of material – text, sound and recordings found across the Internet – focus is directed towards the human body, with the question of what it is like to live inside and outside one's body at the core of the film.

Nautofon is a Swedish artists collective and non-profit publisher whose projects include a rich variety of themes and expressions. The common denominator is a "detouristic" exploration of consciousness.

HANNAH BUCKLEY (GB)

WE ARE NOW. UNTITLED (ELSIE AND HANNAH)

2015, 05:18 MIN.

We Are Now is a video series and a live performance celebrating intergenerational exchange among women. *Untitled (Elsie and Hannah)* is a collaboration including *Hannah Buckley*, *Elsie Brown* and filmmaker *Sarah Hill*. It is inspired by American choreographer *Trisha Brown* and her iconic solo *Accumulation*.

We Are Now is a part of *Accumulations*, a project including *Dani Abulhawa*, *Hannah Buckley*, *Sarah Spies* and *Amy Voris*. *Accumulations* is built around the four themes of women's work, intergenerational exchange, gendered space and archival practices.

VILJE CELIN KERN VESTENFOR

(NO)

ANOTHER DAY IN PARADISE

2015, 14:36 MIN.

Another day in paradise shows a series of everyday scenarios in which the persons share the common trait that they are all seeking to achieve something, to create, to understand, to make the big and small questions of life tangible.

Vilje Celin Kern Vestenfor lives and works in *Oslo*. She has a BFA from *The Bergen Academy of Art and Design*. Using in particular video and montage, she examines the absurdities of everyday situations.

DUANE HOPKINS (GB)

BICYCLES

2015, 03:07 MIN.

A teenage boy finds himself in the middle of the England where he grew up. Here, he rides his bike in search of himself in a deserted residential area.

Director and artist *Duane Hopkins* recently released his second feature *BYPASS* which was selected for the *Venice International Film Festival 2014* in the *Orizzonti Competition*.

DECLINACIÓN MAGNÉTICA (ES)

PALINDRÓPTICO 2

2014, 05:50 MIN.

Palindróptico 2 is a part of a series of films, all revolving around how the Spanish legal system legitimises exclusion. *Palindróptico* examines how depriving people of their most basic rights today is reinforced by various legal mechanisms.

Declinación Magnética is a research and production group including theoreticians, curators and artists. Their work is built on a post- and decolonialist approach and seeks to dismantle the visual language and the discourses underlying the prevalent stories about Spain.

DECLINACIÓN MAGNÉTICA (ES) PALINDRÓPTICO 3

2014, 05:01 MIN.

Palindróptico 3 is a part of a series of films, all revolving around how the Spanish legal system legitimises exclusion. *Palindróptico* examines how depriving people of their most basic rights today is reinforced by various legal mechanisms.

Declinación Magnética is a research and production group including theoreticians, curators and artists. Their work is built on a post- and decolonialist approach and seeks to dismantle the visual language and the discourses underlying the prevalent stories about Spain.

VIKTOR-EMIL DUPONT BILLUND (DK) REGENERATED NATIONAL NARRATIVE

2015, 03:56 MIN.

Over a small stretch of grass meadow a white object hangs frozen in mid-air. One side of the grass meadow ends in a windbreak of trees and bushes. The camera moves around in this little scene, examining the characteristics of the object. Everything apart from the camera is motionless and silent.

Viktor-Emil Dupont Billund has a BFA from The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts and is now studying towards his MFA under Professor Gerard Byrne at the Academy's School of Time-based Media.

LUISE SEJERSEN (DK) MAPPING AFFILIATIONS

2015, 07:35 MIN.

In *Mapping affiliations*, the narrator takes us on a journey via Google Earth to his home in Jutland where Dansk Folkeparti, The Danish People's Party, attracted a lot of votes in the general election in 2015. With

a starting point in the debate of differences of opinions between Copenhageners and Jutlanders, he searches the landscape surrounding his childhood home and the history of the area to touch on some of the possible reasons behind local and global conflicts.

Luise Sejersen has a BA in art history and graduated from The Funen Art Academy in 2014. In her works, she examines themes such as cohesiveness, collective consciousness and the conditions for spirituality in Scandinavia.

MALTE STARCK (DK) CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF THE ARTS VENTILATION

2015, 25:00 MIN.

This work is an investigation of the infrastructure of an art institution and the dividing line between what takes place in front of and behind the stage during a typical day. The film looks at the various functions of the place, including the separation between work and (art) school and between work and art in general.

