



© Photography: Gurdy Binder

works [selected]

film | visual research | video & photography | mixed media

Daria Tchapanova

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About the artist



Daria Tchapanova is a research-led visual artist and filmmaker. Working across film, photography, and mixed media, her practice engages with socio-political themes, critically examining power imbalances and addressing social inequalities. With a background in Visual Arts and Anthropology, she develops an interdisciplinary approach that combines artistic expression with socio-political perspectives. Her work is primarily rooted in the field of the arts and often unfolds through artistic collaborations and process-based practices.

I work mainly in contemporary art contexts and my practice is collaborative and research-based. Through dialogue and exchange, I create space for reflection and shared perspectives. In my films different voices and experiences come together to explore the relationship between art and society through the perspective of artists.

Daria Tchapanova works and lives in Vienna, Austria.

www.dat-art.com

The Building - A Gritty Fairytale

28min, 2026, colour, English

A short documentary told from the first-person perspective about August House in Johannesburg—an industrial building in the inner city transformed into one of the city's foremost artist studio spaces.

Blending documentary filmmaking with an artistic cinematic approach, the film portrays the building and its inhabitants, revealing how collective artistic practices create continuity and belonging. The film is both an acoustic and visual journey, centred in a place of artistic production. At the same time, the film reflects on broader global themes - mobility, artistic freedom, migration and resilience - while grounding them in a deeply local story.

Team

produced by Daria Tchapanova in collaboration with META Foundation

Director | Daria Tchapanova

Camera & Editing | Daria Tchapanova

Sound Recordings | Peter Zirbs

Mix & Additinal Recordings | Peter Zirbs

Text | Sara Hallatt & Daria Tchapanova

Text Editing | Melisande Seebald

Subtitles | Sara Hallatt & Daria Tchapanova

With August House artists & facilitators Dustin August | Nicola Bouwer | Ayola Goxo | Gift Khoza Shandré Lummis-Rabie | Bekezela Mabena | Kamogelo Masemola | Simon Mashapo Jr. | Nanini Mgandela | Khotso Motsoeneng | Alpheus Ngoepe Sara Hallatt | David Mayers | Thembekile Mlilo Kelvin Mwale

