

WHO owns THE SKY



Press kit



Who Owns The Sky

A film by Sabian Baumann

Switzerland 2022

Original title Wem gehört der Himmel

Length 82 minutes

Genre Documentary

Format HD, DCP, 25 fps

Screen format 16:9

Sound 5.1

Locations Argentina, Switzerland

Original language German, Spanish, English, French

Full-length subtitling English / German / Spanish

Film website, press kit, stills download

www.sabianbaumann.ch/collaborations

Production verein für um_ordnung

With the support of

Aargauer Kuratorium, travel grant

Kanton Zürich, Freiraumbeitrag

Ernst Göhner Stiftung

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Ursula Habersaat

Bea Schneider

Fonds Respect

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With Fermín Eloy Acosta
Karen Bennett
Serena O. Dankwa
Fernando Davis
Meloe Gennai
Soledad Pilar Gómez
Fernanda Guaglianone
Sushila Mesquita
Cecilia Palmeiro
Alecs Recher
Susy Shock
Kalym Soria

Navild Acosta
Brandy Butler
Rahel El-Maawi
Meloe Gennai
Edwin Ramirez
Hermes Schneider

Simone Aughterlony
Effi Mer Delamaskis
Yael Gesù
Chris Gustafsson
Khadija Makki
Dominic Schibli
Oli Skyler

Malika Khatir
Jörg Köppl
Doro Schürch

a.o.



Logline

An activist film on gender, colonialism and capitalism.

Synopsis

The starting point of the film is a series of interviews with activists from artistic and academic environments in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Zürich, Switzerland. The protagonists question the validity of enforced hetero-norms and their consequences, in response to an innovative gender identity law that was passed as a worldwide first in Argentina, 2012. According to this legislation, (trans*) people are able to change their name and gender identity without further requirements for the very first time. The theoretical discussions throughout the film that focus on gender and the system are combined with dance, performance and action scenes from the art-activist project, die grosse um_ordnung - the great re-ordering, that took place on Zürich's Helvetiaplatz in 2018. The body is the central element when questions of gender or race are concerned. Social attributions are made upon a body, but it can also become a political instrument that can question and even change conditions. In this sense, the film can also be viewed as a guide; on the one hand it shows individual possibilities for action but above all, it shows what needs to be taken into account in order to create an intersectional movement that does not exclude anybody.



Notes by the director* Sabian Baumann

Normality is always an exception in space and time.

Gender concepts are everybody's business

In my art, as well as in my collaborative projects, my personal perspective as a queer, transgender person on the topics under discussion is extraordinarily important to me.

However, the topic of this film deals with the connection between gender and the system, where the subsequent norms and privileges do not only concern a minority. On the contrary, every human being and every body is bio-politically normed. It is not only trans* or inter* people who suffer from the common gender stereotypes, they are just the tip of the iceberg of the most discriminated against. All beauty ideals are attached to stereotypes of masculinity and femininity, consequently heterosexual people who do not meet the "requirements" are also discriminated against. According to a survey by Time Magazine, 20 percent of so-called Millennials in the U.S. do not identify as heterosexual or reject the category of male or female for themselves. In addition, more than half of today's families are single parents with children, blended families and rainbow families. They, too, no longer fit the image of the traditional nuclear family. In stark contrast to 1970s feminism, a movement that was easy to understand but also insufficient because it excluded diverse groups of women and failed to engage with the complexity of gender, a queer feminist and intersectional perspective includes insights that come closer to real identities.

The film shows for audiences with no prior knowledge, how gender is connected to intersectionality, how gender concepts are related to colonialism and why the most progressive law for trans* people did not come from the West. Furthermore, the film reveals that we are all affected by this conception of gender and that the distribution of privileges through the binary gender concept is not coincidentally congruent with economic privileges. It challenges the viewer to examine their own thinking and actions; to question concepts that are commonly taken as given or "natural".

