

Hymn Sheet - Total Doclipse of the Art

Questions about the nature, extent and definition of documentary continue to have relevance today and underpin the work of many contemporary artists. This can be viewed as part of a wider concern with the 'writing' of history, concepts of the 'real', memory and evidence...Though apparently neutral and transparent, documentary is nevertheless a form of mediation – one of the principal ways in which we codify and construct reality.' (Art and Documentary in Britain from 1929 to Now, Tate Liverpool)

This panel discussion will look at work that blurs the border between documentary and artist film, offering case studies that demonstrate a successful marrying of the two genres. Talking to both filmmakers and commissioners, this session will consider available options for funding, distribution and exhibition, looking at how we can best support this work.

Panelists include moderator William Fowler (Curator of Artist Moving Image, BFI), Gideon Koppel (dir. *Sleep Furiously*), Gary Tarn (dir. *Black Sun*), Gary Thomas (Co-director, *Animate Projects*), Portland Green (Creative Director, *Portland Green Cultural Projects*) & Anthony Wall (Series Editor, *Arena*).

Clips

Gallivant (Andrew Kötting)

Gladys is the director's grandmother, an opinionated octogenarian bursting with anecdotes and reminiscences, frequently confusing and contradictory. Eden is Kötting's 8-year old daughter who has Joubert Syndrome and communicates through sign language. In his mischievous travelogue and entirely unexpected spin on the road movie, the trio set off around the British coastline to discover themselves and a host of eccentrics en route. Kötting uses 16mm and Super 8 filmstock, found footage, timelapse photography and much non-synchronous sound to reveal a wonderland of bizarre traditions and quirky strangers. (BFI)

Sleep Furiously (Gideon Koppel)

Sleep Furiously is a meditative study of a small farming community in mid-Wales that observes the rhythms of country life, and the rhythms of the monthly visits of the mobile library. But it is a life that is changing – the village school is about to close, mechanisation is replacing many of the old ways, congregations are dwindling, but the village show and the sheepdog trials carry on. Koppel's interest in the eccentricities of life is simultaneously affectionate, moving and very funny. (New Wave Films)

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Black Sun (Gary Tarn)

Gary Tarn's remarkable film *Black Sun*, winner of many international awards and co-produced by Alfonso Cuarón (*Y tu mamá también*, *Children of Men*) and John Battsek (*One Day in September*), tells the story of Hugues de Montalembert, a French artist and filmmaker living in New York, who was blinded during a violent assault in 1978. With this portrait of a unique man and his extraordinary reaction to a life-changing trauma, Tarn has created an expressionist film whose power lies in visualising a world from the perspective of the blind de Montalembert. Part- survivor's testimony, part- philosophical meditation on the nature of perception, *Black Sun* is a celebration of life that makes us see the world anew. (Second Run DVD)

Resources

UK Organisations (Commissioning/Projects)

www.animateonline.org
www.portlandgreen.com
www.flamin.film london.org.uk
www.lux.org.uk
www.artangel.org.uk
www.independentcinemaoffice.org.uk
www.arika.org.uk
www.electra-productions.com
www.picture-this.org.uk
www.fvumbrella.com
www.forma.org.uk

UK Festivals of interest

www.flatpackfestival.org.uk
www.andfestival.org.uk
www.aurora.eu.com
www.arika.org.uk
www.onedotzero.com
www.kurzfilmtage.de
www.filmfestivalrotterdam.com
www.avfest.co.uk
www.berwickfilm-artsfest.com