

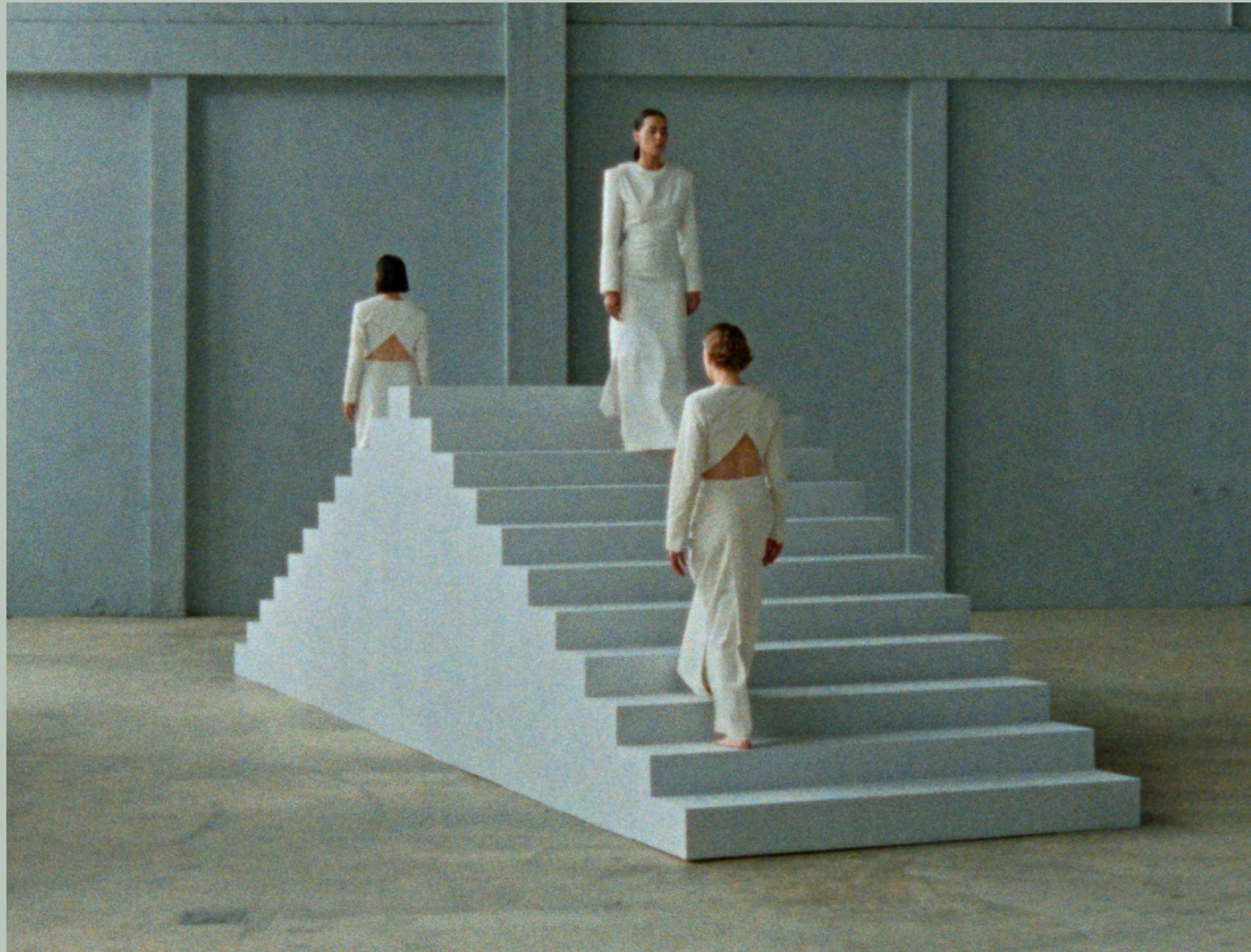
press kit

a film by  
Antoinette Zwirchmayr

# land without words

Against the backdrop of a violent conflict, Land without Words questions the representative abilities of art. Theater and film intertwine in the choral constellations of characters and create haunting images of cool reverie.