Interviewees and Performers

Protagonists Argentina

Susy Shock and Karen Bennett



Susy Shock is an actor, writer, singer and teacher. She was part of the National Front for the Gender Identity Law, an alliance of more than fifteen organizations that were instrumental in the enforcement of the law. As a writer, she has also written for various journals and online magazines, including Soy, the cultural magazine Caja Muda (from the National University of Córdoba), Waska, Queer ArtZine, and Colada Magazine.

Karen Bennett is a musician, activist, and communications assistant in the organization GATE - Global Action for Trans* Equality, which advocates for transgender and intersex rights, among other issues. The organization bases its work on intersectional, decolonial and collective practices.

Soledad Pilar Gómez and Kalym Adrián Soria



Soledad Pilar Gómez was the director of Cooperativa Estilo Diversa LGBT in Buenos Aires at the time of the interview. The collective produces clothing and shoes for trans people and all those whose body shapes do not conform to the norm. The employment program also aims to provide transwomen with a professional alternative to prostitution, which for most of them is the only way to earn a living.

Kalym Adrián Soria is secretary of the Trans Men of the Federación Argentina de Lesbianas, Gays, Bisexuales y Trans (LGBT) and president of the Network Intersex, Trásgénero y Transexuales Argentinos (RITTA). In these capacities, he has been a strong advocate for the Trans Identity Law in Argentina and has also been able to collaborate in the drafting of the law. He also helped establish the Cooperative Estilo Diversa LGBT.

Cecilia Palmeiro



Cecilia Palmeiro is an author, cultural critic and professor of Latin American literature. She is a well-known and committed intellectual in Buenos Aires. Due to the experience that she, as a cis woman, was and is constantly read as a trans woman in the public space. She describes her body as a fundamental site of experience, a way to break free from divisions of gender and other categorizations such as class, race and nationality, and to see queer ascription as an opportunity.

Fermín Eloy Acosta, Fernando Davis and Fernanda Guaglianone (Grupo Micropolíticas)



Grupo Micropolíticas is a research group conducting research in the field of micropolitics at the Faculty of Fine Arts of the University of La Plata since 2012. The members are all from different faculties, working together to research what they term themselves as sexual disobedience in contemporary Argentine art. In doing so, their aim is to negotiate a number of interventions, questions and problems related to contemporary artistic practices and microsexual politics.

Fermín Eloy Acosta is a writer, screenwriter and filmmaker. His films have been shown extensively in South American film festivals. In 2019 he published his first novel, “Bajo lluvia, relámpago o trueno” and was winner of the Jury Prize at the Bienal de Arte Joven 2019, Buenos Aires.

Fernando Davis is a freelance curator working as a professor and researcher on contemporary Latin American Art at the Universidad Nacional de La Plata (UNLP), where he leads the research project “Micropolíticas de la desobediencia sexual en el arte argentino contemporáneo” (Micropolitics of sexual disobedience in contemporary Argentine art).

Fernanda Guaglianone is a lecturer at the Faculty of Fine Arts of the Universidad Nacional de La Plata (UNLP), and also a video artist working on solo projects and in collectives such as “Cuerpo Puerco” and “Projekt ENDO”.