Malte Starck has a BA from The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts and is now studying towards his MFA at The Department of Photography and Media of The California Institute of the Arts.

NANNA REBECCA & PERNILLE LYSTLUND MATZEN (DK) BREAKER OF HORSES

2015, 15:00 MIN.

In a residential area in the Sydhavnen part of Copenhagen rises a dramatic bronze sculpture of a man trying to tame two wild horses. In a contemporary idiom, *Breaker of Horses* dives into the matter of this sculpture in order to follow the stories that lie hidden in the bronze.

Nanna Rebecca has written and directed

a number of short films and commercials. She has an MA in Visual Culture from The University of Copenhagen. *Pernille Lystlund Matzen* is a film director, writer and curator. She has an MA in Modern Culture from The University of Copenhagen.

BJØRN ERIK HAUGEN (NO) WHAT DOES IT MATTER HOW MANY LOVERS YOU HAVE IF NONE OF THEM GIVES YOU THE UNIVERSE

2014, 11:45 MIN.

This project revolves around a particular lecture by French psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan where he is abruptly disrupted by a student who ruins his lecture notes with flour and water as a protest against society. The soundtrack of the video is a transcription for mechanical piano of this very lecture. Norwegian *Bjørn Erik Haugen* has an MA from The National Academy in Oslo 2007. He works mainly with sculpture and sound and video installation.

RAFAEL GUENDELMAN (CL) ANA MEN CHILE (I AM FROM CHILE)

2015, 18:52 MIN.

Ana men Chile is Arabic for "I am from Chile". This film revolves around this very meeting between Palestine and Chile. Sequences describing life on the West Bank combine with interviews with Palestinian descendants in Chile which is the country with the largest Palestinian community outside the Middle East.

Chilean *Rafael Guendelman* has a BA in Fine Arts from The PUC University in Chile and is now studying for his Diploma in Contemporary Arab World at the University of Chile.



👁 *Hanna Abrahamson, Jag är Jag (2014)*



👁 *Malte Starck, California Institute of The Arts Ventilation (2015)*



👁 *Hannah Buckley, We Are Now. Untitled (Elsie and Hannah) (2015)*



👁 *Bjørn Erik Haugen, What does it matter how many lovers you have if none of them gives you the universe (2014)*



⦿ *Nautofon, An inbody experience (2015)*



⦿ *Anna Samsøe, Sound is Matter part 3, Out into the sound of the Cosmos (2015)*



⦿ *Eva la Cour, Composite/De-Composite (2015)*



⦿ *Luise Sejersen, Mapping affiliations (2015)*

ANNA SAMSE (DK) **SOUND IS MATTER PART 3,** **OUT INTO THE SOUNDS OF THE** **COSMOS**

2015, 08:37 MIN.

This film is a part of a series of videos all dedicated to communicating knowledge of how sound affects our body and mind. The project is based on a great interest in psychoacoustics and sound theory. This third part, *Out into the sounds of the Cosmos*, is about sounds in outer space.

Anna Samsøe graduated from The Funen Art Academy and Akademie der Bildenden Künste in Vienna.

EVA LA COUR (DK) **COMPOSITE/DE-COMPOSITE**

2015, 03:00 MIN.

Composite/De-Composite interweaves the preservation of old building facades with stories of mining in mountain landscapes. Together, they create one overall image, telling about demolition and construction and about the very coming into being of a picture.

Eva la Cour is a visual artist and researcher based in Copenhagen and Gothenburg. She works mainly with spatial and temporal montages in the form of video and installation.



“VR:LAB **PEER REVIEW”**

Under the heading VR:LAB – PEER REVIEW, FOKUS 2016 makes room for a new technological platform. This year, nine virtual reality works are presented, installed all the way up through the Nikolaj Kunsthal tower. The works have different approaches, agendas and raise different questions, but common to them all is that they want to make film into something physical, challenging the way in which we perceive film. With smartphones mounted in virtual reality cardboard goggles, guests are invited as peers to put on a laboratory coat and examine these works, write down their observations and just explore this new world mixing film and virtual reality.

VR:LAB - PEER REVIEW is curated by Johan Knattrup Jensen and Mads Damsbo and is produced by Darshika Karunahara

in collaboration with Nikolaj Kunsthal. The nine works are the result of VR:LAB – a production course over 10 days during CPH:DOX in autumn 2015 – where 18 Nordic artists explored the language and form of the VR medium.

DOWNLOAD THE VR:LAB APP IN APP STORE OR GOOGLE PLAY.

