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Short Docs

Alexandra Nakelski Last updated

Jul 7, 2019

9 Days from my Window in Aleppo

Dir. Floor van der Meulen, Thomas Vroege,
Issa Touma (Syria/Netherlands, 2016)

In August 2012, Syrian photographer Issa Touma awoke to the dawn of the rebel uprising in the city of Aleppo. He spent the next nine days holed up in his apartment, filming the emerging civil war outside.

9 days from my window.jpg 103 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Across Long River

Dir. Irene Jiang (USA, 2017)

A Beijinger octogenarian sets off on a final pilgrimage to her Southern hometown, as she remembers her childhood during the Cultural Revolution. Irene Jiang's documentary explores themes of memory and cultural trauma, against a backdrop of tumultuous historical change.

across long river.png 2.4 MB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Austerity Britain: Grenfell

Dir. Ryan Chapman (UK, 2017)

On 14 June 2017, the 24-storey Grenfell Tower block caught fire, in a blaze that ultimately cost 71 people their lives. The events were painted as a tragedy by the press and the Government – however the disaster was entirely preventable. A potent mixture of arrogance, mismanagement and willful ignorance had condemned some of the poorest families in one of London's richest districts to a horrific fate. Campaigners and residents had repeatedly warned the Council of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea that the buildings were not safe, while costs were cut on the interior, by not fitting a sprinkler system that could have stopped the fire. *Austerity Britain: Grenfell* is a potent reminder that Grenfell is far from a

simple disaster – it has become emblematic of an opportunistic and spiteful ruling class bent on class warfare, and willing to do anything it takes to take what little working class communities have left in Britain, and hand it to the wealthy.

JB

Austerity.jpg 110 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Behind the Walls*

Dir. Hyun Lories (Belgium, 2016)

Habi takes us on a tour around the 5 Towers, her neighborhood. She learns us that an empty square only exists in the head of the person who looks at it that way but if you take a closer look you might think differently. I chose this "improv doc" in my curated program for 2ANNAs in Latvia and proud to feature it here in Amsterdam. This short delves into a space and time that we probably

have all walked by without giving it a second thought...but these kids must define who they are, even if no one is looking. Dir. Lories will be in attendance to further elucidate his filmmaking technique and method on how he captured such a moment in time.

Behind the Walls.jpg 114 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Beneath the Wide Wide Heaven

Dir. Hisham Bizri (USA, 2016)

Pier Paolo Pasolini, Marxist, Catholic, and gay, plays the role of the director as conveyor of human experience in this experimental documentary film. The director is constantly watching, thinking, and feeling the world events around him as he films the Passion of Jesus as well as mundane and historic events, all in the hope that the film, once

done, will be whole and sufficient to convey human suffering and decadence through interconnections. But on the director is the burden, of showing through the art of cinema, the human experience of transcendence.

Beneath the wide Wide Heaven.png 1.14 MB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Blueberry Spirits (Melleņu gari)

Dir. Astra Zoldnere (Latvia, 2016)

This is a poetic documentary about a Roma family that spends its summers in the Latvian forests, picking berries to make a living. While harvesting the fruits of the forest, they reflect on their identity as a group by sharing ghost stories. Surrounded by existential questions on how to balance the future and the past, traditions and modern life, the movie points out their struggle for identity as a journey between night and day, and vice versa.

Bluberry Spirits.png 2.26 MB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Breathing Still

Dir. Jill Daniels (UK, 2018)

While in the Trump era, she is seen by many as a beacon of liberal values, much like Hilary Clinton, Angela Merkel has made a career out of crushing the organized left. In the vacuum left by such actions, a supposedly 'anti-establishment', 'maverick' conservatism has taken root; a forerunner of fascism, which is itself a conservative revolution. 100 years ago German Marxist Rosa Luxemburg, "Bourgeois society stands at the crossroads, either transition to Socialism or regression into Barbarism." Once again, it seems we have reached such a historic intersection.

