

Dawn of Melancholy: A Birthday Soliloquy

Lisa Birke, 2024, 13min 47sec

Exhibition:

Dawn of Melancholy: A Birthday Soliloquy (Jan 16 – Jan 25th 2024). Single-channel augmented video, initially part of exhibition: *TrippingTime*, Stuttgart, Germany: Stuttgarter Filmwinter Festival of Expanded Media, exhibition presented at GEDOK Gallery.

Film Festival Screenings: Arizona International Film Festival (Apr 20th, 2024, Tucson, USA); MetaKansk at Jetlag Festival (Jun 21st, 2024, Downsville NY, USA); Chroma Art Film Festival, (Aug 17, 2024, Miami, Florida); Bideodromo International Experimental Film and Video Festival (Oct 15th, 2024, Bilbao, Spain); Festival Fotogenia (Nov 21st, 2024, Mexico City, Mexico); FICMA 9.0 Festival Internacional de Cine con Medios Alternativo (Nov 8th, 2024, Mexico City, Mexico); Pebbles Underground Film and Video Art Festival-not screened (London, Canada); XXI International MetaKansk Festival (Gemini, Italy); Stranglescope – Experimental Video/Film, Audio, Performance International Festival (May 21st, 2025, Santa Catarina, Brazil)

Awarded:

Jury Award for Creative Achievement, Arizona International Film Festival, Tucson, USA

Finalist, Bideodromo International Experimental Video and Film Festival, Bilbao, Spain

Finalist- 3rd place, International MetaKansk Festival, Gemini, Italy

Semi-Finalist (not screened)- Pebbles Underground Film and Video Art Festival, London, Canada

Short Synopsis:

Dawn of Melancholy: A Birthday Soliloquy, ruminates on the passage of time, reproduction, and meaning making as the lines between recorded, enhanced, and artificial reality become blurred. The viewer is implicated in an existential crisis when they inadvertently release a digital copy of the artist from the confines of the video through augmented reality.

Director's Statement:

This experimental video is embedded with augmented reality triggers that are viewable via the Hoverlay app. Please follow the instructions in the video to download the app and view the augmented content on your personal mobile device when prompted.

In our digitized contemporary reality we are in the present yet are often observing images recorded in the past that are overwriting “the now”. Thus, media recordings are like looping time machines making fabricated and past realities seen and enabling these to hijack presence. In Dawn of Melancholy: A Birthday Soliloquy, we join the artist for an early morning swim in the South Saskatchewan River (Canada) on her birthday as she ruminates on the passage of time, reproduction, and representation. The viewer is implicated in an existential crisis when they inadvertently release a digital copy of the artist from the confines of the video through augmented reality. The layers that construct the video start to peel away revealing recorded, enhanced, and artificially created experience, passing through various states of precarity finally culminating in an explosion.

Audio clips:

Audio recorded and mixed by Lisa Birke with supplementary audio from the Internet Archive and Freesound.org (all CC0):

MallMusicMuzakMallOf197- by CURTIS8516 (Internet Archive)

Samba by: jnvrbs (freesound.org)

Triangular_Forro and Caixa_de_Fosforo by: fmiramar_ (freesound.org)

Trg_out-string-quartet by: gis-sweden (freesond.org)

AI video generated by:

InVideo AI