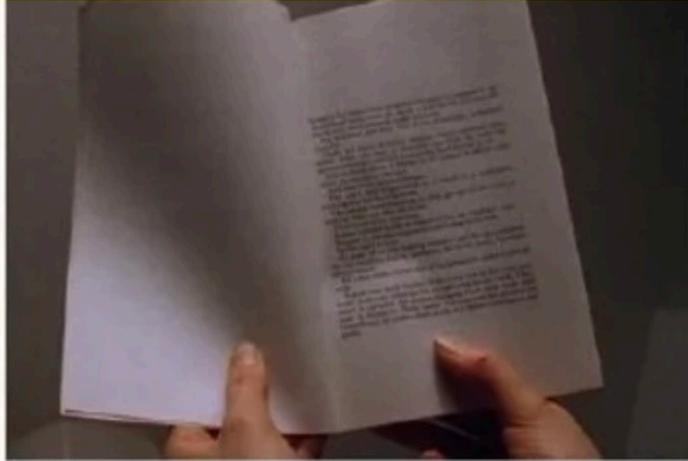




ABOUT PROJECT



Let's start with Decartes' famous quote: I think, therefore I am. Although Decartes did not put much value on the body, he did not deny the body and he used his imagination and emotion to reason for the body's existence. Kant also considered the body outside of time and space. Merleau-Ponty believes that phenomenal perception is a bodily experience rather than a mental one. To him, we are embodied documents; The body becomes contextualized in this world. It is our outlook to the world, as well as our anchorage to the world. His famous saying is: "For seeing, one has to look."Michelle Foucault in his Ideal Body (1966) says: This body is light, transparent, and unaffiliated. Nothing is as thing as the body. It runs, it interacts, it lives, it desires, and it without any resistance allows my desires to pass through it. Yes, the day I have pain, when a hole is dug inside my abdomen, when it gets blocked, then swallowed, when my throat and chest are filled with pain, when deep inside my mouth a tooth hurts, this is when I am not weightless and free. I then become a thing, a dreamed architectural construction that is now a ruin. In fact, there is no need for magic or spells, for spirit and death. In order for me to be opaque and transparent, visible and invisible, life and thing, and for me to be ideal, all I need is to be a body. Our bodies are meaningful political forms which go through transformations throughout their lifetime. In a way, our bodies have gone beyond the skin, meat, and bones. Our bodies revive a cultural context influenced by the surrounding world inside and outside. The body not only influences the shape of our agencies and the human events but is also influenced by the same factors. We are in our bodies but in distance. The body's cultural meaning in each geography is different according to the history of that same geography including its past, forms, and architecture. The body's contemporary environment creates a different communication language. We are alienated from our very own bodies and we feel our existence through touching another. We understand the meaning of body through touching another body. Our bodies are stolen and confiscated from us by the virus phenomena. Our bodies are captivated and imprisoned by our fear of death. This collective experience has expanded our definition of relationship and our concept of elimination. The presence of body in relation to another body, looking in each other's face, and touching one another is eliminated from the body's daily life. In order to understand existence, we refuged to sound, hearing, and speech. This project is made of conversations with different artists whose works explore the experiences our contemporary moment and capture the feeling of being, as well as constant search for recycling the body. The project is inspired by the famous Decartes' saying: I think, therefore I am. We used Instagram as a platform to think "live" together, and to communicate those thoughts to bodiless "live" listeners to recycle their bodies together. This project will become a book in both English and Farsi to record the memories of bodilessness in the moving times of COVID-19 for the future generations. The aim is to make possible to read the thoughts of the bodies, as well as to make sense of the transformation of their identities during this time. **Mania Akbari**

Still images: Ben Rivers



Image / Johan Smith



Image/ Miranda Pennell

Conversation during Coronavirus

Mike Figgis



I am so excited to be in conversation with Mike Figgis one of my favorite British artists #familiar on IG live on Thursday at 5pm London time. Mike Figgis (born 1948) is an English film director, screenwriter, and composer. He was nominated for two Academy Awards for his work in Leaving Las Vegas (1995). Figgis was the founding patron of the Independent filmmakers online community Shooting People. Figgis's early interest was in music. He played trumpet and guitar in The People Band and is audible in their first record (produced by Charlie Watts) in 1968. He also played keyboard for Bryan Ferry's first band. In 1981 he directed a theater play, reproduced in Theatre Gerard-Philipe (Saint Denis, Paris). This play performed with great success at Festival de Grenada and in Theater der Welt (Munich).