Breathing Still is both a tribute to Rosa Luxemburg, and a grim warning of what may be to come, as the racist AfD take a record

number of seats in the German elections –
leaving Merkel's grip on power loosened. -
Jack Brindelli

Breathing Still.png 1.36 MB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Down To The Plastic Ocean

Dir. Dan Aguar (USA, 2017)

ScubyDo' goes to the sea. "Down To The Plastic Ocean" takes you on a magical lyrical journey that follows a plastic toy scuba diver from a storm water drain in Athens, Georgia through the streams and rivers to the edge of the coast. This short film delivers an immersive experience from ScubyDo's point of view and compels the audience to reflect upon how to help keep our waterways and oceans cleaner. "By 2050 our oceans could contain more plastic than fish. Only you can

stop the plastic ocean." For me this is a true epidemic and I cringe every time I go to the grocery store here in Europe...for the EU to often boast of its "sustainability"...there is SO MUCH PLASTIC! Why do my vegetables have to have plastic over all of it?! Tons of trash in the canals here in Amsterdam..a damn shame. - *Alexandra Nakelski*

Down to the plastic ocean.jpg 113 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

End Of Recent Past/ Fin Do Pasado Recente

Dir. Salvador Pardo (Spain, 2018)

Julio, is a lighthouse keeper living and working in inhabited island, in south Galicia, Spain. He is also a writer, musician and philosopher.

After 35 years dedicated to the lighthouse he is retiring, becoming the very last lighthouse

keeper in the island of Sálvora, which is part of the Spanish National Parks Network. From now on, the Lighthouse is automatically controlled from an office far away.

Commentary: This is the antithesis to an overly plugged in modern world and a perfect antidote to the Rat Race so why is there no place for these ways of life in our plugged in world? Is this truly "progress"? A very "Thoreau" poetic piece exemplifying that solitude actually brings humans to have greater relationships with each other and within themselves. Lastly, there is always something romantic about lighthouses, beautifully shot and brilliantly contemplative. "End of Recent Past" is such a fitting title as we are now on the tail end of these ways of life becoming completely extinct and will become almost mythic in their telling.

End of recent past.jpg 260 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Fighting for the Wild: The Cochahuasi

Animal Sanctuary

Dir. Desislava Kadra (UK, 2017)

Filmmaker Desislava Kadra in Attendance!

The director's statement says it all: This work was inspired by my visit to Peru in early 2017. During my last week of my travel I visited the Cochahuasi Animal Sanctuary after being mesmerised by the huge condors flying above the centre.

I quickly learned that behind each of these beautiful animals, there was a much darker story that involved pain and suffering as to how they arrived there. After learning about the cruel ways in which many of them had been treated: trafficked to other countries as exotic pets, or being used as tourist attractions, I knew that their stories had to be told.

I was ashamed of the way these animals had been treated by humans. I knew I had to stay and tell their story, as that was the least I

could do. Most people unknowingly contribute to some of the worst acts in animal cruelty. We may not be the people who capture and abuse these animals, but we pay to take pictures with them, buy souvenirs which have parts of them, or use them as decoration of our house. The message of the Cochahuasi Animal centre is very clear: Education and awareness is the key to ending animal abuse and trafficking once and for all. I hope that this is the message that is echoed when people watch this documentary and one which they continue to spread beyond it.

Fighting for the wild.jpg 241 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Forgotten Riverside

Dir. Luis Lobato Macedo (Portugal, 2017)

This documentary establishes a comparison

between the evolution of both sides of river Tagus, implicitly alerting the public to the serious social, economic and environmental consequences of the leniency and negligence towards our neighboring block.

Forgotten Riverside.jpg 341 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Gagarin's Tree (Copacul Lui Gagarin)

Dir. Mona Vatamanu /Florin Tudor (Romania, 2016)

An interview with philosopher Ovidiu Tichindeleanu engages issues of space exploration, imagination and propaganda in the socialist utopia, the post-communist condition as liberal colonization, linked – Ovidiu proposes – to other sites of decolonization through a new historical consciousness.

Screen Shot 2019-07-07 at 7.18.07 PM.png 4.36

MB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

I Paint, I Protest: Mary Perry Stone

Dir. Ramie Streng (USA, 2016)

'Why don't you just paint pretty pictures?' a woman once asked the artist Mary Perry Stone. This film focuses on Mary's protest work during the Sixties and Seventies. When the film opens in 1960, Mary lives on what later became George Lucas's Skywalker Ranch in Lucas Valley, California. In an old bunkhouse she uses as her studio, she paints. Her murals and paintings reflect her reactions to both the civil rights struggles and the war in Vietnam. Mary Perry Stone, whose work the renowned artist Jacob Lawrence called "creative" and "sensitive", felt she could not stand by without protesting the events of her times.

