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International Ethnographic Film Festival
Local Screening Programme

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Tranzit House



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PRIMĂRIA ȘI CONSILIUL LOCAL
CLUJ-NAPOCA

Megvalósult
a Magyar Kormány
támogatásával



Special Local Screening: Film and Anthropology in Cluj.

Documentaries Produced after 1989 by Filmmakers Affiliated with Academia

Saturday, 15 September 2018

Program curated and discussions moderated by Csilla Könzei, associate professor at the Institute of Hungarian Ethnography and Anthropology, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj in cooperation with the Department of Hungarian Ethnography and Anthropology, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj

This selection of films is a brief overview of local visual works made after the fall of the iron curtain, which have points of tangency with different approaches of visual anthropology. The creators of the films have various professional backgrounds. Some of them, like Enikő Vincze and Csilla Könzei are rooted in the social and cultural studies and are self-taught filmmakers, Dan Curean is coming from journalism, only the younger generations had have the chance to get training as professionals abroad or at home: Róbert Lakatos and Cecília Felméri in the fields of fiction and documentary, and the youngest ones, Ildikó Plájás, Oana Ivan and Mihai Leaha in visual anthropology. The works presented here were created at different stages of the authors' carrier and do not necessarily represent their most central preoccupation. Besides the screened films, they had many other important internationally recognized academic, artistic or social activist achievements, a part of which can be watched in the videotheque of the archive of Tranzit House. The curatorial intention which structured this program was to point out a couple of intersections between the choices of themes, attitudes, conceptual and theoretical basis of the filmmakers. Thus the ethnography of the Danube Delta appears in two films, though there is also a previously made prize-winning documentary, *Gone Wild*, shot by Dan Curean in 2012 in the same region. From Curean's works a video is inserted in a block where Roma communities are represented as keepers of musical traditions, shown in an experimental short film of Róbert Lakatos and a documentary of Mihai Leaha. The Roma are in the center also in three advocating videos of Könzei, Vincze and Felméri, militating for antidiscrimination. Experience-near ethnographical approach in Clifford Geertz terms, feminism, respect of human and minority rights and the hedonism and joie de vivre survived in traditions are the woul-be connecting links of the projected films in the Special Local Screening program.

10:00 – 13:00 Film as Ethnography:

Stories from the Danube Delta

Ildikó Zonga Plájás: Swamp Dialogues / Dialoguri de baltă, 2015, 53 minutes

Oana Ivan: Lives among Waters / Vieți între ape, 2016, 51 minutes

Discussants: Jan Ketil Simonsen, cultural anthropologist, associate professor at the Department of Social Anthropology, Norwegian University of Science and Technology and Șerban Văetiși, cultural anthropologist, lecturer at the European Studies Department of Babeș-Bolyai University



Title: *Swamp Dialogues / Dialoguri de baltă*

Year: 2015

Length: 53 minutes

Director / filmmaker / independent producer: Ildikó Zonga Plájás

Country of production: The Netherlands / Romania

The Danube Delta in Romania - the 'Last European Sanctuary' - is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. While major efforts are made to protect biodiversity, the plight of local communities is largely overlooked. Social scientists claim that the traumatic nature of the swamp bears heavy on the villagers' lives. But is Nature really to blame? Swamp dialogues is based on extensive field-research in the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve. Through a careful 'argument montage' built entirely on cinematic language the film represents an anthropological analysis formulated in image and sound.



Ildikó Zonga Plájás has completed her BA studies at the Department of Hungarian Ethnography and Anthropology of Babeș-Bolyai University in Cluj. It was also there that her interest in visual anthropology began within the class of Csilla Könczei. Later she graduated at Leiden University in The Netherlands with her MA thesis & film *Swamp Dialogues*. She is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Amsterdam in the project RaceFaceID. In her PhD research she uses experimental film to attend to the slipperiness of 'race' as enacted by various technologies of vision.