In seven compositions, *Land without Words* presents an adaptation of the play of the same name by the German playwright Dea Loher. This translation of theatrical poetics into a genuinely cinematic production starts out by employing dramatic forms familiar from the theatre. Choral blocking, archetypal acting, and splitting up what was originally a monologue into the speech of multiple characters: these are signs of narrative poetics and abstraction.

Geometrical forms determine the viewer's gaze upon the stark choreographies and the action, which is kept in monochromatic hues. The filmic architecture, comprising pedestals, stairs, and pyramids, feels static but at the same time nightmarishly animated, for in the ceaseless intermingling of the protagonists, the camera—and hence the film—circles around a wearying uncertainty.

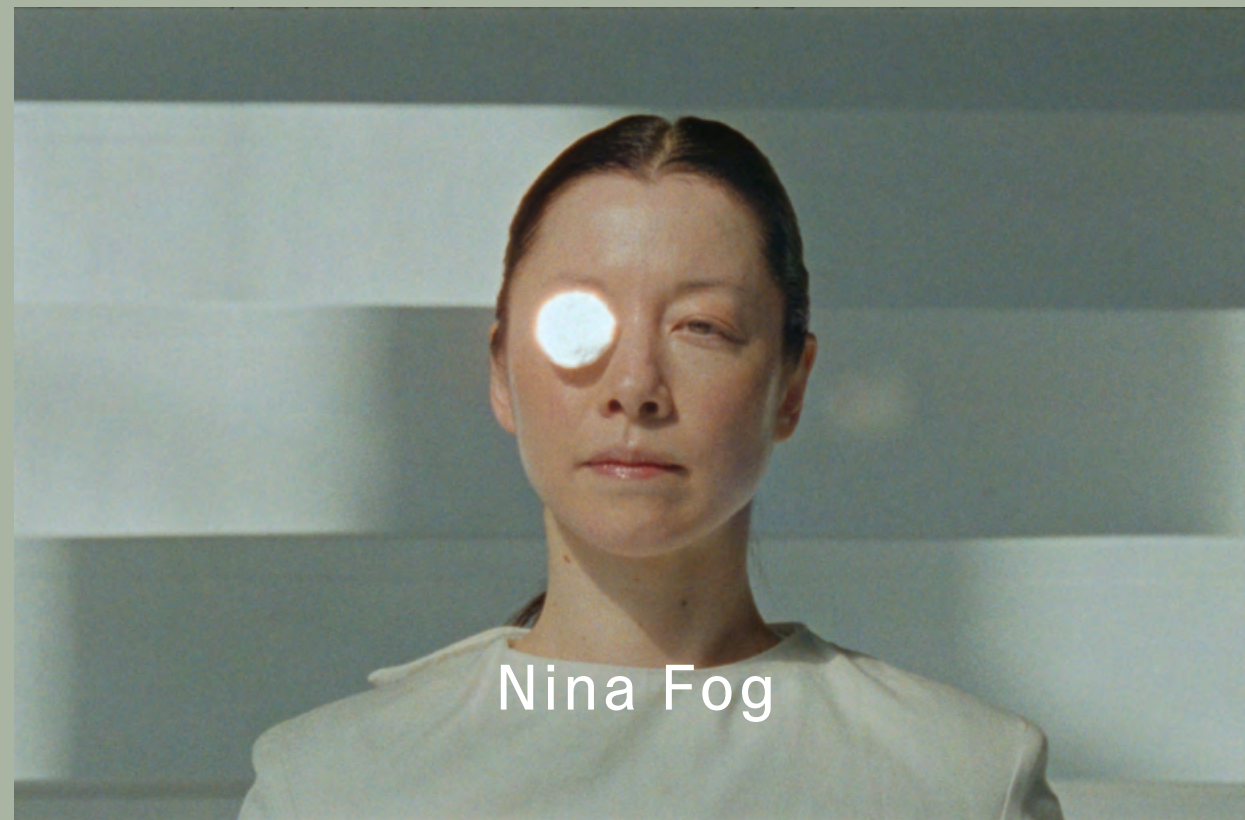
Thus, it is the recurring details that are set aside from the text and carried on as filmic reactions. Contorted faces, eyes threatened by knives, and bleeding ears conjure up the reverie, negotiated in, *Land without Words*, of an artist in the face of an increasingly violent present.

