

# ANJA SALOMONOWITZ BIOGRAPHY

**„The films I make don't try to be naturalistic or imitate reality.  
They have their own.“**

Anja Salomonowitz has developed a poetic film language for her films, in which documentary film, feature film and thesis are mixed. Real experiences of people are condensed through artistic alienation. Her hybrid films all follow a strict color concept. She is known for the fact that her films are explicitly political and expand the boundaries and possibilities of the cinematic in their artistic form. Her films have received international recognition and numerous film awards. They have found their way into the relevant film literature. They are screened at numerous international film festivals.

Her film *IT HAPPENED JUST BEFORE*, for example, had its world premiere in the Forum of the Berlinale 2007, where it won the Caligari Film Prize. This film on the subject of trafficking in women defies the rules of documentary film and is still considered a milestone in hybrid documentary storytelling today. *THIS MOVIE IS A GIFT* reflects on forms of the artist portrait: an unusual and tender portrait of the artist Daniel Spoerri, in which her son Oskar Salomonowitz plays the artist.

Anja Salomonowitz studied film in Vienna and Berlin and worked as an assistant to director Ulrich Seidl. She worked with students at universities on their films, for example at the Aalto University Helsinki, Department for Film and Television or at the University of Applied Arts Vienna. She is a tutor at the Documentary Academy at the Jihlava International Film Festival, together with the Filipino filmmaker Khavn de La Cruz. She was chairwoman of the Austrian Documentary Film Association and the Austrian Film Directors Association and from 2014-2017 on the supervisory board of the Austrian Film Fund. Anja Salomonowitz works as a dramaturge for the Austrian Screenplay Association. She holds master classes on artistic film.

Her new film *SLEEPING WITH A TIGER* is a creative, inner portrait of the painter Maria Lassnig. Like memories and feelings that are not anchored in time and can evoke images at any time, as they did for Maria Lassnig, Anja Salomonowitz's hybrid film about the artist is not told in a linear fashion. Lassnig's work stands above all for the introspective feeling of one's own physical sensations and their artistic expression. The film makes this visionary approach to art not only visible, but tangible and experienceable.

Anja Salomonowitz lives and works in Vienna. She is currently working on a film about the Ukrainian activist Inna Shevshenko, the prominent founder of the feminist group FEMEN. The film is an embodiment of FEMEN's visual political art and represents new pop feminism.



Anja Salomonowitz



SLEEPING WITH A TIGER



## AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

SLEEPING WITH A TIGER

### YOU WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND THIS

2003 Audience Award, Vienna International Student Film Festival

2004 Prix Regards Neufs, Nyon, Visions du Réel

### IT JUST HAPPENED BEFORE

2007 New Vision Best Director Award, Alba Film Festival

2007 Peace Film Award of the City of Osnabrück

2007 Award for the best image design, Diagonale, Festival of Austrian Film

2007 Innovative Artistic Award, Mar del Plata, Argentina

2007 Special Mention, Cinéma du Réel, Paris

2007 Caligari Film Award, Berlinale

2006 Vienna Film Award, Viennale Vienna International Film Festival

### THE 727 DAYS WITHOUT KARAMO

2013 Silver Eye Award, Jihlava International Documentary Film Festival

### THE BOY WILL BE CIRCUMCISED

2017 Dorothea Neff Award for the Children's Ensemble

### THIS MOVIE IS A GIFT

2021 Franz Grabner Award

### SLEEPING WITH A TIGER

2024 Thomas Pluch Special Award for the Screenplay to Anja Salomonowitz, Diagonale, Graz

2024 Acting Award to Birgit Minichmayr for her portrayal of Maria Lassnig, Diagonale, Graz

2024 Award for outstanding production achievements to Antonin Svoboda, Diagonale, Graz

2024 Award for Best Production Design to Martin Reiter with Andreas Ertl, Diagonale, Graz

2024 „Best Artistic Achievement“ for Screenplay and Direction to Anja Salomonowitz, Bolzano Film Festival, Bozen

