

Canti di Casa D. N° 1

A Cinematic Imagination directed by Ute Janssen





Ute Janssen
Canti di Casa D. N° I
© 2024

»Houses are really bodies.«

– *Leonora Carrington*



CANTI DI CASA D. N° 1

Cinematic imagination and cinematographic installations
directed by Ute Janssen

»Canti di Casa D. N° 1« is a cinematic imagination in words, images and sculpture directed by Ute Janssen with a sound installation by Michele Del Prete in collaboration with Christopher Loy and Nora Kümel.

The filmic imagination and its cinematographic installations were inspired by a conversation with the art historian Hubertus Gassner about the last »dream house« of the English poet and art collector Edward James.

During two visits to this house in Italy with a large ensemble of artist friends original footage was shot of surrealist scenes inspired by the history of the location. This original footage was transformed into 18 cinematographic »tableaux«, which are to be exhibited as concurrent projections allowing the viewer a promenade between them.



Ute Janssen invites the viewer into a pictorial space of the architecturally accentuated passageways and thresholds of the house, which is strangely filled with memories and promises that relate to quoted images from the early phase of Surrealism.

The 18 tableaux are accompanied partly by original sounds and partly by new compositions especially conceived for this work.

In a pastiche of styles that are modelled on the house, this production takes the viewer on a journey into a transcendental world of fantasy, dreams and the subconscious with not only different forms but also diverse meanings and at the same time we seem to recognise many experiences of our daily life today.



Film location, Italy 2022

»Das Wissen hinter dem Wissen.«

– *Edward James*



Film location





Film location

»Balcony«
(Tableau N° 2)





»In the rooms« (Tableau N° 8) / Window: Leonora Carrington; The Giantess / Silke Silkeborg in the role of the painter

»Everything we see
hides another thing.«

– René Magritte





»Under the stairs«

(Tableau N° 7) / Sound: Christopher Loy / Camera: Jytte Hill

Inspired by paintings of early Surrealists with elements from works by:

Salvador Dalí »La persistencia de la memoria« (1931)

Leonor Fini »Le bout du monde« (1949)

José Horna in collaboration with Leonora Carrington »Grand Dame« (1952)

René Magritte »On the Threshold of Liberty« (1930)

Remedios Varo »Water Taxi« (1962)









»A need is not a choice.«

– *Tilly Losch*



»Femme Fatale« |

(Tableau N° 4) Music: Nora Kümel / inspired by 16mm original footage: Bell Geddes, Tilly Losch (1933) / Photo: Watering L'O, Katrin Zegler (2012) Miyam Pippich, photography by Valentin Zelger



»Lie still my heart« (Tableau N° 5) / Music & Performance: Christopher Loy
Painting: René Magritte »La reproduction interdite« (1937)





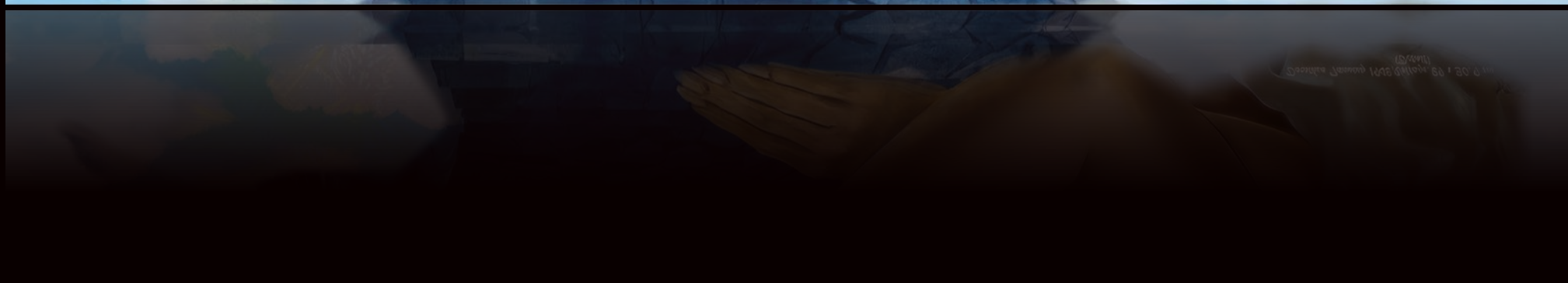
»Art has always been
the raft onto which
we climb to save
our sanity. «

– *Dorothea Tanning*

»Voltage«

(Tableau N° 9) inspired by Voltage, Dorothea Tanning 1945)