Screenings

September 2nd, 2026

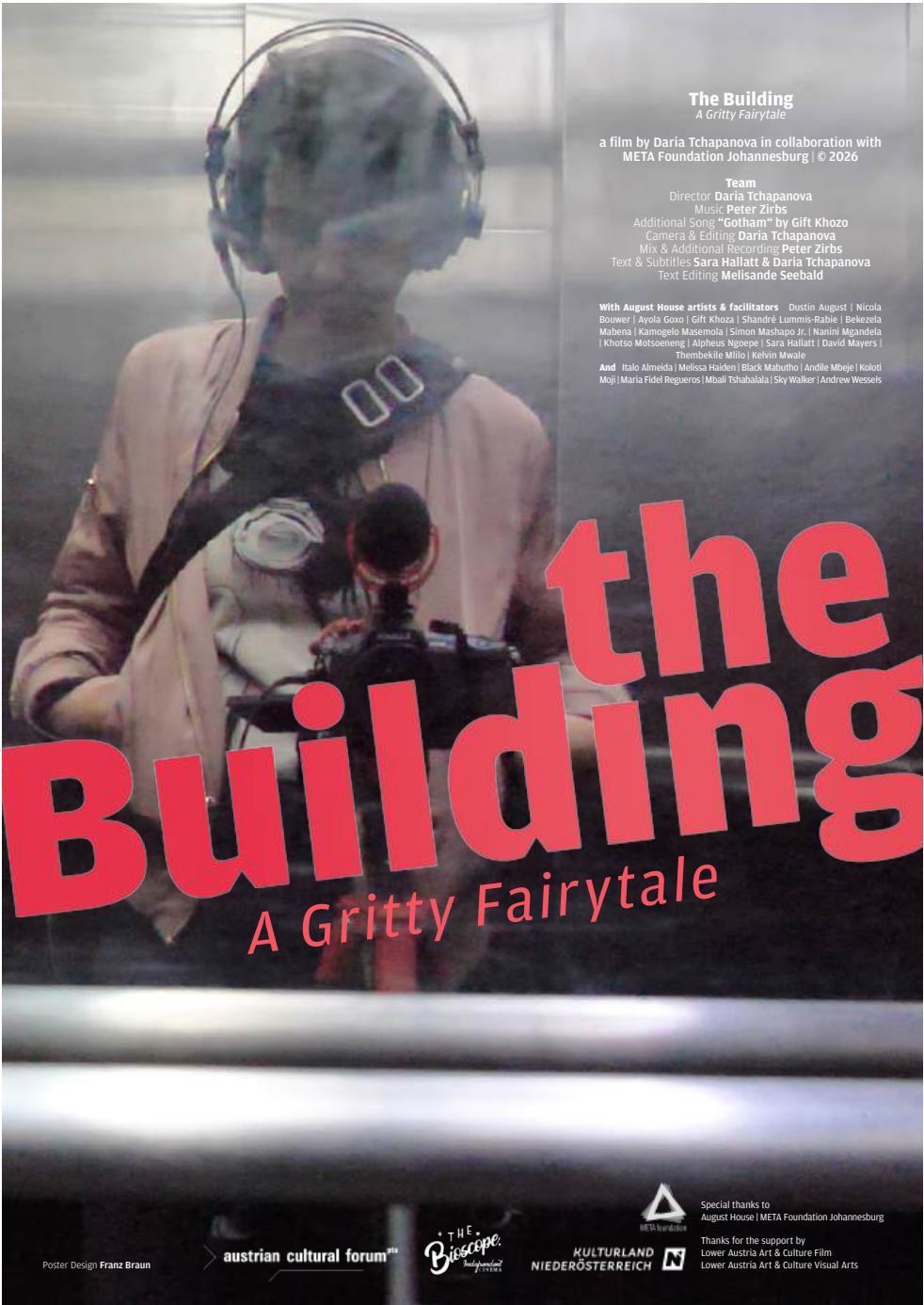
The Bioscope Independent Cinema

44 Stanley Avenue, Milpark, Johannesburg

September 11th, 2026

August House, 4th floor

76 Endstreet, Doornfontein, Johannesburg



video stills © Daria Tchapanova 2026



Multiple Views

Multiple Views explores different modes of storytelling, based on the research *Sounds of August House* (2025) and the film *The Building - A Gritty Fairytale* (2026).

Through photographs, video stills, collages, sketches, and a video installation, visitors are invited to construct their own narratives and reflect on the many ways stories can emerge across places, memories, and experiences. By bringing together different geographical locations, *Multiple Views* creates connections between distant contexts, encouraging audiences to consider how local histories resonate within broader global realities.