### ANJA SALOMONOWITZ

2010 Outstanding Artist Award of the Federal Ministry of Art and Culture

2019 Honorary Award of the Womens Filmdays for the film series RESISTANCE CINEMA

| D | iagonale |



VIENNALE  
VIENNA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



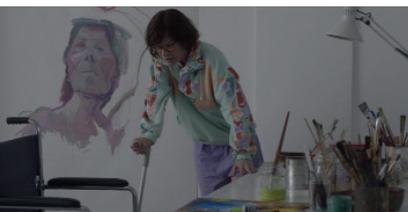


YOU WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND THIS



THIS MOVIE IS A GIFT

## ANJA SALOMONOWITZ FILMOGRAPHY



INFOS  
COOP 99  
[www.anjasalomonowitz.com](http://www.anjasalomonowitz.com)

## SLEEPING WITH A TIGER | 2024

Gifted child, abandoned daughter, determined woman, lonely artist, explorer of inner worlds, celebrated painter. The film SLEEPING WITH A TIGER by Anja Salomonowitz is a poetic portrait of the Austrian painter Maria Lassnig (Birgit Minichmayr). A film about her search for her very personal, artistic expression, her struggle in the male art world, her physical struggle for her painting, in which she brings her inner pain to the canvas. And then also a film about her great artistic success.

script, director: Anja Salomonowitz  
producer: Antonin Svoboda  
with Birgit Minichmayr, Johanna Orsini, Lukas Watzl and many more

feature film / documentary film

### SCREENINGS

Berlinale Forum 2024, Berlin  
Diagonale 2024, Graz  
Bolzano Filmfestival 2024, Bozen

### AWARDS

#### Diagonale 2024, Graz

Thomas Pluch Special Award for the Screenplay to Anja Salomonowitz  
Acting Award to Birgit Minichmayr for her portrayal of Maria Lassnig  
Award for outstanding production achievements to Antonin Svoboda  
Award for Best Production Design to Martin Reiter with Andreas Ertl

#### Bolzano Filmfestival 2024, Bozen

„Best Artistic Achievement“ for Screenplay and Direction to Anja Salomonowitz



DRREHARBEITEN AUSSCHNITT  
<https://vimeo.com/635379722>  
[www.anjasalomonowitz.com](http://www.anjasalomonowitz.com)

## READ MY BREASTS | IN PRODUCTION

READ MY BREASTS is a documentary film about the Ukrainian activist Inna Shevshenko, the prominent founder of the feminist group FEMEN. Her political actions changed our world, but her struggle in the nudity reaped contradictions. Even torture. So the film is also one about disappointment and trauma. Inna has learned too much about our harsh world. But Inna does not give up: A film about modern feminism.

A film by Anja Salomonowitz  
production | Golden Girls Filmproduction & Filmservices

documentary Film  
in production



STREAM  
[DAFILMS \(ENG. IT. FR SUB\)](#)  
[VODCLUB \(GERMAN\)](#)

TRAILER  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i0hgLKBsy8I>  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BfCpKfm\\_I38](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BfCpKfm_I38)

## THIS MOVIE IS A GIFT | 2019

IN MEMORIAM OSKAR SALOMONOWITZ (20.07.2008 - 27.10.2020)

THIS MOVIE IS A GIFT is a film about the artist Daniel Spoerri. Actually, it is a film about a thought of Daniel Spoerri: a film almost without Daniel Spoerri, actually it is mostly acted out by a child - a film namely about the thought of the eternal cycle, where even worn-out cooking spoons on the wall can live on as art.

„A remarkable meditation on life.“ Thomas Taborsky, Die Furche  
„Anja Salomonowitz, together with Spoerri and her son Oskar, has made a subtle film in which one may laugh quietly and also cry a little.“ Ditta Rudle, Dance Magazine

script, director, production: Anja Salomonowitz  
documentary film | A 2019, 35mm, 72 min., color

### AWARDS

2021 Franz Grabner Award

### SCREENINGS (selection)

mumok, Museum of Modern Art Foundation Ludwig Vienna, Mildred Kemper Art Museum Washington, Art Berlin, Paris internationale, Centre Culturel Suisse (Paris), Viennale, Artecinema Naples