I Pain I protest.jpg 2.6 MB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Inner Me

Dir. Antonio Spanò (Italy/Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2016)

While following Jemima, a little curious girl who wanders through dusty roads, crowded markets, slaughterhouses, furnaces and bat hunters we get acquainted with three women who describe the harsh realities of being born female and deaf in a society that discriminates against both women and people with disabilities.

The stories of Immaculée, Sylvie and Stuka are stories of everyday struggle against marginalization, abuse and oppression, but despite the insurmountable obstacles imposed on them by society, the protagonists show us how their strong and undefeated will allows them to take hold of their fate every single day and reveals the beautiful resilience of the human spirit.

Inner Me.jpg 393 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Kosnin

Dir. Sara Seligman (USA/Mexico, 2017)

10-year old Héctor wants to 'fly,' like the voladores in his community. His single mother can't afford the costs, but Héctor is determined to achieve his dream, and through hard work and a little help, sets out to do what others in his community have done for generations - FLY.

Kosnin.jpg 297 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Objector

Dir. Molly Stuart (USA, 2017)

A chilling insight into the "Starship Troopers"-style pseudo-democracy of Israel, where

military conscription is used as a tool of indoctrination to persuade good people to support the occupation and ethnic cleansing of a region where religions had coexisted for millennia. The film follows courageous 19-year-old Atalya, as she faces scrutiny from her own family, and imprisonment from her government, in order to stand up to the Israeli apartheid regime. Stories like this need telling to show the Israel-Palestine issue is not just Arabs vs Jews, while that the state of Israel inflicts tyranny on Jewish citizens as well, and that criticism of it is not inherently anti-Semitic. - *Jack Brindelli*

objector.png 2.47 MB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Occupy Los Angeles

Dir. Henk Conn (USA, 2017)

September 2011, on the social media of the time, there was a call to bring tents to the Los

Angeles City Hall. The demonstrators were attempting to permanently occupy the front lawn.

This short documentary creates a time capsule of a small part of the West Coast Occupy Movement. In a larger sense, the film endeavors to demonstrate that huge problems continue to exist in the world, and from one generation to the next, adopt different forms.

I was wondering if anyone remembers the Occupy movement and why was it so underwhelming? Will the current galvanized marchers keep their momentum in near future or will they fizzle out the way Occupy did? -

Alexandra Nakelski

And from a Brit perspective:

Celebrity guests and a surprisingly critical support piece in favour of a global movement for change. Frankly the conclusion - that as the protesters sued the police for 2 million - is treated as a victory when mass unemployment, homelessness and

discrimination still have America in their grips just shows how embarrassingly white and middle class it all was. - *Jack Brindelli*

Occupy Los Angeles.png 2.12 MB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

PAU - Feeding my soul

Dir. Julia Hombach & Marina Fehlau
(Germany, 2017)

Art can play a key role in forging a connection between people and their environment, a notion the Manifesto Film Festival is built upon. Having fled her homeland amid the brutal US-backed Pinochet regime, PAU, a Chilean/German artist, explains how art has enabled her to bring joy and color to the world, in spite of such beginnings. PAU paints her "Wallflowers" to draw attention to different subjects and social issues, while

expressing her feelings in the process. - *Jack Brindelli*

PAU.png 2.81 MB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Pezcal

Dir. Pablo Briones (Spain, Colombia, Argentina, Switzerland, 2016)

Taking care of pigeons, going fishing, being friends. A day in the life of Leonel and Antuán, two young boys living in the Cuban countryside.

pezcal_adentro.jpg 228 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Proper Milk

Dir. Mark Hannant (UK, 2016)

Discover what life is like on the “highest welfare dairy in the land”. Proper Milk follows Fiona Provan and her small herd of jersey cows living quaintly alongside their calves. Fiona’s mission is to produce milk with compassion, setting up The Calf at Foot, a micro dairy farm in the Suffolk countryside. With mechanized farming techniques intensifying, while the conclusion of Brexit threatens to tear up large swathes of animal welfare and farming standard legislation, being aware of how and where our food is farmed is becoming an important question for our ethical and physical well being. - *Jack Brindelli*

Proper milk.png 2.3 MB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

**Revolution Fights, round and round,
circles break**

Dir. Helen Wells (UK, 2017)

We love our alumni! Helen Wells was there for us when we first started in Norwich England. Sometimes it is a struggle to get art projects funded and rolling and we love to support like-minded projects and we vow to never forget our roots and genesis in East Anglia! Creative Working Lives did go on since last season into their next project on the theme of social change, again mobilizing people to think about what needs to transform and what gets in the way and finding creative ways to express it.