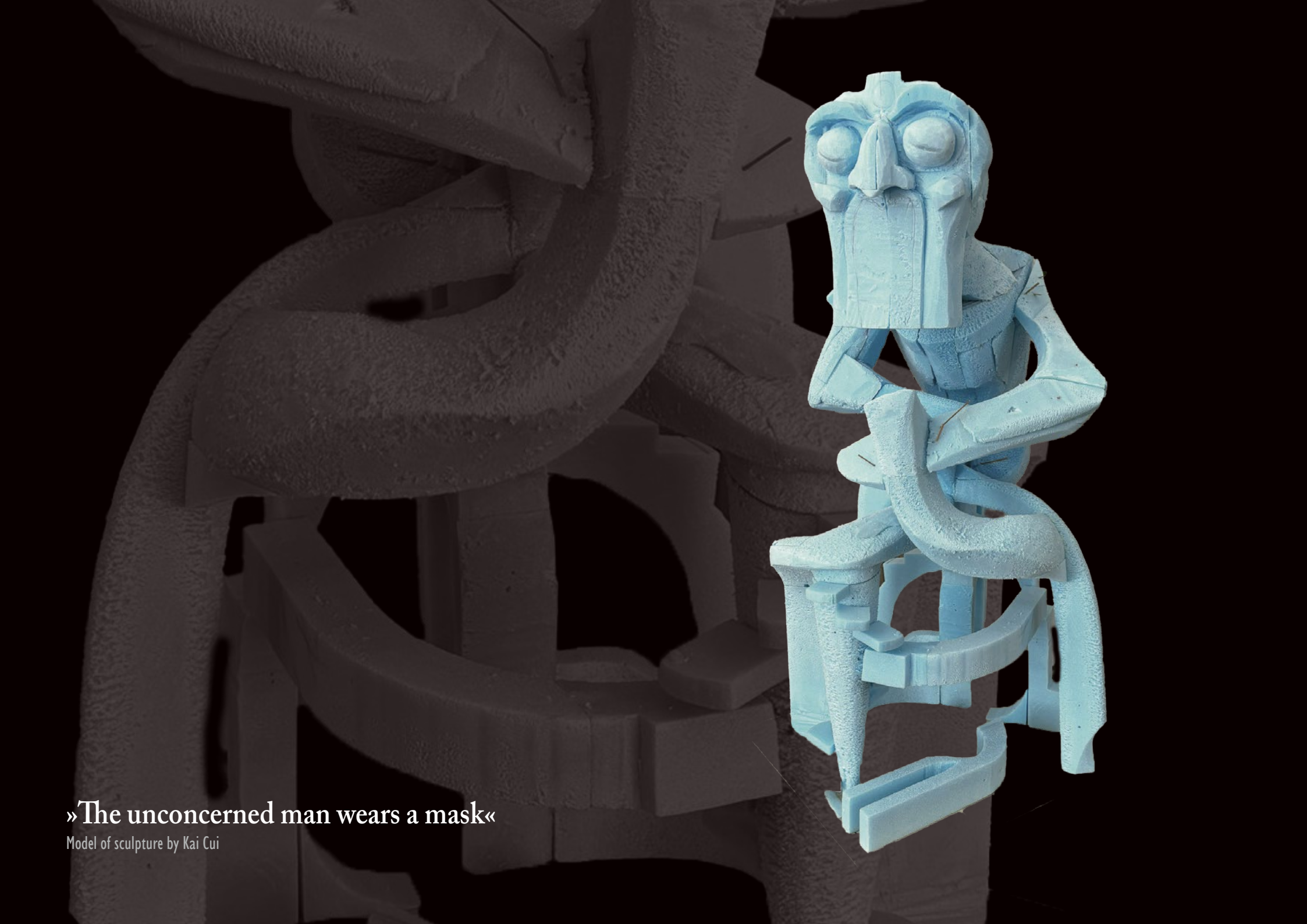
Christa Süß in the role of a blue guardian/ Wearable Ghost Net by Chris Herms-Glang



»Silk Cross«

Loan by Ulrike Wittern



The image features a sculpture model of a man wearing a mask, positioned on the right side. The man is depicted in a seated or crouching pose, with his arms crossed over his chest. He is wearing a light blue, textured mask that covers his entire face, including his eyes and nose. The mask has a somewhat abstract, blocky design. The man's body is also made of light blue, textured material, with visible joints and segments. The background is dark and features large, curved, textured shapes that resemble stylized, abstract forms or perhaps parts of a larger sculpture. The overall composition is dramatic, with the light blue figure standing out against the dark background.

»The unconcerned man wears a mask«

Model of sculpture by Kai Cui



»Society Delire«

(Tableau N° 15)

Ann Vance as »Woman with Dreams«

»A Set of 3 Masks« L. Carrington (1959)

Evening coat by Elsa Schiaparelli & Jean Cocteau (1937)





»Ghost dances« (Tableau N° 15) / Choreography and Music: Nora Kümel

»I liked the sacrilegious
nature of dressing as a
priest«

– *Leonor Fini*



»Waiting for Wisdom«
(Tableau N° 18)







Film Preview and Sound Installation

Ca' Foscari Venezia Auditorium Santa Margherita, October 2024

On occasion of the two-day conference on Surrealism in Italy entitled »Italy is more surrealist than the Pope« taking place on October 17-18, 2024, a preview of »Canti di Casa D. N° I« is show as part of the lecture by Hubertus Gassner & Ute Janssen entitled » Edward James' Casa dello Stregone: a Surrealist house?« .