After working in theatre he was a musician and performer in the experimental group People Show. Figgis made his feature film debut with the low budget Stormy Monday in 1988. The film earned him attention as a director who could get interesting performances from established Hollywood actors. His first American film was Internal Affairs, which helped to revive the career of Richard Gere. His next Hollywood feature, Mr. Jones, was misunderstood by the studio, who attempted to market the downbeat story as a feelgood film, resulting in a box office flop. Figgis found his disengagement with the film industry into Leaving Las Vegas, which starred Nicolas Cage and Elisabeth Shue, which earned Figgis Academy Award nominations for Best Directing and Best Screenplay. He followed this up with the romantic drama One Night Stand, starring Wesley Snipes and Nastassja Kinski, but the movie received a poor response from critics and was a commercial failure. His most ambitious film to date is the low budget film The Loss of Sexual Innocence, a loosely based autobiographical film of the director himself. @cinema.magic @cinemafilmfest @calson @cinema.magic @cinematube @artreview_magazine |



Conversation during Coronavirus

Nick Hackworth



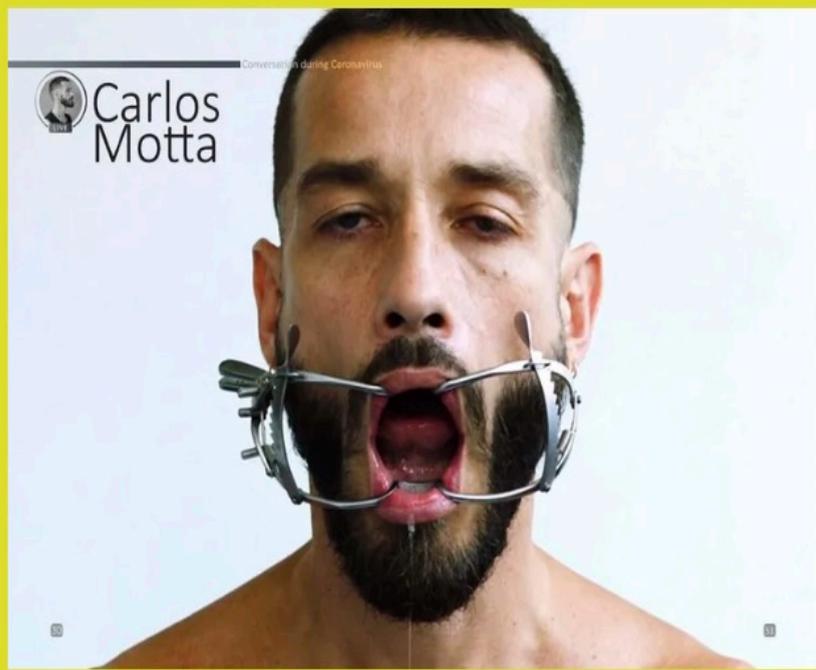
Conversation between Maria Akbari & Nick Hackworth on IG live tomorrow at 9pm London time. Nick Hackworth is Curator of Modern Forms, a specialist art collection and curatorial platform founded by Hassam Oulali. Prior to that Nick ran gallery Paradise Row and was art director with the Evening Standard and Art Editor of Dazed & Confused. Modern Forms is an international, contemporary art collection and editorial platform. It is dedicated to supporting outstanding contemporary art through a program of acquisitions, donations and collaborations with artists and art institutions.