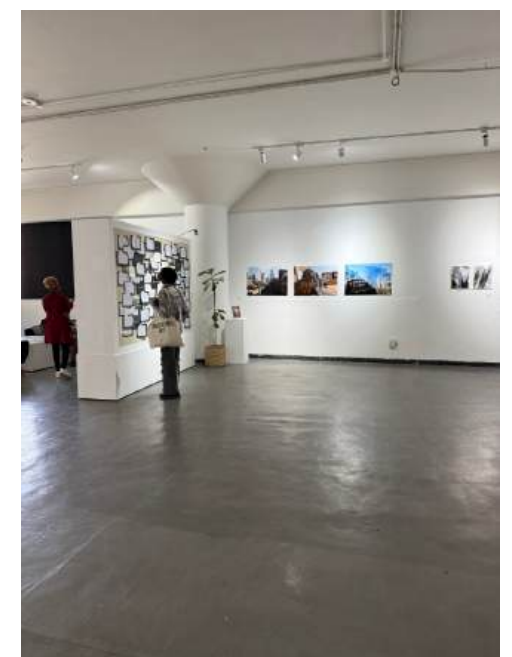
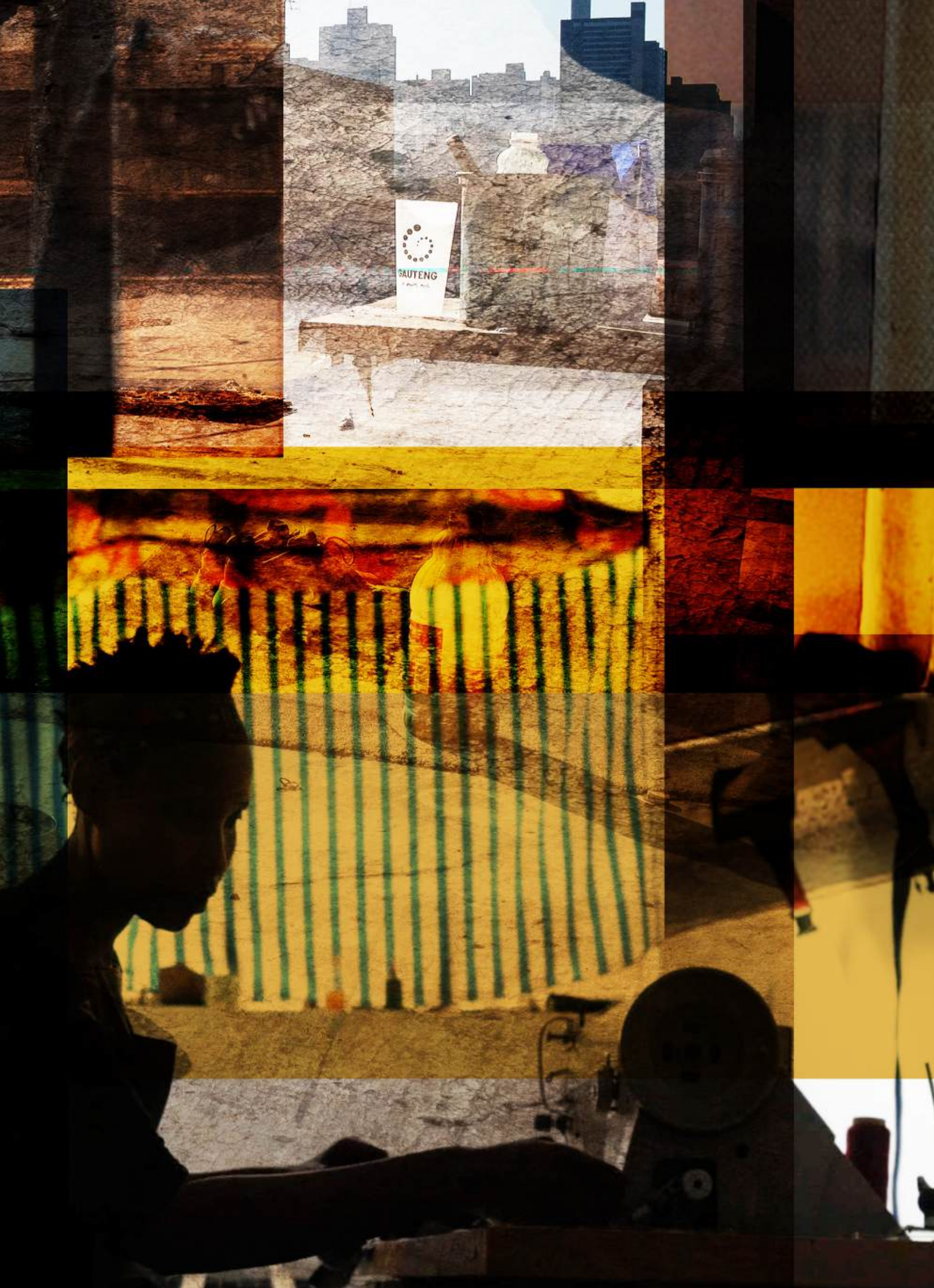
Scriptbook, 2025/26
film script of "The Building - A Gritty Fairytale"
148 x 255 cm



Urban Fabrics #2, 2025
on Luster 290 g/m² Premium Photo Paper
60 x 80 cm each
Edition 1/3



Installation view
Fragments | Multiple views
video installation, 2026, 20min, color, 16:9
visual: Daria Tchapanova | sound: Peter Zirbs



Multiple Views

Exhibition August House as part of Contra.Joburg 2026
with the kind support by
Meta Foundation Johannesburg
Lower Austria Art & Culture Visual Arts

Liminal Space

14:50min, 2026, colour, German

The world is changing. So are we.

