

BIOGRAPHY ANJA SALOMONOWITZ

For her films, Anja Salomonowitz developed a film language in which documentary, feature film and thesis blend. Real human experiences are condensed through artistic alienation. Her films received international recognition, numerous film awards and found their way into relevant literature on documentary films.

Anja Salomonowitz studied Film in Vienna and Berlin. She holds masterclasses on artistic documentary film at Universities (f.e. Aalto University Helsinki, Department for Film and Television) or at Filmfestivals (f.e. tutor at the Documentary Academy at Jihlava International Film Festival). Anja Salomonowitz has three sons. She was chairlady of the Austrian Documentary Film Alliance and chairlady of the Austrian Directors Association. Her hybrid documentary films are shot like feature films and follow a strict colour concept. All her films are explicitly political and always question the border and possibilities of documentary film making.

At the moment, due to the political situation in Austria, she is also curating the monthly film series RESISTANCE CINEMA together with the director Mirjam Unger at the Stadtkino im Künstlerhaus Wien.

WORK selection: This movie is a gift (documentary 2019) The boy has to be circumcised (play 2016) The 727 days without Karamo (documentary 2013) Spain (feature 2012) It happened just before (documentary 2007) You will never understand this (documentary 2003) Carmen (documentary 2000)

FILMOGRAPHY ANJA SALOMONOWITZ

SHORTS

MACONDO 1999, 16 mm, B/W, 14 min.

A film about an unusual refugee camp in Vienna and its smaller and larger inhabitants.

CARMEN 2000, Beta SP, Colour, 23 min.

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

GET TO ATTACK SPOTS AGAINST RACISM 2001, 35 mm, Colour, ca. 5 min.

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. Four spots against racism.

PROJECTIONS OF A PROJECTIONIST IN A PORN CINEMA 2002, Digi-Beta, Colour, 14 min.

Roman, the projectionist, works in a porn cinema. He makes up romantic stories with the main actress of the movie he has to play every day...whom he is in love with. While working, he not only looks at the pictures, but also glances through the cinema—the impressions react with his fantasies. A reflexion about cinema, projection and back projection.

A MONUMENT FOR THE DEFEAT 2005, Video, Loop, Colour

In collaboration with the Filmmuseum Vienna

Vienna in the movies, buildings, streets, streetlamps, statues: all already shot, what there is. What doesn't exist: We call for a monument for the defeat! A base was built, for one day, it demands for a monument. A base where is written what we think: Austria was never far-reaching denazified! The work searches for a language not only to show this performance but also to demand cinematically, not only to reproduce but to claim also.

CODENAME FIGARO 2006, 35mm, 1 min., Colour

A Minute concerned to the topic of "binational" couples – and their confrontation with the aliens law.

DOCUMENTARIES

YOU WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND THIS 2003, 35mm, 52 min., color

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.

IT HAPPENED JUST BEFORE 2007, HDV, 72 min, color

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.

THE 727 DAYS WITHOUT KARAMO 2013, HD, 80 min, color

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.

THIS MOVIE IS A GIFT 2019, 72 min, DCP, color

This film is a gift is a film about the artist Daniel Spoerri. Actually, it's a film about a thought of Daniel Spoerri: a film almost without Daniel Spoerri, actually it's mostly played by a child - to say nothing less than that everything goes on somehow in life, even if you die in between.

FEATURE FILMS

SPAIN 2012, 35 mm, 102 min., colour

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.

THEATRE

CAPITAL OF CULTURE KOSICE 2013, Performance

Anja Salomonowitz stages a 10-minute performance that takes place as part of a tour of the Capital of Culture. The young rabbi, who is actually a civilian servant capable of praying, presents the abandoned home of the old rabbi - as an example of the sad disintegration of the Jewish community.

THE BOY HAS TO BE CIRCUMCISED 2016, Volkstheater Wien, Volx

“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.” From: The boy has to be circumcised

“Why is that so important to you?” For The boy has to 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. You hear also stories from the one who are circumcised themselves - 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.

These texts are repeated by a group of children on stage: six older children, two younger ones – and one kid, hiding behind the curtain. The children assume the positions of grown-ups, who, in regular life, discuss and decide things over the children’s heads. They carefully take small steps into a world, which seems strange to many or even scary to some. (Press release Volkstheater Vienna, March 2016)