Modern Forms' editorial projects explore the work of leading creatives, thinkers and significant ideas and themes. @modern_forms photo by Pirkkaiisakottinen |



Conversation during Coronavirus

Carlos Motta



Conversation during Coronavirus

Jeff Preiss



Conversation with Jeff Preiss on IG live on Monday 29th Jun at 9pm London time. Since the 1980s Jeff Preiss has been active across an unusually broad spectrum of filmmaking milieus. His early experimental films, included in @themuseumofmodernart surveys on the history of film, have recently been preserved by @anthologyfilmarchive and The @warholfoundation. He became a highly influential DP after collaborating with Bruce Weber on a series of films including in 1989 the Oscar-nominated Let's Get Lost. In 1995 he became a partner in Epoch Films where he directed music videos and commercials for Iggy Pop, Malcolm McLaren, REM, B2K / Apple, Nike, Coke, etc. During this time he also made a series of experimental film installations exhibited in museums including @whitneymuseum Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville Paris, the Neue Nationalgalerie in Berlin, as well as Museum of Modern Art New York, @moca Los Angeles, and @museoetnografico who have acquired his work for their collections. In 2005 he was among the founders of the New York alternative gallery Orchard. He has made films collaboratively with artist including Andrea Fraser, Nicolas Guagnini, Joan Jonas, Josiah McElheny, R.H. Quayman, and Union Gaucha Productions. His 2012 experimental feature film, STOP was a selection of the 50th @thefilm, and his 2019 experimental film, 14 REELS premiered at The Museum of Modern Art. In 2014 his critically acclaimed feature film Low Down won Sundance Film Festival for cinematography and @liffit the Garyn Vary International Film Festival for Best Actress: File Fanning. A solo exhibition of his installation, More Than I Looked For was presented in 2019 at @stedelmuseum in Amsterdam. #jeffpreiss @jpdogs |

Conversation during Coronavirus

Carlos Motta



Wonderful news! Conversation with one of my favorite artist Carlos Motta Friday night at 9pm London time. Carlos Motta's multidisciplinary art practice documents the social conditions and political struggles of racialized and ethnic minority communities in order to challenge dominant and normative discourses on critical visibility and self-representation. His work manifests in a variety of mediums including video installation sculpture drawing, web-based projects performance, and symposia. His 20-year career monograph "Carlos Motta: History's Backrooms," published by SKIRA Editore and distributed by DAP and Thames & Hudson, was released this week.



@carlosmotta @curlosvajandrometta #now #project #life #during #coronavirus #audio #book #film #farsi #english

Conversation during Coronavirus

Margaret Salmon



Conversation with Margaret Salmon on IG live on Monday 22nd at 9pm London time. She's #ive #project #conversation #during #corona #19 #audio #film #book #english #farsi // Born in 1975 in Suffern, New York, #margaretsalmon lives and works in Glasgow, Scotland. She creates filmic portraits that weave together poetry and ethnography. Focusing on individuals in their everyday activities, her films capture the minutiae of daily life and infuse them with gentle grandeur, touching upon universal human themes. Adopting techniques drawn from various cinematic movements, such as Cinema Verité, the European Avant-Garde and Italian Neo-Realism, Salmon's reorchestration of realist film and image introduce a formal abstraction into the traditional of realist film. Margaret Salmon #won the first Max Mara Art Prize for Women in 2006. Her work was shown at the Venice Biennale in 2007 and the Berlin Biennale in 2010 and was featured in individual exhibitions at Witte de With in Rotterdam and Puhlethoch gallery in London among others. @margaretsalmon @womencinemarchive @feminist @feminists @feminist_artist_1 @artreview_magazine @filmstudiff @artshogfilmarchives @eye_film |



Conversation during Coronavirus

Mehrdad Seyf



"Body and Resistance in Spatial Performance". Live conversation on IG between Mania Akbari and Mehrdad Seyf on Saturday 6th Jun at 8pm London time.
 @mehrdadseyf is Artistic Director of 30 Blind, a Cambridge based interdisciplinary performance company.
 He is a writer, director and an interdisciplinary artist and his work has toured nationally and internationally. He also creates site-specific work collaborating with visual artists, architects, dancers, architects and scientists. His productions include The Parable of the Blind, Death By Heroine, Majnoon, The Persian Revolution, Plastic (Nominated for Total Theatre Award), Chloevie Sibonis, Poland 3 in 2 (Winner of Best of Fringe), 14 Tables, Domestic Labour: A Study in Love, Home in the Service of Science (a one year residency at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology), Borderline Estate Agents, commissioned by The Wellcome Collection. Mehrdad is currently working on Insomnia Lab funded by Arts Council England. He is also collaborating with "public works" on the project Ministry of Common Land for the Venice Biennale. Mehrdad is a PhD research student at Anglia Ruskin University and a visiting professor at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama at The Barbican.
 #30blind #liveconversations #IG |



