

ANA BILANKOV

PHOTOGRAPHY VIDEO / FILM INSTALLATION

Selected Works

Ana Bilankov is visual artist, born in Zagreb, since 2000 lives and works in Berlin. Her conceptual and contextual practice in the media photography, video/experimental film, installation and text examines themes of poetics / politics of dislocation, migration, nomadism, individual and collective memory and construction of identity within „in-between-ness“.

She studied Art History and German Language and Literature at the Universities of Zagreb and Mainz; Art Photography at Wiesbaden School of Fine Arts and postgraduate studies program “Fine Art in Context” at the University of the Arts Berlin (M.A.) and the University of the West of England, Bristol, UK.

She won several grants from Berlin Senate for Culture and Europe and was many times an artist in residence in different European cities and in the USA, e.g. Residency Unlimited and Pioneer Works, New York, Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, Ohio, USA; Moscow House of Photography; Q21 _ MuseumsQuartier, Vienna. 2022 she got project fellowship from Stiftung Kunstfond Bonn / Neustart Kultur.

Bilankov’s works have been shown internationally in art venues like Gallery New York Media Center and projection on Manhattan Bridge, New York / Museum of Contemporary Art, Zagreb / Institut for Contemporary Art, Zagreb / Galerie Loris, Berlin / National Museum Gdansk, Poland / Photon Gallery, Ljubljana / Dazibao Centre de Photographies Actuelles, Montreal / Kino Arsenal, Berlin / Collegium Hungaricum, Berlin / Collegio Armeno, Venice / Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Rijeka / 1st Moscow Biennale, Museum of Modern Art, Moscow / Gallery Nova_WHW, Zagreb.

She participated in international film & video festivals like 69. Oberhausen International Short Film Festival / Sinema Transnopia in Haus der Statistik, Berlin / 29. Kassel Documentary Film and Video Festival / South East European Film Festival #2, Berlin / 25. Days of Croatian Film, Zagreb / Video in Progress 5, Ljubljana / 25 FPS – International Experimental Film and Video Festival, Zagreb.

CHASING THE SUN: EL SHATT, 2023

4K, 19:30 min.

Written and directed by Ana Bilankov

Cinematography: Boris Poljak, Editing: Denis Golenja

Sound design: Yiannis Loukos, Musik: Halim El-Dabh

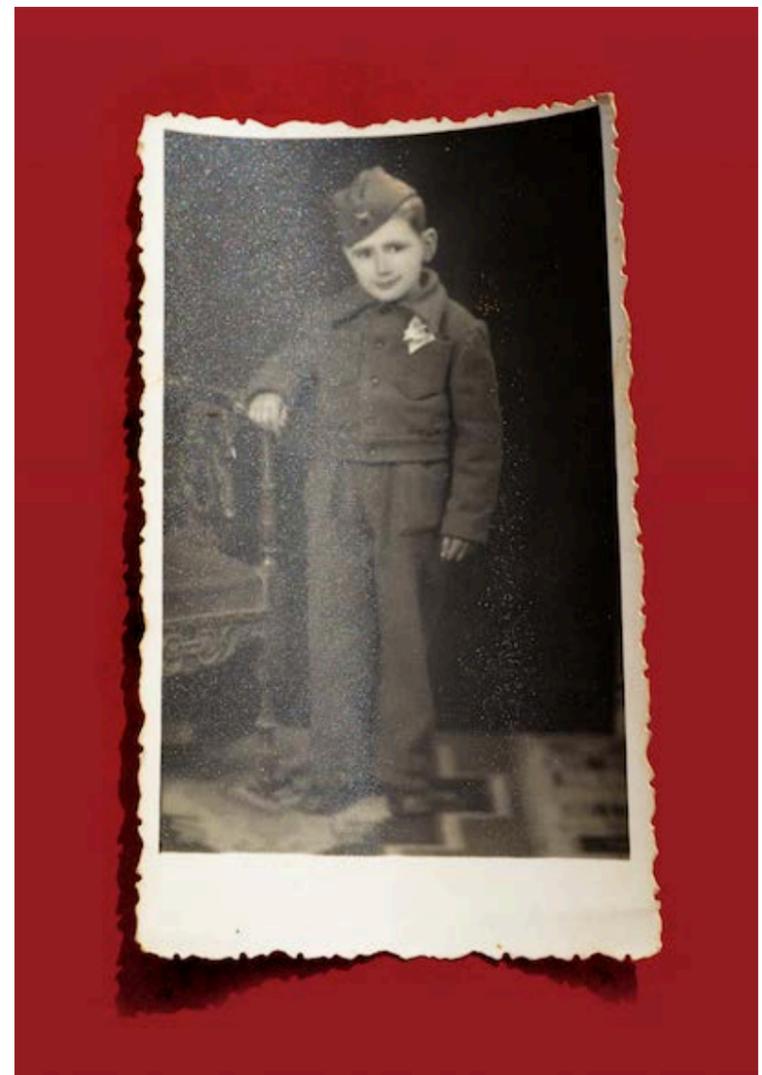
Visual portrait of a non-place in the middle of the Egyptian desert and a fragment of the forgotten Mediterranean migration history in the present context.