TRAILER  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8B4RXb2f\\_4Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8B4RXb2f_4Q)

## THE BOY WILL BE CIRCUMCISED | 2016

„Well, you aren't supposed to throw the foreskin in the trash, you return it to the earth. And since I don't have a garden, I buried the foreskin in a large flower pot inside my kitchen.“

„Why is that so important to you?“ For The boy will be circumcised, Anja Salomonowitz conducted numerous interviews on the topic of ritual circumcision of young boys. In The boy will be circumcised, the memories and opinions of mothers, fathers, doctors and philosophers are weaved together into a theatre play with music. The men also get a chance to speak - those who were circumcised when they were children or those who let themselves be circumcised voluntarily at a later point in life - be it in a Jewish, Islamic or Christian environment.“

director: Anja Salomonowitz  
theatre play | production: Volkstheater Wien

### AWARD

2017 Dorothea Neff Award for the Children's Ensemble



STREAM  
[VODCLUB \(GERMAN\)](#)

TRAILER  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B7uQMHPckBw>

## THE 727 DAYS WITHOUT KARAMO | 2013

Love can cross borders - and sometimes it has to. For 727 days an Austrian woman is separated from her husband after his deportation. A Chinese woman waits longingly for her return to Vienna. Many relationships fall apart because of the vindictive nature of the system. Director Anja Salomonowitz creates an artful document, giving an inside on the reality of many different people living through and thereby telling the same story. A courageous portrait of love in light of one country's policy on foreigners.

script, director: Anja Salomonowitz  
documentary film | A 2013, 35mm, 80 min., color

### AWARDS

2013 Silver Eye Award, Jihlava International Documentary Film Festival

### SCREENINGS (selection)

Berlinale Forum, Diagonale, Feminale Dortmund/Köln, DOK Fest München, Jihlava IFF, CPH: DOX, WATCH DOCS Human Rights IFF Warszawa, MIFF - Mumbai International Documentary



## THE RABBINER'S APARTMENT IS EMPTY | 2013

A performance about a blank space with a sad story. With film. Developed in the context of the X-APARTMENTS in the cultural capital of Kosice.

A young Rabbi in training from Israel, Liron Yosef, was assigned to accompany the small community in Kosice, the second largest city in Slovakia. The old rabbi was dismissed, too much expulsion and murder. There were 12,000 Jewish people living there, today there are 600. His apartment is empty. The Jewish community in Kosice has a sad history.

In the performance, Liron Yosef guides the visitors through this empty apartment and resurrects the life in it with his words. He comes from the rabbi's books and research on the whole life of the community. A Jewish life that once flourished.

production: Goethe Institut Bratislava



STREAM  
[VODCLUB \(GERMAN\)](#)

TRAILER  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jZNS1L\\_YL3o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jZNS1L_YL3o)

## SPAIN | 2012

A stranded stranger ends up in the wrong place and embarks upon a search for his rights, his money and human beings who still believe in God. Things that aren't easy to find in this world. Instead he will find Magdalena, a mysterious woman who takes men to her home for something special. Her ex-husband, a police officer, is searching for the words that might bring Magdalena back to him, while a crane operator is a fallen angel tempting fate.

script together with Dimitre Dinev  
director: Anja Salomonowitz

with Tatjana Alexander, Gregoire Colin, Lukas Miko und  
Cornelius Obonya  
feature film | A 2012, 35mm, 95 min., color

### SCREENINGS (selection)

Berlinale Forum, Göteborg IFF Competition, Tbilisi IFF, Ghent IFF,  
Zürich Film Festival, Taipei IFF, CPH:PIX, Köln IFF  
opening film at Diagonale 2012



STREAM  
[DAFILMS \(ENG SUB\)](#)  
[VODCLUB \(GERMAN\)](#)

TRAILER  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aEDzEiLOXCA>

## IT HAPPENED JUST BEFORE | 2006

Five people in their everyday surroundings tell stories that they have never experienced personally. They recount tales of people involved in trafficking in women. They tell of exploitation, violence and force. They tell of realities which have happened and which might have happened in the places shown.