COMPATIBLE VR GOGGLES CAN BE PURCHASED AT NIKOLAJ KUNSTHAL.

VR:LAB THE WORKS

Prior to the production of the works, the 18 participants were divided into 9 teams, each with the task of creating a VR work on a minimal budget in 10 days. They each had a Point-of-View (POV) 260 degrees camera put to their disposal as well as VR equipment to make binaural 3D sound.

The participants had to comply with 10 technical dogmas:

1. The film should be written and filmed for POV
2. The film should last no more than 5 minutes
3. The VR experience could be about anything
4. The film should not contain graphics, CGI or digital SPFX
5. The film should be stereoscopic
6. The sound of the film should be recorded with binaural microphones
7. All images and sound should be filmed on location
8. The title should be included in the film. Credits were not to be included
9. The film should be premiered, no matter what
10. No changes should be made to the film after its premiere

LOVE IS A LOSER'S GAME

"The most important thing in VR is the gaze, the freedom to look around, and perhaps even more importantly, to become fascinated by something. Looking at each other can create a surprisingly strong tie and a feeling of intimacy, even among strangers. We want to place the audience in a scene between two people in love."

Director: Aino Suni

Producer: Rikke Tambo Andersen

FULL HOUSE

"You're on the middle of a large stage. Your own expectations provide the basis for how you experience the work."

Director: Calle Holck

Producer: Allan Luckow

SOFT

"Except for the point, the still point, there would be no dance, and there is only the dance". (T.S Eliot)

Director: Camilla Figenschou

SPLIT SECOND

"The child on the backseat has behaved better than expected. Practically no complaints. You're on your way from Kiruna to Copenhagen. 1887 km. You're almost home – it'll be so great. But you've been driving for 20 hours non-stop..."

Directors: Frida & Lasse Barkfors

Producer: Christian Vangsgaard

GIVE ME YOUR LINE!

"A surreal experience of the art of (mis) communication."

Director: Karna Sigurðardóttir

Producer: Anna J Ljungmark



👁 VR:LAB

AN EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER

"Can you be personally affected when you take over somebody else's strong feelings without knowing the reasons behind them and without knowing this person very well?"

Director: Rasmus Kloster Bro

Producer: Kristian Kryger

WE ARE WHAT VR

"We are what VR!"

Director: Elín Hansdóttir

Producer: Birgitte Rask

KNUD

"Meet Knud Vesterskov (1942), underground filmmaker and queer activist home in his flat at Vesterbro in Copenhagen."

Director: Alexander Lind

Producer: Maximilian Mayrshofer

TOWER

"A confrontation with the inevitability of death and our limited time on earth."

Director: Tobias Gundorff Boesen

Producer: Niels Ahlefeldt Wetterberg

“

VR:LAB makes the spectators a part of the film and turns the experience into something physical – something you wear on your own body.

With VR: LAB – PEER REVIEW, we want to include the FOKUS festival audience – dressed in laboratory jackets – in the development of the new language to be found between film and virtual reality. We want to explore together, as peers.

The works have different approaches, agendas, and they raise different questions. Some will be accessible, some won't. Some works will tell their stories on different levels than those that are immediately visible, and they will use means that haven't so far been defined. Common to them all is that they want to create a situation that makes a dialogue possible. It may not be a dialogue, as we know it. Therefore, the works require that you move yourself into them and find your own way through them. In this, the works become not the final word, but chapters in an ongoing and endless development of a language.

”

Johan Knattrup Jensen and Mads Damsbo

FOKUS CITY

FOKUS Video Art Festival crops up at selected spots in Copenhagen. At the reading room of the Copenhagen City Archives you can experience Niels Pugholm's latest video piece. During the festival period, the 30 videos selected for open call are shown on small FOKUS video boxes at various libraries and cafés, in a cinema and at a culture centre.

OPEN CALL IN THE CITY

YOU WILL FIND A FOKUS VIDEO BOX HERE:

GRAND TEATRET

MIKKEL BRYGGERS GADE 8
1460 COPENHAGEN K

ØSTERBRO BIBLIOTEK

DAG HAMMARSKJÖLDS ALLÉ 19
2100 COPENHAGEN Ø

HOVEDBIBLIOTEKET

KRYSTALGADE 15
1172 COPENHAGEN K

KULTURHUSET ISLANDS BRYGGE

ISLANDS BRYGGE 18
2300 COPENHAGEN S

VINHANEN VESTERBRO

ENGHAVEVEJ 24
1674 COPENHAGEN V

VINHANEN NØRREBRO

BAGGESENSGADE 13
2200 COPENHAGEN N

KAFFEBAREN PÅ AMAGER

ÆBLESTIEN 2
2300 COPENHAGEN S



Niels Pugholm, Bilferie - Tyskland - 1936 (2016)

“NIELS PUGHOLM: BILFERIE - TYSKLAND - 1936”

(CAR HOLIDAY - GERMANY - 1936)

2016, 15:00 MIN.

