

# A breath hush [1996]

Betacam-SP, 7" 52 minutes., colour

production: Bea de Visser  
screenplay / director: Bea de Visser  
camera: Eugenio Follender  
the man: Robert de Bruin  
music: the use of ashes  
editing: Bea de Visser

## short synopsis

A short film about a main act in life: breathing. The film is located in the realm where breathing is impossible - a man disappears under the water surface and given by nature he is urged to return to the other side.

The action of 'A breath hush' takes place almost entirely under water. After a close-up of the surface, the camera disappears under water to follow the movements of a diver. As the minutes go by, you also hear the sounds of breathing and heartbeat, you begin wondering when the diver will start gasping for air. You see images of another, 'breathtaking' world, where the man almost becomes an alien, being like an unborn child in his amniotic fluid, a cosmonaut adrift in the universe. But the man is unavoidably forced to break away from these immaterial spheres, to emerge and fill his lungs with air..

## DIRECTOR 'S COMMENTS

It is hard to find something more important for human existence than breathing. Breathing unconscious under normal conditions, nobody takes to much notice of doing it. I wanted to make this film about physical action we all practise during our lives: inhaling air, breathing. If we fail continuing no human existence will be left.

A BREATH HUSH is my first short film. I then felt the need to make a mark on what is considered short and at the same time of short but emotionally long duration. Eight minutes is a short but a very long time without inhaling.

**Bea de Visser** studied design public space and painting, and left the Academy of Visual Art to study electro-acoustic sound. She started her career as a performing artist, went on stage making sound works and live installations. Then she turned back to painting, followed by two years residency at the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten in Amsterdam ('93-'94). She works within a frame ranging from an artist initiative to a well established museum, but also the public space, the theatre and the cinema come within the scope of her work.

Other films: Just a minute Yoko ['04] - The second memory ['04] -The barren land ['01] Another another ['99] - A breath hush ['96]

**Robert de Bruin** is an engineer of the Dutch Army. He worked at the time of the shooting as a diver in a team of specialists who build constructions under water. He was one of the main diving instructors at the base of the Dutch Land Forces in 's- Hertogenbosch.