Conversation during Coronavirus

Andrea Luka Zimmerman



Radical Refusal: Making Moving Image Now, conversation between Mania Akbari and Andrea Luka Zimmerman tonight on IG live at 9pm London time.
 Andrea Luka Zimmerman is an artist, filmmaker and cultural activist whose engaged practice calls for a profound re-imagining of the relationship between people, place and ecology. Focusing on marginalised individuals, communities and experience, the practice employs imaginative hybridity and narrative re-framing, alongside reverie and a creative waywardness. Informed by suppressed histories, and alert to sources of radical hope, the work prioritises an enduring and equitable co-existence.
 Films include the Artangel-produced 'Here for Life' (2019), which received its world premiere in the Cinéart Del Presents International competition of the Locarno Film Festival (winning a Special Mention), 'Trace and Forget' (2017), premiering at the Berlin Film Festival (nominated for the Original Documentary Award), 'Estate, a Reverie' (2015) (nominated for Best Newcomer at the Grierson awards) and 'Taskaf, Stories of the Street' (2013), written and voiced by the late John Bieger.



Selected exhibitions include 'Civil Rites', the London Open, Whitechapel Gallery, 'Common Ground' at Spike Island, Bristol and 'Real Estates' at Peer Gallery. Andrea co-founded the cultural collectives Fugitive Images and Vision Machine (collaborators on Academy Award® nominated feature documentary 'The Look of Silence'). Andrea co-edited the books 'Estate: Art, Politics and Social Housing in Britain' (Myriad Court Press) and 'Doorways: Women, Homelessness, Trauma and Resistance' (House Sparrow Press) and has published extended essays in 'Open Democracy', 'La Furia Umana', 'Another Gaze' and 'Heterocultures', among others. |

feminist
 activist
 #culturalactivism
 #filmmakers
 #artist
 #activistartist
 #place
 #ecology
 #radicalfilmmaker
 (@user_name_valid |

Conversation during Coronavirus

Marc Isaacs



Radical Refusal: "Making Moving Image Now" conversation between Mania Akbari & Marc Isaacs on IG live tonight at 9:00 pm London time. // Since 2003 Marc Isaacs has made more than 10 creative #documentaries for the BBC and #channel4. His films have won Grierson, Royal Television Society and #bfta awards as well as numerous international film festival prizes.
 In 2006 he had a retrospective at the prestigious Lusias Documentary Film Festival in France and his work has been included in numerous documentary books and academic studies. In 2008, Marc received an honorary doctorate from the University of East London for his documentary work. Marc is a guest tutor at the London Film School, the National Film and Television School and Royal Holloway University |



Conversation during Coronavirus

Lynne Sachse



Image: Lynne Sachse & Barbara Hammer. Radical Refusal: Making Moving Image Now. // Conversation between Mania Akbari & Lynne Sachse on IG live tonight at 9pm London time. #lynnesachs is an American filmmaker and poet from #Brooklyn, New York whose moving image work ranges from short #experimental films, to #essay #films to hybrid #live #performance. Her approach to her art include a very genuine, #feminist voice. Lynne's work can best be epitomized by her interests in intimacy, collaboration and space. Her films often include her poetry, making the audience aware of her unique, and probing curiosity about others. Intimacy is also expressed by the way she uses a camera. #texture, #subjects, #place, #reflections, #places, #brands, all come so close to us in her films. Lynne's films embrace hybrid forms, combining memoir, experimental and #documentary modes. Recently, she has expanded her practice to include live performance. Lynne has made 35 films which have screened at the New York Film Festival, the Sundance Film Festival, and China Women's Film Fest, and the Buenos Aires Festival of Int'l Cinema. Her recent film "A Month of Single Frames" (inspired for Barbara Hammer) won the Grand Prize at Oberhausen Festival of Short Films in 2020. The Sheffield DocFest 2020 is currently doing a summer-long Filmmaker Focus on Lynne's work and will present the Int'l Premiere of her new feature "Film About a Father Who" in the fall.
 www.lynnesachs.com. @lynnesachs1 #barbarahammer @anothergazetjournal @feminist @feminists @feminist_artist_1 @feministwriters @feministstheclub @feministstress @feminism.everyday @cahiers_du_feminisme |