The inclusive dance film **Liminal Space** tells a story of encounter and empowerment through movement in space. Emerging from a dance project by the association BAA-Laa in collaboration with the artists Romy Kolb and Daria Tchapanova, the film shows the discovery and reclaiming of new spaces. People with and without disabilities explore their surroundings together through dance, questioning norms, thresholds, and boundaries along the way.

Liminal Space is a dance film about inclusion, visibility, and the power to reshape space for oneself and for others.



Team

produced by BBA-Laa | Behindert-Besonders Anders
Director | Daria Tchapanova & Romy Kolb
Choreography | Romy Kolb
Camera & Editing | Daria Tchapanova
Music & mix | Peter Zirbs

Screening & Events

Power24 International Film Festival
August 21.-23.2026, Durban (SA)
Nomination for Best Social Awareness Film

20 years BBA, Laa/ Thaya
June 6, 2026, Laa/ Thaya (AT)
performance & screening



video stills © Daria Tchapanova 2026



Haus am Gehen

20min, 2024 | OmUeng | Colour



The short film *Haus am Gehen* portrays individual artists and their daily work in “Kunst Quartier Wien Meidling”. Since 2010, this studio house has provided space for artists from various disciplines, yet it faces ongoing uncertainty about its future, as it will eventually be replaced by free hold flats. The film addresses this precarious situation, with a soundscape that underscores these tensions in an idiosyncratic, dramatic and playful manner. The artists’ perspectives reveal their unique ideas in response to the current situation.

Through its collage-like narrative, *Haus am Gehen* creates a personal and socio-critical portrait of the space, bridging to other creative spaces in Vienna that emerge only to face the threat of disappearance.

Screening: Open Studio Day | KunstQuartier Wien Meidling | November 2024

ongoing submission for filmfestivals | new screenings April - June 2025

Film supported by MA7 Film

Concept: **Franz Braun & Daria Tchapanova**

Director: **Daria Tchapanova**

Camera & editing: **Daria Tchapanova**

Assistent director: **Franz Braun & Charlotte Aurich**

Music & sound design: **Peter Zirbs**

Subtitle: **Daniela Hrunka & Daria Tchapanova**

produced by multi pull - collective to support collaborative art practice
in collaboration with artists of the KQWM

German version: <https://www.kqwm.org/hausamgehen>



© video stills Haus am Gehen

so wie wir sind

the way we are

Ein Film von | a film by
Daria Tchapanova

in Zusammenarbeit mit | in collaboration with
Romy Kolb, Felix Röper, Mariella Schlossnagl, Cornelia Scheuer
Musik & Sound Design | music & sound design
Peter Zirbs

17:36 min, 2023, OmUeng, Farbe

EXHIBITION
Ottakringer Kunstpreis Otilie
Mai 2025, Vienna, AT

SCREENING
ongoing
<https://www.dat-art.com/sowiewirsind>

Der Kurzdokumentarfilm "so wie wir sind" basiert auf einem Tanzworkshop im Rahmen eines Schulprojektes der Choreograph:innen Romy Kolb, Mariella Schlossnagl und Felix Röper. Der Film setzt sich kritisch mit dem Thema "Inklusive Bildung in Österreich" auseinander. Begleitet durch Aussagen der Performerin Cornelia Scheuer wird der konkrete Blick auf Barrieren im öffentlichen Raum, auf Ausgrenzung von Menschen mit Behinderung in Bezug auf die Menschenrechte und auf fehlende soziale Integration in der österreichischen Bildungslandschaft kritisch kommentiert.

The short documentary film "the way we are" based on a dance workshop led by choreographers Romy Kolb, Felix Röper and Mariella Schlossnagl, takes a critical look at 'inclusive education in Austria'. Performer Cornelia Scheuer provides key statements, guiding the film's critique of the barriers present in public spaces, the exclusion of people with disabilities in relation to human rights, and the lack of social integration within the Austrian educational system.