script, director: Anja Salomonowitz  
documentary film | A 2006, 72min., color

### Awards

2007 New Vision Best Director Award, Alba Film Festival  
2007 Peace Film Award of the City of Osnabrück  
2007 Award for the best image design, Diagonale, Festival of Austrian Film  
2007 Innovative Artistic Award, Mar del Plata, Argentina  
2007 Special Mention, Cinéma du Réel, Paris  
2007 Caligari Film Award, Berlinale  
2006 Vienna Film Award, Viennale Vienna International Film Festival

### SCREENINGS (selection)

Berlinale Forum, Viennale, Festival Internacional de Cine de Mar del Plata, FIDMarseille, Jerusalem IFF, Melbourne IFF, Nancy, Copenhagen IFF, Vancouver IFF, Buenos Aires Documentary Filmfestival, Jihlava, Leipzig, Duisburger Filmwoche, Sheffield IFF, CPH:DOX, Helsinki Docpoint, Ambulante Mexico, Minneapolis Women with Vision, Madrid Filmoteca



STREAM

<https://vimeo.com/439543600>

## MOZART SPOT: CODENAME FIGARO | 2006

This spot was an advertisement for the official Mozart Year 2005, in which two people agree to a so-called fictitious marriage. Like Figaro: organized weddings have a long tradition in Austria. It ends with the call: „Marry a migrant for love, it is a chance for him to be allowed to live and work in our country“.

script, director, editor, production: Anja Salomonowitz  
Spot | A 2006, 1 minute, 35mm, color  
As part of the Vienna Mozart Year 2006



STREAM

<https://vimeo.com/322511470>

## A MONUMENT FOR THE DEFEAT | 2005

A monument for defeat - We demand a monument for defeat! Austria has a culture of remembrance in which it should not occur that we were also Nazis and that we were defeated. Antisemites get monuments. The defeat that ensured the survival of all of us, but not. That should be honored!

script, director, editor, production: Anja Salomonowitz

On behalf of film museum Vienna & Tanzquartier Vienna  
A 2005, Loop, color



STREAM

[YOD CLUB \(ENG SUB\)](#)

[DAFILMS \(ENG SUB\)](#)

[FLIMMIT \(GERMAN\)](#)

TRAILER

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8aUK5n\\_IQ9E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8aUK5n_IQ9E)

## YOU WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND THIS | 2003

My movie is about three women who belong to what is historically referred to as the generation of perpetrators and victims. With their different stories of life, different narrations and memories they all belong to one family, my family.

script, director, editor: Anja Salomonowitz

Dissertation for study cut

documentary film | A 2003, 35mm, 52 min., color

### AWARDS

2003 Audience Award, Vienna International Student Film Festival

2004 Prix Regards Neufs, Nyon, Visions du Réel

### SCREENINGS (selection)

Visions du Réel, Viennale, ISFF, N.Y. Jewish Film Festival, Warsaw Jewish Film Festival, Feminale, Munich DOKfest



## PROJECTIONS OF A PROJECTIONIST IN A PORN CINEMA | 2002

Roman, the film projectionist, wants to slip into the porn he projects. And he succeeds...

script, director, editor, production: Anja Salomonowitz

With Nina Gabriel and Markus Hering

shortmovie | A 2002, Digi Beta, color, 14 min.

produced at the Filmakademie Wien



## GET TO ATTACK | 2001

Four Spots against racism and xenophobia.

GET TO ATTACK aims to counter the institutionalization of racism, sexism, and nationalism. GET TO ATTACK propagates the active networking of individuals, groups, and institutions with the aim of an offensive politics ...

script, director, editor: Anja Salomonowitz



## CARMEN | 2000

A documentary about the wondrous passion of Carmen Martinek, who takes movie theaters as her lovers.

script, director, editor, production: Anja Salomonowitz

[DAFILMS \(ENG SUB\)](#)

produced at the University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna (film and television department) and at the Academy for Film and Television „Konrad-Wolf“, Potsdam - Babelsberg

documentary film | A 2000, 23 min., color



## **MACONDO | 1999**

A film about the Chilean refugee settlement MACONDO on the edge of Vienna. A film about the stories of the people who live there, but above all about the strength of the children who grow up there.