Revolution-Helen wells.jpg 92.9 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Semillas de Guaumúchil* (Guamuchil Seeds)

Dir. Carolina Corral (Mexico, 2016)

The documentary presents the stories of five

indigenous women who have been unfairly incarcerated in Mexico. They share, in their own words, their experiences of access to justice and how literature empowered their resilience from inside jail. They discover creative writing while in prison and share their poetry once they are freed.

SemillasDeGuamúchil_01_web.jpg 55.1 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Terraform

Dir. Sil van Der Woerd/Jorik Dozy (Indonesia/UK, 2017)

Terraform tells the true story of the hardships and sacrifices the sulphur miners of Kawahljen in Indonesia make in order to provide for their family.

Terraform.jpg 249 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

The Curious End to the War Against Ourselves

Dir. Andrew Purchin/Michael Reinhold (USA, 2017)

How do we not hate the hater? Armed with art supplies and a 170-foot linen scroll, an artist and psychotherapist and his team provided relief from the frenzy at the 2016 Republican and Democratic National Conventions. About 150 people listened to a guided art making meditation while marking and dancing on the canvas. Just about everybody reported feeling more calm. And a number of people noticed how they became less judgmental towards those whom they disagreed with.

Curious end.jpg 106 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

The Curse and the Jubilee

Dir. Ivete Lucas (USA, 2011)

The Curse and The Jubilee is a collective voice of survival in the postindustrial, cursed mining town of Ivanhoe, Virginia. The film engages the people as they are reconstituted through the Jubilee, a July 4th celebration where the scattered families return to their forsaken lands and stand in solidarity against the scars left by the mines, racism, poverty and abandonment. I had the pleasure of meeting Ivete in Mexico Summer of 2017, please look up her other short films; some are Academy Accredited and featured globally. She has so much heart and you can see it in all of her work. A talented and down-to-earth filmmaker...I foresee great things in her cinematic future! AN

The Curse and the Jubilee.jpg 50.5 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

The Delmar Divide

Dir. Patrick Delhogue (USA, 2018)

In this poetic documentary, every scene was shot within 200 meters of Delmar Boulevard, the social and economic dividing line in one of America's most segregated and violent cities.

Delmar divide.png 2.09 MB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

The Wall Within

Dir. Juan Manuel Ramirez (Mexico, 2017)

A shocking account of why the US/Mexico border, and all borders, have become such a hideous inhumane mess. In Arizona, forensic anthropologists must analyze the remains of thousands of migrants who die each year in the desert trying to cross the border into the US, while armed vigilantes patrol the border, sabotaging water drops from humanitarian aid groups, and leaving people for dead out of

little more than nationalistic hatred. - *Jack Brindelli*

wall within.png 2.81 MB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

The Wall: A Donald Trump Rally

Dir. Heather Rosenblum (USA, 2016)

So we have all seen the news footage before. The rallies. Americans understand very much this aspect of our culture...to get pumped up...to beat the opponent...the U-S-A...U-S-A! mentality.

Zoom the camera back...not as many people there as you think. However the thing to contemplate in pieces like these are not that you cannot believe this has happened, but that it has not happened sooner. We love to have a common enemy. But now unlike the Cold War in the 80s...the enemy is everyone...the Mob Mentality Culture of lowest common denominator. We look back

and wonder how Hitler could have "brainwashed" thousands of seemingly "good" German citizens. It is all economic fear and that fear is played like a fiddle by the powers that be. Gustav Le Bon's "The Crowd: A Study of the Popular Mind" has ironically been quoted by Ann Coulter many times in her attacks toward liberals, however history has proved again and again an effective propaganda tool is to accuse your enemy of that which you are doing yourself.