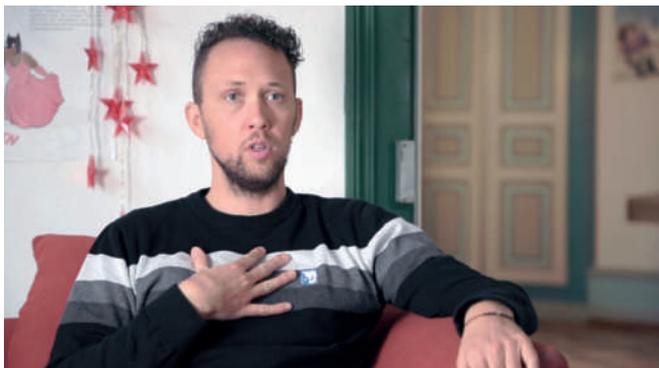
Protagonists Switzerland

Serena Owusua Dankwa



Serena O. Dankwa describes herself as a feminist, anti-racist anthropologist and activist. She studied classical guitar at the Lucerne School of Music and later African history and ethnomusicology at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in London and received her PhD from the Institute of Social Anthropology at the University of Bern in 2014 with the thesis “Knowing women: same-sex intimacy, gender and identity in postcolonial Ghana” published by Cambridge University Press. As part of her doctoral research, she conducted research in southern Ghana and at various US universities. In addition to her academic work, she worked for many years as a presenter and music journalist for Swiss radio and television. SOD worked for FIZ, Fachstelle Frauenhandel und Frauenmigration and is co-founder of Bla*Sh, the network of black women* in German-speaking Switzerland. Today she is a research associate at the Institute for Continuing Education and Counseling at the University of Teacher Education Northwestern Switzerland FHNW in the research and development project “Critical Diversity Literacy through arts and further education”.

Alecs Recher



Alecs Recher, a lawyer, founded the organization Transgender Network Switzerland (TGNS) in 2009, which he also co-chaired until 2012. There he built up the first professional and voluntary legal advice for transgender people, in which he himself is active as a legal advisor. He was also a board member at Transgender Network Europe from 2012 and co-chair from 2014. Today, he works for the Interdisciplinary Center for Gender Research IZFG at the University of Bern as a research associate in the field of Human Rights & Discrimination. Due to his great commitment and legal expertise in transgender rights worldwide and in Switzerland in particular, Alecs Recher is an important Swiss protagonist.

Sushila Mesquita



Dr.x Sushila Mesquita studied philosophy and gender studies in Vienna and Basel and works at the Department of Gender Studies at the University of Vienna and teaches in the Master's program Gender Studies. Sushila Mesquita has published widely on queer feminist issues. For "BAN MARRIAGE! Ambivalences of Normalization from a Queer Feminist Perspective" Sushila Mesquita received the Johanna-Dohnal-Förderpreis as well as the agpro Forschungspreis.

Meloe Gennai



Meloe Gennai was born in Geneva in 1986 and studied history and German literature and linguistics (BA) and law (MA) in Geneva. Meloe Gennai was a lawyer at Transgender Network Switzerland (TGNS). In her:his artistic practice, Meloe Gennai explores embodied narratives through poetry, moving images, and performance. Meloe Gennai has performed in Switzerland, Paris, Brussels, and Antananarivo (Madagascar), among other places. In texts published in English, German and French, Meloe Gennai deals with relationships, gender and racism, among other topics. In 2012, Meloe Gennai was awarded the Robert Goffin Biennial Poetry Prize.

Performers Switzerland

Performance Lab nív Acosta with Black queer people:

Brandy Butler, Rahel El-Maawi, Meloe Gennai, Edwin Ramirez and Hermes Schneider

Navild Acosta



Navild Acosta (Berlin/New York) is an award-winning and internationally renowned multi-media artist and activist from Brooklyn, New York. His identities as transgender, queer, and black-dominican have greatly influenced his work with and for his own community. His performances have been shown at venues including Tate Modern (gb), Tanz im August & Kunst-Werke Institut (Deu), David Roberts Foundation (gb), Kimmel Centre (us), Human Resources (us), MOMA PS1 (us), Studio Museum (us), and New Museum (us). In parallel to his artistic practice, through his work for race justice he has given training on structural racism for cultural producers at KW Institut (Berlin), NYU, Vassar College, and Movement Research to date.