Niels Pugholm's new video work follows a Danish family on a road trip to Germany in the 1930's. Visiting their Uncle Rudi and Aunt Greta's country house in the Alps, the family trip is documented through the camera lens of a teenage girl. This is a perfectly normal summer holiday with things and events large and small: the meeting with the mountaineers Herrmann and Rimfort, the visit to the youth camp preparing for the upcoming Olympic Games in Berlin, the shopping tour to Munich, the older sister's summer flirt. Small hints are given in the photos, however, that something new is on its way. Through the retrospective gaze of a later time we perceive that at that time a new era and a new set of values were beginning to take form.

Niels Pugholm graduated from the Funen Art Academy in 2013. In 2015 he was awarded the solo exhibition *Det som tabes* ("Whatever Is Lost") at GL STRAND after winning the EXTRACT prize in 2013. Niels Pugholm has participated in previous FOKUS open calls and has been both nominated and won the prize for best contribution.

**THE READING ROOM
THE COPENHAGEN CITY
ARCHIVES
COPENHAGEN CITY HALL
1599 COPENHAGEN V**

OPENING HOURS
MONDAY-WEDNESDAY: 9AM-3PM
THURSDAY: 10AM-5PM

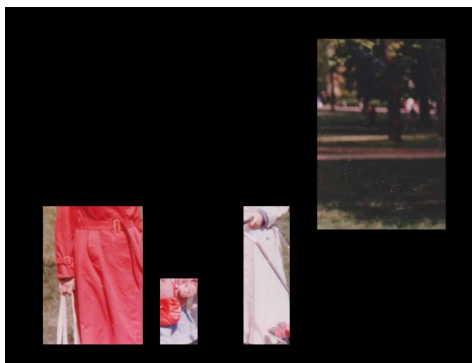
EVENTS



Ritual, Maalem Omar Hayat



Tina Enghoff, 7 x Dialog (2015)



Felleskassen, Å være, å gjøre / To be, to do (2015)

“CONCERT: RITUAL”

FEATURING MAALEM OMAR HAYAT (MA), DJ RUPTURE (US) AND DARK MATTERS (DK)

**FRIDAY FEBRUARY
12 8PM**

Ever since its start in 2011, FOKUS has been exploring the border areas between video art and other genres, including electronic music, VJ'ing and visuals. Together with Frost Festival, Global and the Roskilde Festival Foundation, FOKUS this year invites you to a special evening under the headings of *ritual* and *trance* as the Moroccan music genre *gnawa* unites with electronic music and visuals commissioned for the occasion.

Gnawa master Maalem Omar Hayat and his crew of musicians and dancers, together with DJ Rupture (US) and Dark Matters (DK), will create a trance-inducing experience of visuals, African and Western music at Nikolaj Kunsthal.

**PLEASE NOTE: SPECIAL TICKET
REQUIRED (DKK 170) WHICH CAN BE
PURCHASED ON BILLETNET.**

“TINA ENGHOFF: 7 X DIALOG”

FILM SCREENING
2015, 17 MIN.

**FRIDAY FEBRUARY
19 5PM**

Seven small staged meetings of children, young people and older people, all living in the Valby part of Copenhagen, offer an intimate insight into what a conversation is basically about, e.g., how meaning and sense are created collectively by recognising each other's language. The dialogues in the film both revolve around simple and larger themes such as flowers, mistakes, cancer and spacemen, showing how even small mimic movements, gestures, hesitation, looks and interruptions make up our stories and determine the space we give each other.

From 2012 to 2015, visual artist Tina Enghoff worked with children and young residents of Folehaven, Hornemanns Vænge and Valbyejendommene creating films that reflect on their lives and surroundings. Part of Valby is the overall title of an art project that has resulted in a total of five films about identity, friendships, lies, role models and trust. *7 X Dialog* (“7 X Dialogue”) is premiered this evening, and subsequently the other films of the project are shown: *Ved du hvem jeg er?* (“Do you know who I am?”), *Løgnedetektoren* (“The Lie Detector”), *Kan du høre noget?* (“Do you hear something?”) and *De syv valg* (“The Seven Choices”), all of which were premiered at previous editions of FOKUS Video Art Festival.

pArt of Valby is a part of the regional cultural development project SKIS (Sæt Kulturen i Spil – “Culture in Action”), featuring six municipalities under KulturMetropolØresund.

