



CHAIRS MISSING

Written and directed by Bea de Visser
Original format: RED 4k, No dialogue, 18 minutes

Logline:

A cinematic performance where all drama is excised, remains invisible. A post-narrative, staged documentary image of an almost deserted pool, a day before its demolition.

Synopsis:

Brief encounters in a semi enclosed public space, the pool. These short meetings are more suggested than actually proposed, because the action ultimately always occurs off-screen. In a stream of repetitive patterns without an added music score, no text and the lack of a plot, we cannot escape from the underlying tension that is evoked when we are witnessing people who possibly meet one another in an empty, barren public space. Nowhere is uncovered to what is actually happening. The only genuine person is the man we follow and maybe his visions during the last days before the demolishment of the pool. Visions, history and reality that converge?

.... A man walks through the hallways past lockers and cubicles. A boy plays in one of the lockers. A girl walks into a dressing room, opens the door, but does not enter. A boy walks past the grandstand where a young woman stares into the water. A woman swims her baby to the edge of the pool. The building is filled with sounds: water, machinery, leaking outside noise like the sound of emptiness. And old man steps off the high dive ...

We come to know anything about the people we 'follow' or meet. Everyone seems calm and happened to come by. It derives the film its quality as stylized documentary observation or film essay. Yet there is turmoil and tangible threat.

Artist statement, project note

Bluntly: I want to tell a story without a story to tell ... What interests me is what will be actually shown. My strong inclination for the (dance / drama) performance in the film stems I think from a background of music / sound performance and painting. I choose especially for the physical approach

of performance and the drama based on images. Interesting for me are musicality, rhythm, tone and timbre, sometimes cruel absurdity, perversion and the balance between the banal and the human spiritual identity.

The grid of my work stems from interrogation of the visual logic in combination with a strictly visual poetry. My strategy emphasizes the importance to challenge our preconceptions of what film can and must touch.

Bea de Visser

Bea de Visser (1957) is part of a generation of artists experimenting with the medium of video and exploring its possibilities. Since the nineties she is working on a cinematic oeuvre, which touches several genres: film, photography, painting and installation.

Cast:

man in work clothes SIMON VERSNEL (actor) and former visitors, professional swimmers, a bath superintendent and a baby.

producer ANOTHERFILM, BEA DE VISSER
assitant producer HANS EIJSSES
scenario and director BEA DE VISSER
camera GREGG TELUSSA
camera under water JAN WICH
steadicam PETER VAN VUGT
gaffer GERWIN NYSINGH
sound MATT KEMP
editor BEA DE VISSER
music FRED FRITH
sound design BEA DE VISSER
sound mixage RANKO PAUKOVIC
colorist BAREND ONNEWEER
graphic design STUDIO BEIGE
translation CJ OLDENHOF

the film was supported by: Rotterdam Media Fund, VSB Fonds, DKC Rotterdam, CBK Dordrecht Gemeente Dordrecht, Materiaalfonds

Technical data

Multi format exhibition, Screening format: HD digital

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SCREENINGS a.o.:

2013

- Cairo Video Cinema - Experimental Cinema, Cairo, Egypt
- premiere multi-channel installation (to be announced)
- Videographe, one channel installation for the exhibition project by sound artist Chantal Dumas, Montreal, Canada
- Ciné Cercle2, Espace Cercle Carré (Montréal), Canada
- (looped single channel installation) Art Souterrain, Montréal, Quebec, Canada

2012

- Clermont-Ferrand Short Film Festival
- Rencontres International, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany
- April, Rencontres Internationales Paris/ Madrid/ Berlin, Reina Sophia Museum, Madrid
- October, Festival du Nouveau Cinéma de Montréal, Quebec, Canada
- KasselDokfest, Kassel, Germany

2011

- De Unie, Rotterdam, NL
- Cannes Court Métrage, France
- Art Film Fest, Slovak Republic
- International Short Film Festival São Paulo, Brazil
- LantarenVenster, Rotterdam, NL
- Dutch Film Festival, Utrecht, NL
- International Festival New Media and New Film, Split, Croatia
- LantarenVenster, Rotterdam, NL
- Dordrechts Museum, NL
- Rencontres International, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

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BEA DE VISSER

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Bea de Visser is recognized for her film art, installation work and sound performances. In her work she questions elementary social issues in a cinematic language, poetic in nature and through an alternative narrative form.

Bea de Visser attended the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten in Amsterdam (1993-1995). Prior she pursues her studies painting with a study electroacoustic sound. She initially began her career as a sound and performance artist in the trendy club scene and artist's spaces early 1980-ies. With her installation work she was asked for international exhibitions in museums, art spaces and galleries, including MoMA New York, National Museum Prague, Madrid, Pittsburgh and the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam. Her films are screened at international film festivals worldwide.

Bea de Visser leads to date the independent studio Anotherfilm that nowadays works as a platform for scenario and film development. She is a lecturer at the University of the Arts, Utrecht.

A Breath Hush (1996, short), **Another Another** (1999, short), **The Barren Land** (2001, short), **Roses and Fall** (2006, short), **The Second Memory** (2004, short), **Just a Minute Yoko** (2004, short), **Mama Superfreak** (2009, short), **Chairs Missing** (2011, short) **The animal that therefore I am / l'Animal que donc je suis** (2019, short).

Installations include: **The Skipping Mind** (1994, art installation), **Blink** (1997, art video), **Vanya** (2005, art video, 8-channel), **Blowup** (2002, art video, single screen), **7-Days** (2000-2001, permanent installation, commissioned work), **I-love-you** (1998, 16mm film/ sound installation), **Modest Doubt** cycle (2013, series performances), **FLUX** (1998, video/ sound installation), **Nijinsky a life in a jump, a string about to snap** (2005, video scenery, dance theatre), **Catastrophes** (2006, video scenery, dance theatre), **Waterlanders** (2001, video scenery, dance theatre).

Short films [VIMEO.com/beadevisser](https://www.vimeo.com/beadevisser), album: short films If

you want to see the entire film instead of a fragment, please contact me

Installations, performances, video scenery: [VIMEO.com/beadevisser](https://www.vimeo.com/beadevisser), album: installations

Anotherfilm / Bea de Visser

links to films on [VIMEO](https://www.vimeo.com)

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