Workshop unterstützt von | Workshop supported by
Tangente St. Pölten – Festival für Gegenwartskultur im Rahmen des Schulprojekts „Wir machen's anders! Ideen für die Zukunft“, 2023 unter der Vermittlung von Magdalena Chowaniec

in Kooperation mit dem Büro für Diversität der Stadt St.Pölten
in corporation with department for diversity management St.Pölten municipality

So wie wir sind

A film by Daria Tchapanova
in collaboration with Romy Kolb, Felix Röper,
Mariella Schlossnagl and Cornelia Scheuer



© video stills so wie wir sind

is it a border or is it a connection?

visual artistic research

fellowship kültürgemma! in collaboration with the Austrian UNESCO Commission 2021/22

<https://kultuergemma.at/de/daria-tchapanova>

“Im/mobility in the context of “migrant artists”“

Social- and Cultural Anthropology | University of Vienna 2024

In 2021/2022 I was a fellow of kültürgemma! to collaborate with the Austrian UNESCO Commission in Vienna and my fellowship was entitled “the freedom of artistic expression”. This setting allowed access and a closer look into an inter-governmental organizations, their structures, policies and actions. I invited twelve international artists based in Vienna, some temporarily, to capture their perspective on the topic “im/mobility” through recorded conversations and to explore the relation of artistic movement to artistic freedom. Furthermore the research contextualises the historical conditions of humanitarian frameworks and their embedding within inter-governmental organizations.

The video research “barriers and exclusion of international artists in Vienna” takes a critical standpoint towards the concept of mobility and includes the criticism by the twelve interviewed artists how the concept of “mobility”, a synonym for free movement in neoliberal systems, falls short to capture their realities and their lives. I explored various aspects of mobility in relation to artistic freedom. Through my in-depth research practices, I developed a deep understanding of the conditions surrounding the exclusion of international artists within the context of artistic movement, as well as the complex interactions between artists, political borders and artistic practice.

<https://www.unesco.at/kultur/vielfalt-kultureller-ausdrucksformen/news-vielfalt-kultureller-ausdrucksformen/article/fellowship-bericht>

sharing thoughts: Thuli & Daria

conversation printed on paper | about artistic movement & friendship

Presentated at UNESCO Talk: Rethinking Cultural Policies. Learning from international experience (2022).

Publication online version www.unesco.at



recorded 22 november 2022 | 8 pages | digital print | printed on 160g paper | edition: 50 booklets
2022 © Thuli Mlambo-James & Daria Tchapanova



participating artists, activists and cultural worker

Jihad Al-khatib | Masha Godovannaya | Laurène Southe | Sakina Teyna | Jaskaran Anand
Finn aka Animal Bro | Ciwan Veysel | Shahrzad Nazarpour | Bitu Bell | Sarita Jenamani
Chinara Majidova | Cristina Peregrina



Screening - extracts of a research #2 10'07, 2022
Wien Woche "artists visa: a new perspective" Depot, Vienna (AT)

One More Step West is the Sea: ruth weiss

a film by Thomas Antonic

Camera & original sound: Daria Tchapanova

Documentary Film, AT 2021, Colour, 94 min., eOmdU

Diagonale 2021

(inter-) national Screenings 2022-24



© video still *One More Step West is the Sea: ruth weiss*

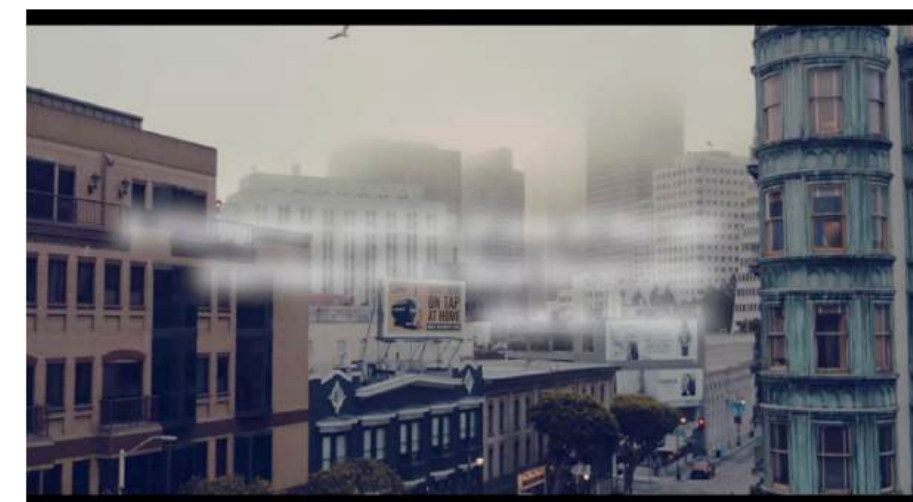
THE FILM (official text)

From Berlin and Vienna in the 1930s; from New York to Chicago, New Orleans, Los Angeles and San Francisco in the 1950s, '60s and '70s; ruth weiss, one of the great female Beat poets, has written, performed, painted, and filmed the fact that for her, 'one more step west is the sea ...' In her 90s, her life is a grand collage that transcends the Beat. She is the cosmic refugee among the ecstatic memories of counter-culture.