text: Jan-Hendrik  
Müller

translation:  
Geoffrey C. Howes



cast



Nina Fog



Veronika Glatzner



Daniela Kong



Theo Emil Krausz



Edita Malovčić



Julia Franz Richter



Salka Weber



team

Antoinette Zwirchmayr lives and works in Vienna. She graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna (Visual Arts), University of Vienna (Romance Philology) and the Friedl Kubelka School (Artistic Photography and Independent Film).

Her cinematic works have been presented at numerous festivals such as Berlinale (DE), Toronto International Film Festival (CA), International Short Film Festival Oberhausen (DE), FID Marseille (FR), CPH:DOX (DK), Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival (CZ), Viennale (AT), Media City Film Festival (CA), FICUNAM (MX), Festival de Sevilla (ES), Edinburgh International Film Festival (UK) and have been granted with several awards and scholarships. These include a 6-month New York Residency (ISCP) 2022, the Outstanding Artist Award 2020, the Annual Fellowship for Photography (Kultur Land Salzburg) 2017, the START Fellowship of the Federal Chancellery 2017, the Kodak Cinematic Vision Award of the Ann Arbor Film Festival 2016, the Diagonale Award for Innovative Film 2016, the Diagonale Award for Best Short Documentary 2014 and the Birgit Jürgenssen Award in 2013.

In addition, focus programs took place at Galerie Eva Presenhuber (AT), at Mumok Kino (AT), at Anthology Film Archives New York (US), at Uppsala Short Film Festivals (SE), in the Austrian Filmmuseum (AT), at the Art Cinema OFFoff in Ghent (BE), at Cinémathèque Québécoise (CA), at CINEMATEK in Brussels (BE), Filmoteca Española Madrid (ES), Salzburger Kunstverein (AT), Filmmakers Fest Milano (IT), Monokino Ostend (BE).

Dea Loher is a German writer based in Berlin. Her work includes drama, fiction and librettos.

Dea Loher's dramas have been translated into over 15 languages and are performed worldwide. She has received numerous prizes and awards, including the 2006 Bertolt Brecht Prize, two times the Mülheim Drama Prize, and the Berlin Literature Prize.

“Anyone who engages with her plays is forced to abandon conventional labels. The theater world will probably eventually agree to simply call Dea Loher's work ‘loheresque,’ thus finding the ultimate term for the extraordinary intelligence, linguistic power, and emotional intensity of this writer's plays.” (Uwe Wittstock in his laudatory speech)

Her latest play, “Ms Yamamoto is still here” will be premiered on september 12, 2024, simultaneously in Tokyo and Zürich.

director:  
Antoinette Zwirchmayr

writer theater  
play: Dea Loher

team

In 2002, her short film YOAKE was invited to Cannes and won the Cinematography Prize at the Tarragona Film Festival in 2003. During her studies of cinematography at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, she began collaborating with Marie Kreutzer. THE FATHERLESS premiered at the Berlinale in 2011 and received a Jury Special Mention, winning four awards at the Diagonale, including Best Cinematography, making Koppe the first woman to receive this award. She also worked on HE GROUND BENEATH MY FEET, which competed at the Berlinale in 2019 and earned her the Kodak Analog Award. In 2020, she received the Romy Award the second time for THE LAST PROBLEM. She has been nominated three times for the Austrian Film Award and is a member of the Austrian Association of Cinematographers and the Austrian Film Academy.