“FELLESKASSEN: Å VÆRE, Å GJØRE / TO BE, TO DO”

SILENT MOVIE PERFORMANCE
2015, 32 MIN.

**FRIDAY FEBRUARY
26 5 PM**

Å være, å gjøre / To be, to do is a silent movie performance by Felleskassen. The starting point is a family photo album that has been reinterpreted as a musical score. A prologue introduces infinitive clauses and, following this, the film presents photos from the album in a scrolling movement. Each photo functions as a note and ties together the scroll of pictures in a musical structure that is performed live on a harmonica. *Å være, å gjøre / To be, to do* is about the passing of time and the life lived in a reconstruction of present moments.

Felleskassen is a Norwegian artists duo founded in 2014, comprising visual artist Tonje Alice Madsen and composer and musician Camilla Vatne Baratt-Due. The performance *Å være, å gjøre / To be, to do* was premiered at the FASE Festival for Sound Art in Berlin 2015 and is shown in Denmark for the first time at FOKUS 2016.

Music and composition: Camilla Vatne Baratt-Due. Film and prologue: Tonje Alice Madsen.

VIRTUAL REALITY WORKSHOP AND MASTER CLASS

In co-operation with Nordic Reality and Makropol, FOKUS hosts a VR workshop with a built-in master class. Gain insight into how VR technology may become a new tool for storytelling within, e.g., video art, film and commercial communication.

Follow a VR production up close and experience the challenges and potentials of this medium in the process from idea to finished work. Meet Simon Wilkinson, the creator behind the work *The CUBE*, prize-winning VR director Anrick Bregman of Unit 9 and the people behind *Skammekrogen* ("The Doghouse").

VIDEOCRUISE AND VIDEO WORKSHOP

Join a video cruise of FOKUS 2016. We offer video workshops for schools, workplaces, associations and others who feel like experiencing the festival and learning more about video art.

In both dialogical and practical courses we examine the various expressions of the video medium, its themes and stylistic characteristics.

We offer two different formats:

VIDEOCRUISE

A short insight into the diversity of the festival and the video medium.

VIDEOWORKSHOP

Extended course focusing on John Akomfrah's works. Here, participants will produce small video sequences about cultural diversity, identity, origin and history.

FEBRUARY 27 2016

9:30AM-6PM, FOLLOWED BY DRINKS

PLACE: NIKOLAJ KUNSTHAL

**PLEASE NOTE: REQUIRES PRIOR
REGISTRATION AND A SPECIAL TICKET TO
BE BOUGHT ON BILLETTO NO LATER THAN
FEBRUARY 19 2016.**

Courses for basic schools and treatment schools within the City of Copenhagen are free.

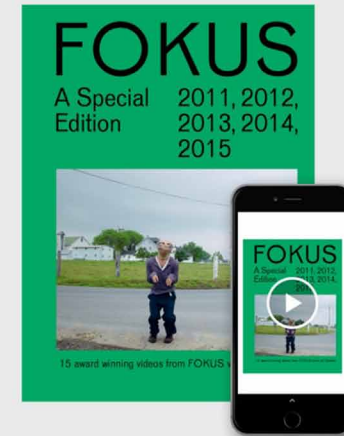
**READ MORE ABOUT THE TWO FORMATS
ON WWW.NIKOLAJKUNSTHAL.DK.**

BOOKING

M: BOOKING@NIKOLAJKUNSTHAL.DK

T: 33 18 17 86

“FOKUS SPECIAL EDITION: 2011-2015”



Together with *The Exposed*, FOKUS this year launches a publication that presents video art in a new way.

Through a special combination of app and printed magazine, 15 exceptional videos may be accessed on smartphone or tablet. The videos are all winners from the first five years of FOKUS open call from 2011-2015.