<https://ruth-weiss.com/>



The leading woman
the beat generation



© video still *One More Step West is the Sea: ruth weiss*

shifting shore

in collaboration Oli Gots & Daria Tchapanova

During the COVID-19 pandemic, artists Oli Gots & Daria Tchapanova collaborated remotely on two creative projects, both exploring the theme of water. One of these projects, titled *Shifting Shore*, combines Daria's photographs with an accompanying text by Oli. This project reflects their experimental approach to working from a distance, where each artist responded to the other's work in a fluid, evolving dialogue.

In *Shifting Shore*, water symbolizes both the creative process and the ongoing transformation inherent in collaboration. The artists' back-and-forth exchange mirrors the cycles of water—change and perpetual movement—as they each contributed their perspective in response to the other's work. Through this dynamic interaction, the project embodies the fluid, ever-shifting relationship between image and text, symbolizing the broader concept of water as a constantly evolving creative force.

hardcover, 30x30cm, 56 pages, HD Canon Book, Edition: 2 books
images & layout: Daria Tchapanova (Vienna) | text: Oli Gots (London)
project supported by Lower Austria Culture



this book is a process,
thread the lines of potential
tracing the elements that never stop moving

renegotiate your boundaries, look at nature
so it looks back in
endless process of transformation,

Lets go back to the string;
it will connect, it is floating,
It is static, it is both.

Text: Oli Gots

shifting narrative

in collaboration Daria Tchapanova & Oli Gots

in continuation of *Shifting Shore*

With this project Oli & Daria continue their collaborative creative dialogue, following their project *Shifting Shore*. It explores themes of perpetual movement and transformation, again using water as a central metaphor.

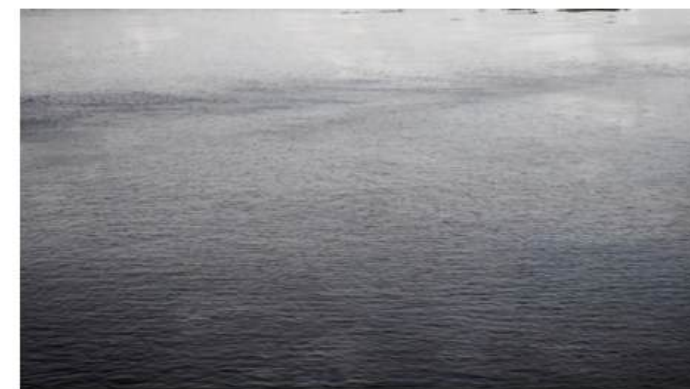
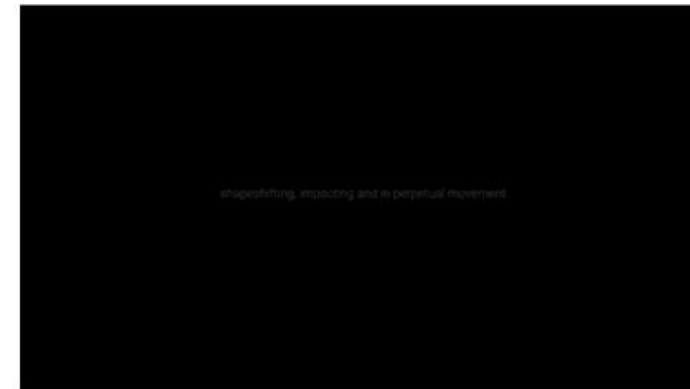
The work is represented through a short video installation and art prints at the “Rivers of Sofia Festival” in Sofia, Bulgaria in 2021. This public art setting, expanded on the dialogue between image and text established in *Shifting Shore*, evolving into a more immersive experience. The artists deepened their exploration of creative exchange and constant transformation.