The film touches on some historical facts about the largest refugee camp El Shatt in the Sinai desert in Egypt during the WWII, based on materials from Croatian and international archives and intertwined with the visuals of this desert non-place now. An attempt to reconstruct a fragmented memory of unknown history about migration in the Mediterranean as a transtemporal filmic journey.

The film is result of a longer research and production process and the world premiere will be at **Oberhausen International Short Film Festival** end of April 2023.

videostill





LOVEMAP, 2022

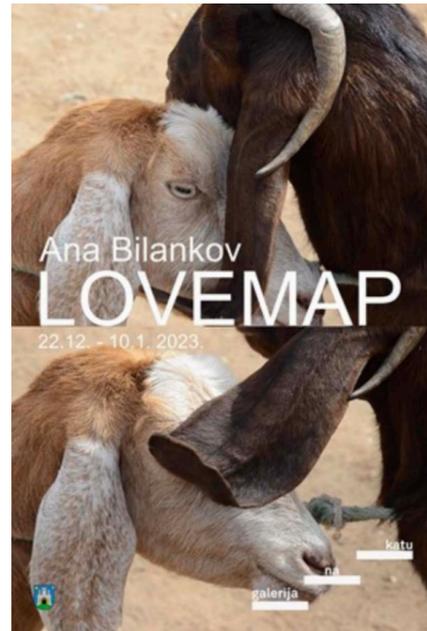
HD video, 6'54"

Directed and Filmed by Ana Bilankov

Edited by Denis Golenja and Ana Bilankov
Sound design by Ana Bilankov and Denis Golenja

The desert as a projection or a fictitious place of temporary fulfillment of happiness? The video was shot during an adventurous trip through the desert landscapes of Tunisia several years ago, then a country in turmoil and with a still fresh smell of "revolution", into which I was led by curiosity and a great irrational longing for the desert. „Lovemap“ is poetic cinematic journey through geographical and personal interspaces between documentary and fiction.

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/779750431/privacy> (Password: SretnoBilo)





They were told that not far from there revolution started.



They couldn't notice anything of that, just some endless and happy absence.

THREE WOMEN UNDER THE CLOUDS, 2019/2020

HD video, 5 min.

Directed, Filmed and Edited by Ana Bilankov

Sound by Carsten Schneider

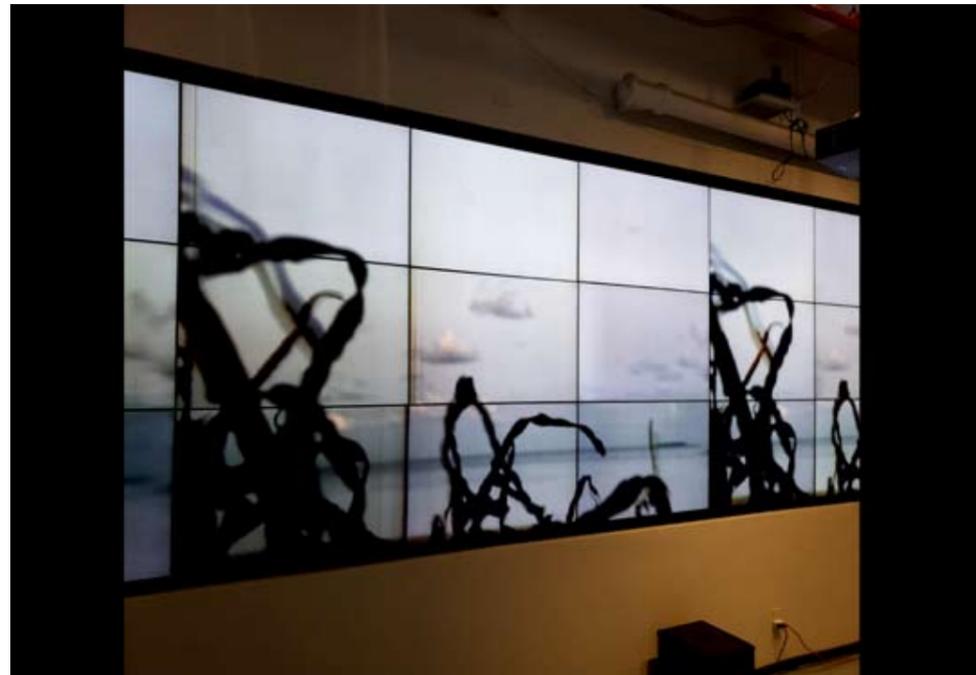
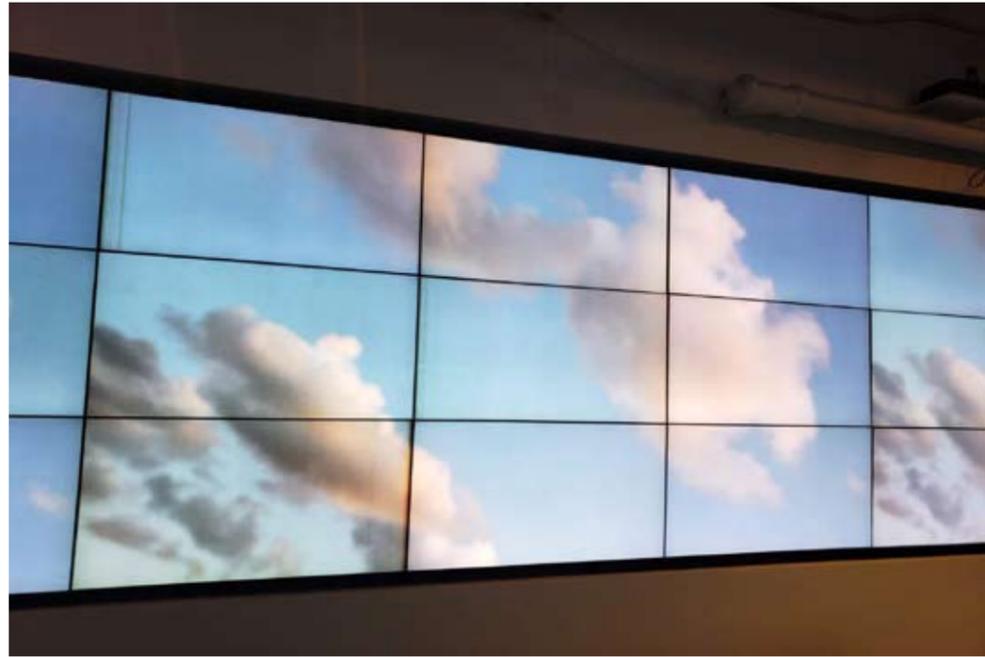
The video "Three Women Under the Clouds" was inspired by the fairytale "Das Orakel" ("The Oracle") collected by Franz Xavier von Schoenwerth as a part of German Folk Tales from the 19th century and now in his archive in Regensburg.