Title: *Lives among Waters / Vieți între ape*

Year: 2017

Length: 51 minutes

Director / filmmaker / independent producer: Oana Ivan

Country of production: USA/Romania

Doing my PhD research in anthropology in a fishing village inside the Danube Delta UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, I can only buy bread by myself. For anything else I need a boat, as the Khakhols, the small ethnic group that I am studying live surrounded by waters. Everything looks idyllic and wonderful in the beginning. However, the "hands in" approach (i.e. filming while cooking and fishing myself with the locals) offers me an inner perspective. I understand how tourism, conservation management of the ecosystem and poaching put tremendous pressure on this small community. After 7 years of research, the film revealing the local knowledge and coping mechanisms of the people living among the waters, becomes in fact my personal quest.



Oana Ivan got a MA degree from University of Wyoming (USA) and she holds a PhD in Anthropology from University of Kent (UK) and Babeș-Bolyai University (Romania). She started to use the camera to make her academic research available to a larger audience. She is currently teaching a Master Class in Anthropology at Department of Film at Babeș-Bolyai University. Interested in local adaptation strategies, policy-making and rural communities, Oana is also a consultant on various projects (the World Bank, Romanian Academy) and a contributor to National Geographic magazine.

14:00 – 17:00 Film as Activism: Advocacy through Research and Film

Csilla Könczei: *We Are Nobodies* / *Noi suntem ai nimănu*, 1990, 20 minutes

Enikő Vincze: *Red Poppies* / *Flori de mac*, 2006, 55 minutes

Cecília Felméri: *Hopes for Sale* / *Speranțe de vânzare*, 2012, 52 minutes

Discussants: Cristina Raț, sociologist, lecturer at the Sociology Department of Babeș-Bolyai University and Hans Frode Storaas, professor of visual anthropology at the University Museum of Bergen, Norway



Title: ***We Are Nobodies*** / ***Noi suntem ai nimănu***

Year: 1990

Length: 20 minutes

Director / filmmaker / independent producer: Csilla Könczei

Country of production: Romania

The documentary was made in Kogălniceanu, a multi-ethnic village in Dobrudjea, two weeks after an anti-Roma pogrom. The intention of the filmmaker was to show the emotions and attitudes of the victims, of the aggressors and of the witnesses. The question still arises: on whose side are you?



Csilla Könczei is a cultural researcher and film director. She graduated and postgraduated at the Babeș-Bolyai University– Cluj, where she works as an associate professor at present. Her research fields are: visual communication, representation of ethnic and gender minorities, dance theory. Author of several volumes, video-essays and documentaries. Founder and director of Tranzit House, Contemporary Art Center. She works on her "securitate blog", publishing and interpreting her father's and her own "securitate" files as a civil project since 2006.



Title: ***Red poppies / Flori de mac***

Year: 2006

Length: 55 minutes

Director: Enikő Vincze

Camerawomen: Iulia Hossu

Producer: International Fellowship Program

Country of production: Romania

Red poppies was realized within the framework of a research conducted within a Boyash Roma community from the city of Orăștie, Hunedoara County, Romania with the support of the International Policy Fellowship Program of the Open Society Institute. Report on the research might be read here: SOCIAL EXCLUSION AT THE CROSSROADS OF GENDER, ETHNICITY AND CLASS. A View through Romani Women's Reproductive Health, <http://sparex-ro.eu/?p=446#more-446>. The film addresses issues related to women's status, marriage, birth, abortion, contraceptives, domestic violence and prostitution through women's narratives. The spectators may understand these phenomena through the experiences lived by Romani women within their own community, as well as in the front of the instances of an institutional racism. They may also observe the gap (and the lack of communication) between their perspectives and the point of views of those whom they confront with in the different situations of everyday life. At the same time the film identifies the strategies by which these women handle their multiple discrimination and construct their own world among others as a reaction to social exclusion and marginalization. It mainly aims to create a space to Romani women, in which they may articulate their desires, feelings, thoughts and interests linked to intimate issues, seen in their broader context. Simultaneously it represents the realities of a de-industrialized city, as they are experienced by social actors who are having the strength to (self) analyze through an ironic discourse whose ingredients allow them to take a distance from the condition within which they are placed by the forces of the social regime.



Enikő Vincze is professor on sociology at Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj.