© video still *shifting narrative*

installation & exhibition in public space

video 5:33 min | 16 digital prints on photographic paper;

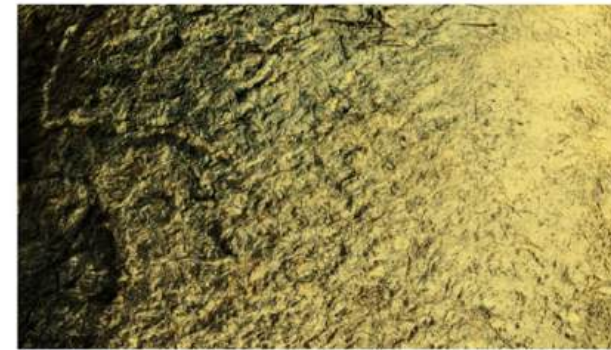


© video stills *shifting narrative*

shifting narrative

ART PRINT

Fine Art prints on Paul Calle 310g paper;
2021, first edition 1/1
33,5 x 60 cm



Exhibition

Festival “Rivers of the City“
September 2021, Sofia (BG)

videoinstallation & art prints
2021 © Daria Tchapanova & Oli Gots



photo © Daria Tchapanova 2021



photo © Lazarina Moutafchieva 2021

floating #1

orts-spezifische installation | site-specific installation

Video 10'46min, goldene Badewanne, Fensterrahmen, Keller;

video 10'46min, golden bathtub, window frame, cellar;

Ausstellung / exhibition « Pocket Festivals» 2017, atelier plastelin, Sofia (BG)

Neptun Staatspreis für Wasser | Neptun State Award Water 2019

<https://www.neptun-wasserpreis.at/projekte/daria-tchapanova-floating/>



floating #1 © Daria Tchapanova 2017

Die ortsspezifische Videoinstallation „floating #1“ ist eine poetisch visuelle Hommage an das Wasser. Die erste von insgesamt drei Videoarbeiten wurde in Portugal aufgenommen und zeigt, wie die Gezeiten den Rhythmus des Alltags bestimmen. Die Präsentation des Videos findet in einem feuchten Keller statt. Eine leere goldene Badewanne und ein gegenüberliegendes leeres Fenster suggerieren dem Betrachter das Paradox unserer Gesellschaft – das Ungleichgewicht mit dem weltweiten Umgang mit Wasser.

The site-specific video installation „floating #1“ is a poetic visual homage to water. The first of a total of three video works was shot in Portugal and shows how the tides determine the rhythm of everyday life. The presentation of the video takes place in a damp cellar at atelier plastelin. An empty golden bathtub and an opposite empty window suggest to the viewer the paradox of our society – the imbalance with the global use of water.



re-imagine 2009/2020

based on hunting for architecture

installation | photography | video | drawing 2009

This project marks the beginning of my work with the white thread. *hunting for architecture* appears like a three-dimensional drawing in space. The viewer is inspired to follow the string and look at the space (Alte Saline) from a new perspective. The intervention in the space underlines the circumstances without imposing itself.

re-imagine 2020

Re-imagine is an illustrated book based on the project *hunting for architecture*. The first part of the book shows sketches and drafts, the second part, based on photography, documents the installation in space. Book: hardcover, 21x21cm, 58 pages, HD Canon Book, single book;