cinematography:

Leena Koppe

editing:

Lisa Truttmann

Lisa Truttmann is an artist and filmmaker based in Vienna. Her work explores the structures of social, urban, and natural landscapes, blending documentary moments, personal impressions, and cinematic staging in an essayistic manner. She studied Transmedia Art at the University of Applied Arts Vienna and received a Fulbright Scholarship for the Graduate Program in Film/Video at the California Institute of the Arts. Her films and installations have been featured in exhibitions and film festivals such as CPH:DOX Copenhagen, New York FF Projections, Images Festival Toronto, Jihlava IDFF, Viennale, Diagonale, KHM Vienna, MAK Vienna, Kunst-halle Project Space, and Alianza Francesa Buenos Aires. She has been teaching at the University of Art and Design Linz and the University of Applied Arts Vienna since 2017 and has been a member of the Golden Pixel Cooperative since 2018.

team

producer:

Klara Pollak

After completing her studies in economics and cultural studies, she transitioned into the realm of film production, assuming various roles within the field. Notably, she has established a longstanding partnership with the esteemed Austrian artist and filmmaker, Antoinette Zwirchmayr, contributing to the production of her highly acclaimed works such as IN THE SHADOW OF UTOPIA 2017 (Berlinale), “WHAT I REMEMBER 2017” (FID Marseille ), and DEAR DARKNESS 2021(CPH:DOX). Currently, she serves as a producer at FreibeuterFilm, an Austrian production outlet, where she is actively engaged in her first feature film project. She is an alumna of prestigious programs such as EAVE Marketing and MAIA Workshop and serves as a member of the selection committee for the film funding section of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Arts and Culture.

composition:

