EURO PEAN SOUV ENIRS











European Souvenirs is a unique live cinema performance by Karol Rakowski (Poland), Barış Gürsel (Turkey), Farah Rahman (Netherlands), Malaventura (Spain) and Noriko Okaku (United Kingdom / Japan), designed by ZEMOS98 (Spain) and produced by the European Cultural Foundation's Doc Next Network.

European Souvenirs departs from the convention of the traditional audiovisual memoir: the (media) archive. The show is a collective exploration by five young media artists featuring media found at archives in their countries and existing imagery of Europe and its travellers.

Universal concepts such as 'family', 'travel', 'borders' and 'memory' are the starting point for their expedition. They explore personal, local and common meanings of the footage and sounds from the archives, as well as creating their own productions and fieldworks. Inspired by their personal memories, they offer us a journey down our own memory lane. They bring

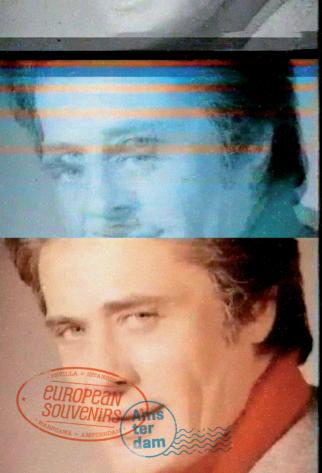
ROPEAN UVENIRS REMIXING MEDIA, CROSSING (SHIFTING) BORDERS us precious European Souvenirs – sounds and images from different pasts and European contexts. They invite us to make new connections between different European landscapes, identities, imaginations – and to draw new borders in our own memory map.

In this **experimental live-cinema performance**, audio, photography and film is gently, sometimes provocatively, remixed into a new context and given a new meaning. This **new narrative** is also blended together with music composed by the artists.

European Souvenirs is a homage to memories and travellers, no matter where they are coming to (and from). At the same time, it creates new memories, new borders, shifting borders. It contributes to a common European archive with a fresh compilation of images and sounds. A treasure to be discovered, ready for further exploration and further meaning.

Istanbul Warszawa









Malaventura

→ Málaga, 1978 www.malaventura.net

"I usually work with public domain footage (mainly movies or documentaries), but this was definitely different. We were looking for private moments (home archives) of European people, a sort of domestic history that supports the official one"

Malaventura (a.k.a Fernando García Tamajón) produces experimental electronic music, video art pieces, multi-touch interface programming and random experiments with online movie editing.

"I'll always remember 2012 for being the year I had to go to the funeral of my mother. Now I see how the loss of my mother is connected with the whole project. I'm still connected with her by my own memories, and this also happens in the process with the different archives: new connections with the past."

He uses an audiovisual sampler, which makes it possible to launch movie clips in live action to create a live-cinema show.



Farah Rahman → Netherlands, 1981 www.fariatie.nl

"At first the title gives me a light, fun impression as it's a link to a relaxing, emptying-your-head holiday. But the contrast between tourist travel with refugees travelling is big."

Farah Rahman works as a video artist in audiovisual performances, creates photographs, films and site-specific art installations. Her work is often related to the Eastern philosophy Wabi Sabi, seeing beauty in imperfection. For her, this project has been profoundly thought-provoking.

"I started thinking much more about my own identity. My ancestors had the courage to travel from India to Surinam and eventually my parents decided to live in the Netherlands."

The re-use of materials, analogue techniques and mixing them all together is typical in her work, which has been described as audiovisual poetry, guerilla style.



Karol Rakowski

ightarrow Wrocław, 1983 www.spectribe.com

"I've changed my own idea of Europe several times during the project. This shows how things are often different from the way we look at them."

Multimedia artist and director, producer, musician; philosopher by education. In his works, Karol Rakowski deconstructs borders that separate media from artistic expression forms and exceeds limitations of the tools he is using.

"I think all the stories in this show are important. Each of them shows problems not only personally but globally. To be European is a complex and abstract concept and that's what we try to express with every single story."



Barış Gürsel

→ Istanbul, 1983 www.supermata.org

"Crisis is the most popular thing that you hear when you ask about Europe. There are two different aspects that come to my mind regarding Europe: its political side, which involves negotiations regarding Turkey, and the relations between European Union states and its difference from the relationship with the rest of the world."

Baris Gursel is a media artist working on various motion graphics, animation and music video projects.

"You can find different people in Europe, including the most radical ones and different nationalities, and this is what I think differentiates the European continent or culture from the rest. You can even notice this idea of multiculturalism in one-to-one communication between people and this is what makes Europe Europe. Considering the claims of the political leaders in Europe, the political aspect triggers more radical thinking. That is why you need to divide it into two as external and internal relations."