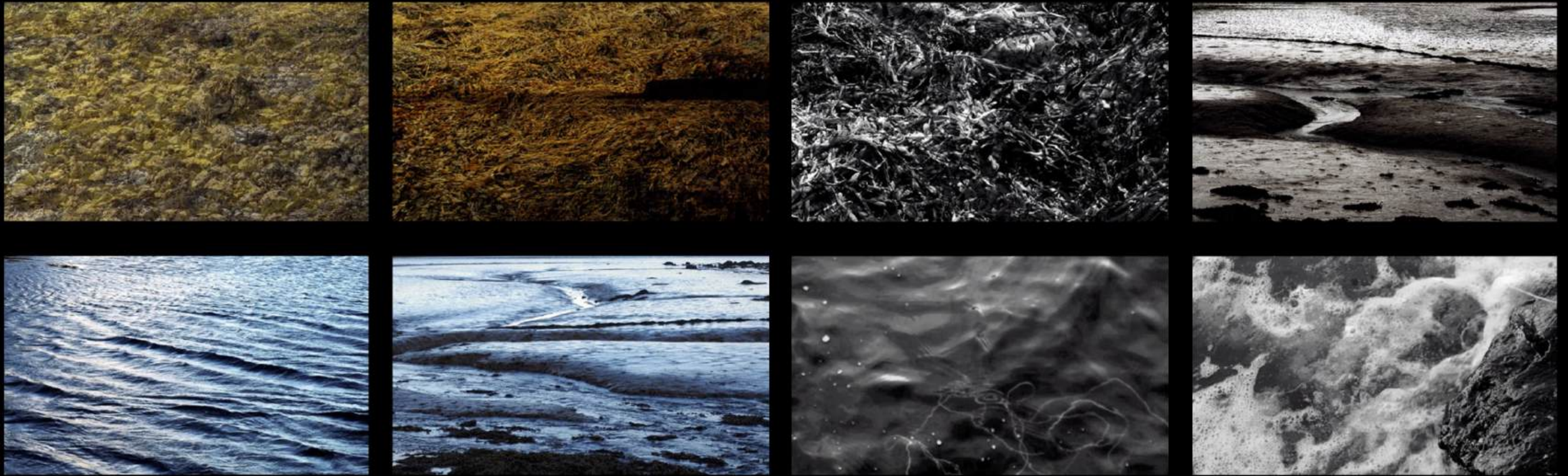


photos © Gurdy Binder



Silent Tides

Custom House Studios
Artist-in-Residence
Westport (IRE) 2017



© video stills *silent tides*

The work ***Silent Tides*** continues the exploration of water themes. The tides, with their ebb and flow, shape a landscape that is in perpetual motion. This work is poetically and visually expressed through photographs and video recordings that adapt to the landscape and its representation. The rivers of Westport create their own unique form.

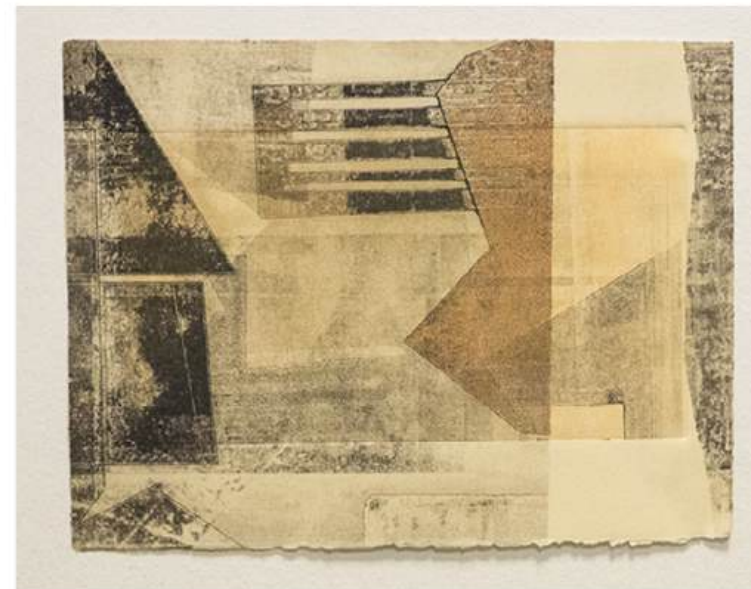
The work is accompanied by 56 art prints created at the Custom House Studios workshop. The colours and shapes of these prints reflect my media exploration, as seen in my video recordings.

Artist-in-residence at Custom House Studios in Westport, Ireland, in October 2017.
supported by Kunstmeile Krems (Lower Austrian Art & Culture)



silent tides was first presented at the
Passevite Gallery in Lisbon.

Several Disagreeable Choices
Passevite Gallery, Lisbon (Portugal)
September 2018



silent tides | mixed media prints
untitled 01 - 56 (2017)
various sizes, different printing techniques, mixed
papers, mixed media on paper;



created at Print Workshop
Custom House Studio Westport
Catalogue available
<https://www.dat-art.com/studio54>