To me Trump is not the problem, but a symptom, that logic and reason have disintegrated. Civilization, without common and agreed upon mores and basis of FACTS, will in fact, cease to subsist. This is only the beginning...as Bette Davis famously quoted in *All About Eve*: "Fasten your seat belts, it's gonna be a bumpy night!" - *Alexandra Nakelski*

The Wall a Donald Trump.jpg 133 KB [View full-](#)

[size](#) [Download](#)

The Woman Weighing Gold

Dir. Jacques Loeuille (France/Netherlands, 2017)

The Woman Weighing Gold is an essay documenting the influence of capitalism on the Dutch painting during the Golden Age.

Woman Weighing Gold.jpg 89.1 KB [View full-](#)
[size](#) [Download](#)

Tierra Virgen / Virgin Land*

Dir. Giovanni Aloi (Italy, Peru, 2016)

In a Peru choked by drug trafficking, more and more farmers decide every day to escape the yoke of organized crime, gathering in

cooperatives. Tierra Virgen investigates the life of a farming family who is about to start walking on this legality's path. It is more profitable to grow coca, but is it the right thing to do? Communities can make a huge difference when standing together in solidarity.

virgin land.jpg 42.6 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

Time in Culture

Dir. Vera Sinha (UK/Brazil, 2018)

Time in Culture is a short documentary that shows how ideas of time are expressed in different cultures and languages. In Western cultures time is measured by clocks and calendars using numbers. Calendars and clocks enable us to measure time intervals: years, months, days, hours, minutes and seconds. The past is thought of as located behind our backs, with the future is in front or

ahead. Is this the way that everyone, in every culture, thinks and talks about time? This documentary tells the story of how three indigenous cultures of Brazil, think about, talk about and experience time.

The Huni Kuĩ, Kamaiurá, and Awetý people talk about time very differently from us. These cultures do not use clocks and calendars. So individuals do not count their birthdays.

Instead, they think about their lives in terms of life stages and the process of learning and acquiring skills throughout the life span.

For these cultures, Time is thought about in terms of events and happenings, in nature and in the social world. The sounds of the crickets, the sun and the sunlight, the stars, the water level in the rivers, the rain, the breeze and the stars indicate time. The relationship between people and the environment is crucial for understanding time. Time, they say, is not behind or in front of me, but it is in my heart, in my eyes or in my mind. I can definitely relate...it seems with more

technological progress...all these gadgets that are supposed to SAVE us time make us more accessible to bosses, friends, the world at large that we are on the digital stage 24/7. I remember going to Fiji and being on "Fiji Time"...I love slowing down...but the minute you UNPLUG the rat race passes you by. I don't check my email for 2 days and I go back to cyber anxiety. Something's gotta give. - *Alexandra Nakelski*

Time in Culture.png 1.26 MB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)
Vemo-nos Depois (See You Later)

Dir. Tiago Albiniski (Portugal, 2017)

Filmmakers Tiago Albiniski and Patrick Delhougne Attending for Q&A!

A voyage through memory that shows us a city like any other, but one that becomes an important element in the moment to bid farewell.

See You later.png 2.81 MB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)
What Happened to Her

Dir. Kristy Guevara-Flanagan (USA, 2016)

Having spent the majority of my adult life in Los Angeles and in the film industry and basically as a film fan, there is a level of voyeurism and exploitation involved directly and indirectly as a subject becomes objectified. This is often by choice or as a result of Western culture's systemic fascination of watching others. We see it infiltrating our daily lives as smart phones capture snippets of reality later to be uploaded and seen by who knows how many on the Wild West uncharted territories of Internet spaces.

What Happened to Her is not only about women, but also a film about film. This encapsulates Laura Mulvey's academic

writing on the "gaze" and the image of women being the object of the "gaze". It is a journey through the history of the form of the "corpse" as a character that is disembodied and completely submissive to the voyeurism of both the audience and the live camera crew. The disembodied voice over of the corpse actress is the apotheosis of this double exploitation. I often was reminded that the "dead" in all CSI episodes, Silence of the Lambs, The River's Edge et al..are not mannequins, but in fact actresses. Why is it more fascinating for on screen "victims" to be women...and not men? If it is a reflection of reality...why do we then find something so abhorrent so mesmerizing on celluloid? - *Alexandra Nakelski*

WHTH_1.jpg 871 KB [View full-size](#) [Download](#)

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