16 mm, 14 min.  
director: Anja Salomonowitz

**ANJA SALOMONOWITZ**

**EDITING**

**CASTING | DIRECTOR'S ASSISTANCE**



TRAILER  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzFiPPZODRI>

## IMPORT EXPORT | 2007

Import Export tells two stories in a countermovement. One is about Olga, a nurse from the Ukraine. The other is about Paul, a security man from Vienna. Olga seeks her fortune in the West and ends up as a cleaning lady in Vienna, while Paul and his stepfather move to the Ukraine.

documentary film | A | 35 mm, color, 135 min.  
director: Ulrich Seidl  
director's assistance: Anja Salomonowitz



## IMAGO MUNDI | 2007

The film IMAGO MUNDI re-stages a still life from the 17th century and combines its criticism of secular and spiritual power structures with the post-colonial, neoliberal, globalised world. It opens up the possibility of re-reading representation and the politics of representation.

On an excursion through layers of symbols, work processes and art forms of painting, photography, film, dance, theatre, music and literature, he uncovers the normative framework that forms the often invisible and unnoticed cultural cage in which we find ourselves most of the time. In an alternation of political discussions, art forms and levels of meaning, film is a text that can be read as part of a discourse on politicised art and political activism.

experimental film | A | color, 37 min.  
director: Lisl Ponger  
director's assistance: Anja Salomonowitz



## OUR FATHER | 2004

A devotional dream as it could be at an airport. A small church on the site of the profane Ascension, the centre of all global mobility. In it six believers and a priest who pray to God, confess, confess and ask questions, who whisper, shout, scold and argue. Our Father is the title of Ulrich Seidl's first play, and deals - following the award-winning film Jesus, du weißt folgend - with the question of how faith works. Seidl does not want to be an ideology critic who deals with the church's tensions, with bigotry or kitsch or authoritarian structures. Seidl is interested in the question: „How do people manage to establish a personal relationship with a „Father in heaven“ whom they have never seen? How do you communicate with God?“

theatre play, peoples' theatre at Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz, Berlin  
director: Ulrich Seidl  
director's assistance: Anja Salomonowitz



## JESUS, YOU KNOW | 2003

A film as confessional. People go to church, people sit alone in the pew, people pray to Jesus, who is everything to them: Father and friend, saviour and saviour, signpost and wailing wall, speaker, silencer, lover. There is a student, for example, who attends mass every day against his parents' will, spends all his free time in the parish and simply tells Jesus everything and regrets everything: erotic fantasies like heroic dreams. Or the retired chemistry teacher who is cheated on by her partner with another woman. In prayer, she ponders for revenge. But isn't revenge a sin? Ulrich Seidl shows six fragmented portraits of believers who ask questions, seek answers and pour out their worries to Jesus. Each of these stories opens up a space, an intimacy, a view of what one might call God. John Waters chose Jesus, you know in the „Wall Street Journal“ as the best foreign film of 2006. He was, Waters confessed, the only one in the cinema, but Jesus, you know, was simply a „great movie“.

documentary film | A | 35 mm, color, 87 min.  
director: Ulrich Seidl  
casting, recording management: Anja Salomonowitz

TRAILER

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0Q\\_BV\\_0YXg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0Q_BV_0YXg)

## **ALL NIGHT | 2002**

One night, two lovers and the fear of being together.

feature film | A | 35mm, color, 13 min.

director: Mirjam Unger

editor: Anja Salomonowitz

with Doris Schretzmayer, Florian Horwath



## **MY STAR | 2001**

A love story between two teenagers who try to imitate the poses of adults in the backyards of Berlin and thus experience love.

feature film | D, A | 35mm, color, 65 min.

director: Valeska Grisebach

editor: Anja Salomonowitz

## **CASA PORTUGESE | 1999**

A film about the creation of the new Potsdamer Platz.

16 mm, 24 min.

director: Karsten Böhnke

editor: Anja Salomonowitz