Ursula Winterauer

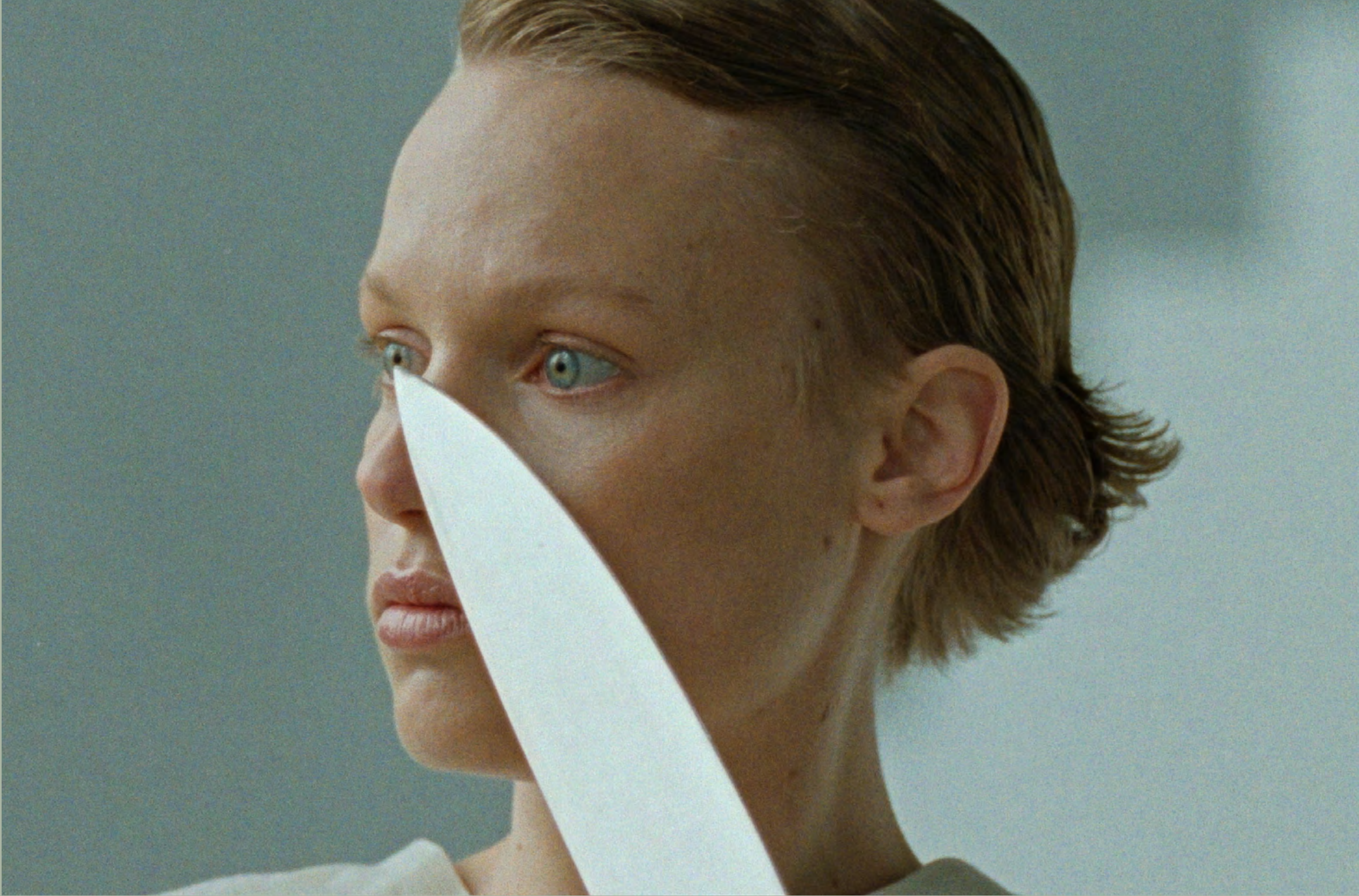
Ursula Winterauer lives and works as a composer, sound artist, and curator in Vienna. In addition to her solo project under the pseudonym Gischt, where she explores raw and analog sounds within digital overdetermination, she works as a sound designer and composer for film and develops compositions for performances and contemporary dance. She is co-founder and label boss of Ventil Records and serves as co-organizer and administrative director of the Unsafe+Sounds Festival. Within this context, she is involved in the ongoing development and realization of artistic projects in the realm of sound art and electronic music in the broadest sense, transcending genre boundaries.



team

credits

Based on a Theater Play by	Dea Loher
Director	Antoinette Zwirchmayr
Cinematography	Leena Koppe
Gaffer	Thomas Münster
Editing	Lisa Truttmann
Composition	Ursula Winterauer
Sound	Vinzenz Schwab
Set Construction	Matthias Bildstein
Production Design	Stella Myraf Krausz
Costume Design	Julia Eisenburger
Make-Up and Hair	Sarah Bzoch
Producers	Klara Pollak
Script Consultant	Jan-Hendrik Müller
Assistant Director	Anna Wäger
Choreography	Theo Emil Krausz



Year of Production	2024
Country of Production	Austria
Original Language	German
Subtitles	English
Duration	37min
Shooting Format	16 mm Color
End Format	DCP
Sound System	5.1
Aspect Ratio	1.33:1
FPS	24



contact

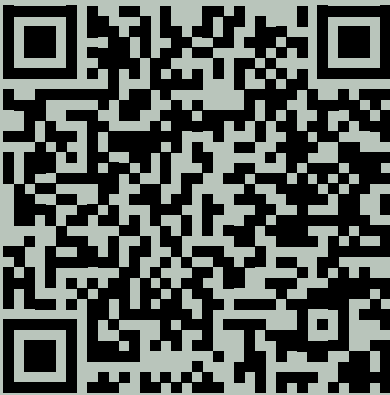
General

[the.end.is.always.open@gmail.com](mailto:the.end.is.always.open@gmail.com)

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Producer

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