Currently she offers courses on European social agenda, sociology of international relations, critical urban theory and methodology of social research. During the 1990s she conducted research on nationalism, ethnic identity politics and feminism. Since 2004 she participated on and/or coordinated investigations and published studies on processes and causes of exclusion and marginalization

of ethnic Roma in healthcare, school education, labor market and housing, including the examination of intersectional discrimination of Romani women and the political potential of Romania, and as well as of how capitalism and neoliberal governance are connected to spatial, housing and development politics.

Since 2010 she is involved into housing rights and social justice activism, in particular into the local Social Housing NOW! movement. Recently she co-edited and coauthored two volumes, published in 2018: *Racialized Labour in Romania. Spaces of Marginality at the Periphery of Global Capitalism* (Palgrave); *A Reflexive History of the Romani Women's Movement: Struggles and Debates in Central and Eastern Europe* (Routledge). And participated on the production of the film *Dislocations. Eviction routes to Cantonului street (1996-2016)*.



Iulia-Elena Hossu is a researcher at the Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities (ISPMN) and also a founder member of CEVA - Centrul pentru Educație Vizuală și Antropologică (<http://ceva.center/despre-noi/>). She holds an M.A. in Anthropology and Multicultural Studies and a Phd. in Anthropology. She has worked in several projects of visual anthropology. She was the camerawomen of the film *Red Poppies* (2006, Enikő Magyari-Vincze) and a co-director of *Valley of Sighs* (2013, Mihai Andrei Leaha, Andrei Crișan, Iulia Hossu).



Title: ***Hopes for Sale / Speranțe de vânzare***

Year: 2012

Length: 52 minutes

Director / producer: Cecília Felméri

Psychologist expert: Éva László

Producer: Centrul Parteneriat pentru Egalitate

Country of production: Romania

Someone you trust promises to make your dreams come true. You believe them but soon the mask falls off. By then, you are already trapped in a circle where everyone is stronger than you and where you have become an object with a price tag. Why would they ever let you go? Interviews with seven girls from Romania who were sold and sexually exploited abroad or in Romania but managed to escape. None of them believed that this could happen to them. Could it happen to you?



Cecilia Felméri graduated from Sapientia University in Cluj Napoca and got her MA at the UNATC. Her SHORTS INFINITE MINUTES / VEGTELEN PERCEK

(2011), MATTHEW, MATTHEW / MATTHIAS, MATTHIAS (2010), and CUCKOO / KAKUKK (2008) were in competition at Locarno IFF, Warsaw IFF, Mar del Plata IFF, DokLeipzig, Transilvania IFF, and have won over 20 prizes. She is currently working on her first feature film, Spiral.



Éva László is a psychologist, lecturer at the Faculty of Sociology and Social Work, Babeş-Bolyai University, founding member of Association of Women Against Violence - ARTEMIS. She has a vast experience in prevention, intervention activities, research, lobby and advocacy in the field of child abuse, neglect and exploitation, sexual and domestic violence. Éva was involved as psychologist expert in documentaries and theater productions also. In her opinion the art is a good way to talk about

unspeakable, to heal, to enjoy life and grow.

18:00 – 20:00 Film as Representation: Artists, Minorities, People on the Margins...

Dan Cureau (together with Árpád Zsolt Moldován): Pomenirea lui Gábor Bigyók Gavrilă / The Funeral Commemoration of Gábor Bigyók Gavrilă 1998, 22 minutes

Róbert Lakatos: Spilerek avagy / or Casino Transsylvaniae, 2005, minutes

Mihai Leaha: Muzicantul din Göttingen / The Street Musician, 2012, 17'

Discussants: Peter Ian Crawford, anthropologist, publisher and filmmaker, professor of visual anthropology at Visual Cultural Studies UiT, The Arctic University of Norway and László Fosztó, anthropologist, researcher at the Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities (ISPMN)



Title: ***The Funeral Commemoration of Gábor Bigyók Gavrilă / Pomenirea lui Gábor Bigyók Gavrilă***

Year: 1998

Length: 22 minutes

Director: Dan Cureau (together with Árpád Zsolt Moldován)

Producer: Soros Foundation for Open Society - Romania, Romanian Television - Cluj

The Funeral Commemoration of Gábor Bigyók Gavrilă brings us into the universe of Gábor Bigyók's family, the family of a famous chieftan / *bulibaşa* of the Gabor Gypsies in Cluj, on the 1st of November, when the dead are ritually commemorated in Transylvania.