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS:

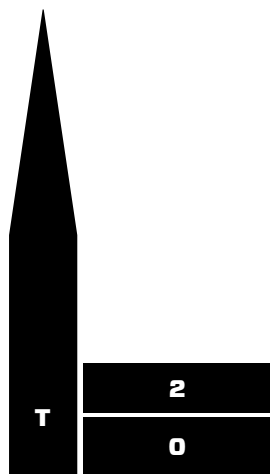
Lasse Lau (DK), Rose Eken (DK), Olaf Breuning (CH), Julie Tovgaard & Mira Kellermann (DK), Smike Kászner (DK), Niels Pugholm (DK), Mia Wewer (DK), Kristina Elisabeth Steinbock (DK), Søren Lose (DK), Margarida Paiva (PT/NO), Marcus Shahar (IL), Samira Hashemi (US), Malene Choi (DK), Lene Vollhardt & Seraphine Meya (D), Paul Simon Richards (UK)

In order to experience the works, both app and printed magazine are required. FOKUS Special Edition is sold at Nikolaj Kunsthall. Download the FOKUS app or *The Exposed* app from App Store, and follow the instructions.

FOKUS would like to thank the 15 artists for their participation in this publication.

THE-EXPOSED.COM

CALENDAR



2 - UPPER GALLERY

JOHN AKOMFRAH: VERTIGO SEA

0 - LOWER GALLERY

FILM PROGRAMME + EVENTS
FOKUS OPEN CALL

T - TOWER

VR:LAB

LOWER GALLERY

FEBRUARY 11-14
WEEK 1

THURSDAY

5-8PM
FILM PROGRAMME:
John Akomfrah:
Handsworth Songs

5PM-8PM:
OPENING

FRIDAY

12AM-5PM:
FILM PROGRAMME:
John Akomfrah:
Handsworth Songs

8PM:
CONCERT:
Ritual
feat. Maalem Omar Hayat
(MA), DJ Rupture (US) and
Dark Matters (DK)

SATURDAY

12AM-5PM:
FILM PROGRAMME:
John Akomfrah:
Handsworth Songs

SUNDAY

12AM-5PM:
FILM PROGRAMME:
John Akomfrah:
Handsworth Songs

FEBRUARY 18-21
WEEK 2

12AM-10PM:
FILM PROGRAMME:
John Akomfrah:
The Last Angel of History

12AM-5PM:
FILM PROGRAMME:
John Akomfrah:
The Last Angel of History

5PM:
PREMIERE:
Tina Enghoff: *7 X Dialog*

12AM-5PM:
FILM PROGRAMME:
John Akomfrah:
The Last Angel of History

12AM-5PM:
FILM PROGRAMME:
John Akomfrah:
The Last Angel of History

FEBRUARY 25-28
WEEK 3

12AM-10PM:
FILM PROGRAMME:
John Akomfrah:
The Stuart Hall Project

12AM-4PM: / 7-10PM:
FILM PROGRAMME:
John Akomfrah:
The Stuart Hall Project

5PM:
**SILENT MOVIE
PERFORMANCE:**
Felleskassen:
Å være, å gjøre
/ To be, to do

12AM-5PM:
FILM PROGRAMME:
John Akomfrah:
The Stuart Hall Project

9.30AM-6PM:
VR WORKSHOP

12AM-5PM:
FILM PROGRAMME:
John Akomfrah:
The Stuart Hall Project

MARCH 3-6
WEEK 4

12AM-5PM:
FILM PROGRAMME:
OPEN CALL shortlist

7-9PM
**PRIZE-GIVING TO
OPEN CALL WINNERS**

12AM-10PM:
FILM PROGRAMME:
OPEN CALL winners

12AM-5PM:
FILM PROGRAMME:
OPEN CALL winners

12AM-5PM:
FILM PROGRAMME:
OPEN CALL winners



DOWNLOAD THE FOKUS FESTIVAL APP

Download the FOKUS Festival app in App Store to access trailers and additional material via the 👁-icons in this programme.

FOKUS IS SUPPORTED BY:



KØBENHAVNS KOMMUNE
Kultur- og Fritidsforvaltningen

STATENS KUNSTFOND

COLLABORATION PARTNERS:



GLOBAL



The Exposed

GRAND



KØBENHAVNS
STADSARKIV



SMOKING
DOGS FILM



LISSEN
GALLERY



FELLESKASSEN'S PERFORMANCE IS SUPPORTED BY:



norden
Nordic Culture Point

TINA ENGHOF'S PROJECT IS SUPPORTED BY:



KulturMetropolØresund



VR:LAB IS PRODUCED AND SUPPORTED BY:

CPH:DOX *



NORDISK
KULTURFOND

ADMISSION: DKK 50

OPENING HOURS:

THURSDAY-FRIDAY 12-10PM

SATURDAY-SUNDAY: 12-5PM

CLOSED MONDAY-WEDNESDAY