Performance Lab Simone Aughterlony with young queer people:

Effi Mer Delamaskis, Yael Gesù, Chris Gustafsson, Khadija Makki, Dominic Schibli and Oli Skyler

Simone Aughterlony



Simone Aughterlony (Zürich) is a freelance artist, she lives in Zürich and Berlin and works mainly in the fields of dance and performance. She has been conceiving and producing choreographic works for more than 15 years. She has collaborated with artists* such as Meg Stuart/Damaged Goods, Forced Entertainment and Jorge León, Phil Hayes and others. In 2015, she created “Supernatural,” a collaboration with Antonija Livingstone and Hahn Rowe, previewed at American Realness. The same year saw the premiere of “uni * form”, conceived by Jorge León and Simone, at Zurich’s Theater Spektakel. In addition to an intensive tour of these two works as well as “Biofiction Trilogy”, she is currently touring with Jen Rosenblit with “Everything Fits In The Room”, a commission from Hau Hebbel am Ufer and Haus der Kulturen der Welt, among others.

Biography Sabian Baumann

Idea, Concept, Direction, Production

Sabian Baumann works as an artist* with video and installation, but primarily in the mediums of sculpture and drawing. He* has exhibited in Germany and abroad, was initiator*, organizer*, curator* and filmmaker* for various transdisciplinary and artistic projects with queer-feminist content; among others erotic, but indiscreet (1996), casual (1999-2004) and working on it (2004-08). (Filmography of the movie working on it below)

Sabian Baumann has received several awards including the studio grants New York 1996/97, Berlin 2000, the Curt and Erna Burgauer Förderpreis 2012 and the Kunstpreis des Kanton Aargau 2021. In addition to invitations to various universities for workshops and lectures, he* taught plastic design at the F+F School of Art and Media Design, Zurich from 2001 to 2021, painting at the Ecole Superieure d'Art Visuel in Geneva from 2006-08 and Z-Module at the Zürich University of the Arts from 2009-2012. Sabian Baumann is represented by Galerie Mark Müller in Zürich.

A detailed curriculum vitae with all scholarships and awards can be found at:
www.sabianbaumann.ch

Filmography

“die grosse um_ordnung” (the great re_ordering) 2018

Festivals

2019 Visions du Reel, Nyon
2019 Pink Apple Film Festival, Zurich

“working on it” (2008)

Festivals (selection)

2013 Filmmor International Womens Film Festival, Istanbul
2010 International Womens Film Festival, Cologne
Queer Nazriya International LGBTI Film Festival Bombay
2009 Mostra Internacional de Films des Dones, Barcelona
Identities Film Festival, Vienna
Ljubljana Gay and Lesbian Filmfestival
2008 Frameline International Film Festival, San Francisco
Elles Tournent, Festival des Femmes, Brussels
Filmtage Hamburg
Uppsala Pride, Sweden
Radarsete, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Pink Apple Film Festival, Zurich

Crew

Production Argentina

Concept & Interviews Sabian Baumann
Fender Schrade
Camera Julia Zárate
Sound Fender Schrade
Production Management La Olla Producciones
Daniel Henríquez
Music Karen Bennett and Susy Shock

Production Switzerland

Interviews Sabian Baumann
Rahel El-Maawi
Camera & Sound Interviews Claudia Bach
Photographs Claudia Bach, Yvon Baumann, Serena O. Dankwa
Production Management Sabian Baumann

Performance

die grosse um_ordnung (the great_reordering)

Camera Claudia Bach
Gitta Gsell
Carlotta Holy-Steinemann
Sound Dieter Meyer
Production verein für um_ordnung
in co-production with Gessnerallee Zurich
Concept & Realization Sabian Baumann
with
Rahel El-Maawi
Tim Zulauf
Simone Aughterlony
Diana Bärmann
Doro Schürch

Postproduction

Off-voice Felix Rank
Editing Diana Bärmann
Additional editing Sarah Jäger
SSound design & sound mixing Ernesto Coba Antequera
Color Grading Matthias Behrens
Advice Karin Michalski

A production by verein für um_ordnung

Produced by
Diana Bärmann
Sabian Baumann



Contact

Production / Press contact

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Press dossier, stills etc. to download

www.sabianbaumann.ch/collaborations