Conversation during Coronavirus

Avi Mograbi



Radical Refusal: Making Moving Image Now. #conversation between Mania Akbari & Avi Mograbi, Friday on 12th Jun at 11am London time.
 #filmmaker and #videomaker Avi Mograbi was born in 1956 in Tel Aviv. He studied art and #philosophy in Tel Aviv, where he lives today. After gathering his first experience assisting directors, his own filmmaking began in 1989. Since 1999 he also teaches #documentary and #experimental filmmaking at the University of Tel Aviv, and at Jerusalem's Sam Spiegel Film and Television School and art academy. #avimograbi is not only considered Israel's most important documentarist, but also – as a committed eyewitness of the Middle East conflict, an experimentalist, and avid #theorist of cinematic language. As a political filmmaker he is also actively involved in „#breaking the #silence“, an organisation of ex-soldiers dedicated to collecting #testimonies about their service.



His films have appeared at festivals worldwide. ZSE (2008) received the Excellence Award at Yamagata Film Festival. Avenue Sul One of My Blue Eyes (2005) was screened at the Riccione Film Festival and received the Amnesty Award as well as special mention at the Rotterdam Film Festival.
 @icalondon
 @docibouff
 @jehfdocfest
 @cphdoc
 @opencitydocs
 @closeup_sa |

Conversation during Coronavirus

John Smith



I am so glad to be in conversation with John Smith one of my favourite British #artist #filmmaker on IG live, Tuesday at 9pm London time. #johnsmith was born in Walthamstow, London in 1952 and studied at North-East London Polytechnic and the Royal College of Art, after which he became an active member of the London #filmmakers Co-op.
 Inspired in his formative years by #conceptualist and #structural #film, but also fascinated by the #immersive #power of #marxist and the #global word, he has developed an #eclectic #body of work that subverts the perceived #boundaries between #documentary and #fiction, #representation and #abstraction. Often rooted in everyday life, his #meticulously #crafted films playfully #explore and #expose the #language of #cinema. Since 1972 Smith has made over 40 #film, #video and #installation works that have been shown in independent cinemas, art galleries and on television around the world and awarded major prizes at many international film festivals. He received a Paul Hamlyn Foundation Award for Artists in 2011, and in 2013 he was the winner of Film London's Jarman Award. @theotherjohnsmith
 @modern_forms
 @artreview_magazine
 @flashartmagazine @luxmovingimage @icalondon @tate
 @shefdocfest @eye_film @closeupcentre |





ANDREA LUKA ZIMMERMAN, AK-DOLVEN, BEN RIVERS, CARLOS MOTTA, CATHERINE LONG, EDDIE PEAKE, EVA RUCKI & SEBASTIEN NOEL, EYAL WEIZMANN, GORDON HALL, HETAIN PATEL, JASMINA CIBIC, JEROME BELL, JOHN SMITH, JEFF PREISS, LYNNE SACHS, MIKE FIGGIS, MARC ISSAC, MARGARET SALMON, MIRANDA PENNELL, MINOU NOROUZI, MIKHAIL KARIKIS, NOTA THOMPSON, NIKI NODJUMI, NICK HACKWORTH, OREET ASHERY, RASHID RANA SHONA ILLINGWORTH, SHERZAD DAVOOD

CONVERSATION FROM LOCKDOWN
100 ARTIST 100 INTERVIEWS DURING POST
CORONAVIRU

[Mania Akbari](#)

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