The story about three women looking for their future husbands in the oracle operates with dark and bizarre images and ends tragically. I decided to work with some of those surreal pictures using the universal narrative of longing and falling into another world and rewrite the story, turning it almost into happy end. The suggestive experimental sound by Carsten Schneider gave me the structure and the rhythm of the moving images, which I took on the German island Ruegen, evoking magic and fairytale atmosphere.

The video is a part of the video series "**Digital Fairy Tales: Dark Nights and Black Cats**", presented by Leo Kuelbs Collection, New York and curated by Leo Kuelbs and Sandra Ratkovic, supported by Schoenwerth Foundation, Regensburg, Germany.

videostill





Projection in "Made in New York Media Center" and on Manhattan Bridge, New York, USA, 02_2020

SPACE, STORIES, GEOGRAPHIES / PROSTORI, PRICE, GEOGRAFIJE, 2019

Artis's book / Art monograph

Ana Bilankov's first comprehensive monograph and at the same time an artist's book is structurally conceived as a kind of experimental film, a non-chronological storyboard of her conceptual art works made in the media photography, video / experimental film, installation and text in the last twenty years. Structured into ten chapters, the book raises a series of questions on the subject of poetics/politics of dislocation, migration, nomadism, individual and collective memory and construction of identity within "in-between-ness".

Many projects have emerged in diverse geographic contexts thanks to several international residencies in different European cities, Moscow and New York, or in both of the author's hometowns, Zagreb and Berlin.

The book includes rich photographic and video material as well as the texts written by the author and also two theoretical essays: Some Future Film by the art theorist Leonida Kovac; The Poetry and Revolution of Ana Bilankov by the film theorist and philosopher Marijan Krivak, and has been designed at Hamper studio Zagreb.

Publisher: Hamper Studio, Zagreb, 2019
Hardcover, 22.5 x 29.0 cm, 224 pages, English/Croatian
ISBN 978-953-48548-0-8





SMILING SUN, 2018

2-channel video installation, 9'55", loop
Directed, Filmed and Edited by Ana Bilankov
Composition & Sound Design by Ksenija Ladic

The *Smiling Sun* exhibition takes its title from the latest two-channel video installation and has been conceived as an overview of my multimedia work that was produced, for the most part, during my residency in New York. It examines the phenomena of identity, place and time (specific and abstract), as well as individual, collective and psycho-geographic memory.

The idea for the artwork *Smiling Sun* was created during the artist's residency at Pioneer Works in New York where I was researching the history of a cruise ship, "born" as the *Galileo Galilei* in Genoa in 1961. Many times during her life the ship changed her name, owners, continents and gender identity (due to grammatical difference in languages), and she sank in the seas of Indonesia in 1999. The third in the series of her identities – the *Meridian*, was the first so-called celebrity cruiser which sailed the route of New York-Miami-Caribbean islands and on which, once, my brother worked before his "disappearance". In this way the history of the ship includes a dimension of personal history and loss.

In this work I looked closer into the history of the last ship named *Sun Vista* that ended as a shipwreck. The found net photograph on internet of the former sculptural emblem of the cruiser is transformed in slow motion, revealing an image of the sun smiling to us from the bottom of the sea.



Videostills & installation view at Gallery of Multimedia Cultural Center Split 2018