Noriko Okaku

→ Japan, 1979 www.norikookaku.com

"Family, travel, border, immigrant, memory.

Each of them contains universal aspects.

I hope the audience finds something familiar and constructs their own story by using their experience. Then hopefully they'll find who they are and re-evaluate their own existence."

Noriko Okaku produces work in animated video, drawing, sculpture and audiovisual live performance. Her work in various media often retains collage art elements. She borrows, adopts, copies and recycles existing images to explore the diverse avenues of perception.

"I have witnessed how (artificial) social norms and values affect people's life through this project; this notion also affected my mind as well."

"I don't feel I am European, although I have been living in London for 10 years, but I don't feel I belong to Japan either. I am becoming something hybrid cultural-wise. In this case, I don't know where exactly I belong."







European Souvenirs has been developed in collaboration with the following media archives:

Eye Film Institute (NL), Instituut voor Beeld en Geluid (NL), Nationaal Archief (NL), Sarnamihuis (NL), Fundacja Archeologia Fotografii (PL), National Digital Archive (PL), NInA, Narodowy Instytut Audiowizualny (PL), Photoregister – project of Archaeology of Photography Foundation (PL), Filmoteca de Andalucía (SP), SALT (TR), British Film Institute – BFI (UK), Antonio España archive (SP), Family Rahman archive (NL), José Luis Tirado archive (SP), Archive.org, Doc Next Network Media Collection and found objects from different flea markets.

Along the way of this process, the project has collected a public archive that can be checked out in the following link: europeansouvenirs.tumblr.com/archive

Artistic collaborators & residencies

Sevilla / Centro de las Artes de Sevilla:

Toni Serra > video artist and co-founder of the OVNI archives (www.desorg.org).

Nuria García Atienza > documentary film-maker and educator/coordinator of participatory video workshops.

Silvia Nanclares > writer, editor and cultural activist (www.bookcamping.cc).

Istanbul / Simotas Building:

Filastine > audio-visual artist and nomadic music activist (www.filastine.com).

Warsaw / Oczyszczalnia:

Chris Allen > multimedia artist and pioneer of live cinema performances (www.lightsurgeons.com).







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ZEMOS98 @ DNN

Doc Next Network is a unique community of media-makers, educators, programmers, researchers and innovators that have come together as a movement, capturing the views of young European media-makers, to redefine and re-imagine documentary within the shifting borders of Europe.

Doc Next Network is active in the UK (BFI), Spain (ZEMOS98), Poland (The Association of the Creative Initiatives "e"), the Netherlands (MetropolisTV, IDFA), Turkey (Mode Istanbul) and connected to other parts of Europe and its neighbours. We highlight the work of a new generation of media-makers that show what Europe is really about: a complex space for encounters and (shifting) borders.

ZEMOS98 is a team of creators and cultural managers based in Seville (south of Europe), engaging mainly in media activities which they regard as a tool for a possible education and re-education opposed to the one offered by the mainstream media and global culture.

This project is a collaboration between > Karol Rakowski (PL), Noriko Okaku (JP/UK), Barış Gürsel (TR), Farah Rahman (NL) and Malaventura (SP).

With the artistic collaboration of > Toni Serra (OVNI archives), Nuria García Atienza, Silvia Nanclares, Filastine and Chris Allen (The Light Surgeons).

Designed by > ZEMOS98.

Produced by >

European Cultural Foundation (ECF), Doc Next Network.

Archives >

Eye Film Institute (NL), Institutut voor Beeld en Geluid (NL), Nationaal Archief (NL), Sarnamihuis (NL), Fundacja Archeologia Fotografii (PL), National Digital Archive (PL), NInA, Narodowy Instytut Audiowizualny (PL), Photoregister – project of Archaeology of Photography Foundation (PL), Filmoteca de Andalucía (SP), SALT (TR), British Film Institute – BFI (UK), Antonio España archive (SP), Family Rahman archive (NL), José Luis Tirado archive (SP), Archive.org, Doc Next Network Media Collection and found objects from different flea markets.

Original soundtrack and visuals > European Souvenirs Team.

Artistic residencies at >

Centro de las Artes de Sevilla (Sevilla).

Simotas Building (Istanbul).

Oczyszczalnia (Warsaw).

Muzyq (Amsterdam).

Local facilitators >

Noel Goodwin, Matt Cuzner & Simon McCallum (London – BFI); Paulina Capała & Agnieszka Salamończyk (Warsaw – Creative Initiatives "ę"); Gokce Su Yogurtcuoglu (MODE Istanbul); Monique ten Berge, Evelien Heus & Nandine van Karnebeek (Amsterdam).

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Ángel Ceballos.

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ZEMOS98

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