Dan Cureau began his career in 1990 as a photographer and editor of the weekly printed magazine NO. Later he has worked at the public television of the Cluj regional studio. In the present he is a cinematographer, a segment producer and a documentary filmmaker, being part of the teaching staff of the Faculty of Theatre and Television Department of the Babeş-Bolyai University in Cluj, collaborating with some of major broadcasters in Europe. Some of his documentaries cover significant social territories of Romania, as *Albu* (2000), the story of an old circus artist performing in fairs, a serial of short documentaries about ethnic minorities, *People of Romania* (2006), and a prize winner film about the special socio-ecological development of the Danube Delta, *Gone Wild* (2012).



Title: ***Casino Transsylvaniae or / avagy Spilerek***

Year: 2005

Length: 19 minutes

Director: Róbert Lakatos

Cameraman: Dan Curean, Róbert Lakatos

Producer: Muhi András, Inforg Stúdió

Country of production: Hungary / Romania

"Sir Real shakes the unknown sieve." An experimental documentary based on subjective associations about the social periphery of Cluj and other places.



Róbert Lakatos is a film director, director of photography, a producer, and associate professor at the Department of Media at the Sapientia Transylvanian Hungarian Academy of Sciences at Kolozsvár and President of the Hungarian Film Association of Transylvania. He got his MA at the Łódź Polish Academy of Fine Arts in 2000, then graduated from Bucharest Hyperion University in 2008. In 2010 he got an MA at the Sociocultural Communication College of Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj, where he also received a PhD in 2013. He is the director of several films, as Bahrtalo! - Good luck!, Silence, Devil's Tale, winning prizes as Europa Cinemas Label Award - Karlovy Vary, Leipzig Gold Pie, Hungarian Film Critics Prize: Best Young Documentary. Best Short Fiction Film at Magyar Filmszenle, etc. He is working as a producer at the Argo Audiovisual Association, launching authors as Cecília Felméri (with Kakukk, Infinite Minutes - Fiction Shorts, Matthias-Matthias - Animated Documentary) and Attila Bertóti (Ariadné fonala - animation film).



Title: ***The Street Musician / Muzicantul din Göttingen***

Year: 2012

Length: 17 minutes

Director: Mihai Leaha

Producer: Triba Film Romania

Country of production: Romania

The Street Musician is the story of Peter, a Roma migrant accordion player from Romania, which spends most of the time of the year singing in the streets of Göttingen, Germany. He has lived in Göttingen for almost 20 years now and he is a well-known character of the city as he is singing in the main market but

also at private parties. Despite his relatively safe living and success as a street musician, Peter holds inside a deeper burden. Home sickness never abandons the nostalgic soul of an artist.



Mihai Andrei Leaha PhD. is a producer and director at Triba Film (www.triba.ro) and founding member of CEVA (Center for Visual and Anthropological Education, www.ceva.center). His films were projected and awarded at numerous film festivals. In the last years, he took part in various selection and programming committees of documentary film festivals (Astra Film Sibiu, Göttingen International Ethnographic film Festival, Culese din Balkani, International Unseen Film Festival, Bilbao). He also teaches the Visual Anthropology course at the Babes-Bolyai University from Cluj-Napoca, together with Marius Lazăr. At the moment he is doing his postdoctoral research at the University of Sao Paulo.

Director Filmography:

- “Valley of Sighs” documentar, 57 min. Triba Film Romania 2013.
- “Looking at themselves: Băbăluda Luda” 33 min. Triba Film Romania 2012.
- “The Street Musician”, 20 min. Triba Film Romania 2012.
- “Broscatu. The Storyteller” 62 minute, Triba Film Romania 2011.