The Cinematographic Tableaux of »Canti di Casa D. N° I« have been edited in sequence and some of them have been shortened for this preview. Their soundtracks were adapted in a 4 channel audio installation by Michele Del Prete especially for this space. A live performance by Christina Assmann inspired by »Guardian of the black egg« (Leonor Fini) ends the lecture.

Surrealism in Italy: Conference Celebrating the Centenary of the Manifesto of Surrealism

October 17-18, 2024, 10am-6pm
Auditorium Santa Margherita, Ca' Foscari University, Venice
Organized by Gražina Subelytė, Giulia Ingarao, and Hubertus Gassner



"ITALY IS MORE
SURREALIST
THAN THE POPE "

Salvador Dalí, 1935

Quoted Surrealists



Cecil Beaton

Photographer, stage designer, graphic artist
British *1904 †1980

As one of the most remarkable photographers of the 20th century, Beaton is renowned for his glamorous portraits of world-famous faces of fashion, literature and film and especially for his fashion shots which were staged with a lot of decorative effort. He has exposed half a century with his camera from the »Roaring Twenties« to »Swinging London« pop culture of the 1960s and 1970s.

As a war photographer he captured scenes of misery and destruction in surreal images in England, the Middle East and the Far East, which had a disturbing effect on society. His photographs of the destruction in London in particular shaped the image of the »Blitz« in the USA including a photograph of three-year-old Eileen Dunne who was hit by shrapnel in an attack and whom Beaton photographed with her teddy bear in her hospital bed.

Tableau N°5: portrait of Edward James in 1931
© Cecil Beaton Archive / Condé Nast



Leonora Carrington

Artist, surrealist painter, novelist
British *1917 †2011

Leonara Carrington translated Surrealism's credo of being a »revolt of the spirit« into her visual work and developed her very own, mystical world. It is populated by fantastic creatures, spirits and mythical animals. In her paintings myths, alchemy and shamanism merge into a cosmic whole - a feverish labyrinth held together by the omnipotence of dreams.

Carrington's extensive work is influenced by traditional culture in Mexico, where she lived and worked from 1942 until the end of her life. In this distant exile she found the ideal place to reinvent herself but working away from the artistic metropolises contributed to her disappearance from the radar of perception. It was only a few years before her death in 2011 that the art community discovered the idiosyncratic artist and in no time her work was fetching millions.

Tableau N°7: »The Giantess« (circa 1947)
Tableau N°13: »The distractions of Dagobert« (1945)
and »A Set of 3 Masks« (1959)

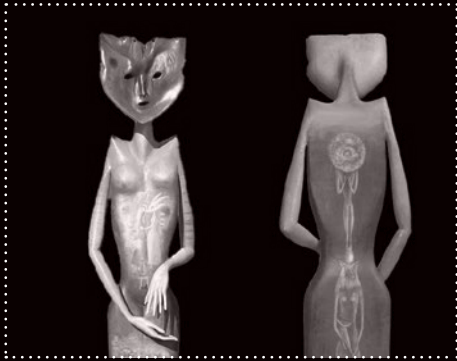


Leonor Fini

Surrealist painter, designer, illustrator, author
Argentinian *1907 †1996

Leonor Fini's one-woman exhibition in Paris in 1935 marked the beginning of friendships with Paul Eluard, Max Ernst, René Magritte, Victor Brauner, and brought her into close contact with Surrealists like Leonora Carrington and Remedios Varo among others. Her fierce sense of independence and her dislike of the Surrealists' authoritarian attitudes kept her, however, from officially joining the movement. Nevertheless her works of the late 1930s and 1940s reflect her interest in Surrealist ideas. Fini was part of a pre-war generation of Parisian artists and she played an important role in the Surrealist movement but she is sometimes overlooked in favour of her male contemporaries. In 1943 Fini was included in Peggy Guggenheim's show »Exhibition by 31 Women« at the Art of This Century gallery in New York.

Tableau N°13: »L'Entracte de l'Apothéose« (1935-36) / »Le Bout Du Monde« (1949) / »Erdgottheit, die den Schlaf eines Jünglings bewacht« (1946)
Tableau N°14: »Guardian Of The Black Egg« (1951)
© VG Bildkunst 2021



José Horna

Sculptor
Spanish *1912 †1963

José Horna was an artist and a leftist activist born in Spain. The outbreak of the Spanish Civil War forced him to leave his native country where he had worked as illustrator at *Umbral* magazine, a militant periodical of the Anarchist movement. He fled to Paris where he worked briefly with his wife Kati Horna at *Agence Photo* magazine until the Nazi occupation of the city forced them to move to Mexico.

Horna cultivated a type of art known as »object art«, which consists of elements impregnated with everyday life and a great emotional charge that recall specific moments from his life. He also developed biomorphic elements in his surrealist sculptures. In the last chapter of his life he worked as illustrator for magazines, made drawings and toys, and collaborated with Leonora Carrington and Remedios Varo at various projects.

Tableau N°7: »Grand Dame« (1952), sculpture painted in collaboration with Leonora Carrington



Edward James

Poet, art collector, landart artist, writer
Scottish *1907 †1984

Edward James, born in Scotland in 1907, grew up in the splendour of the Edwardian period as the heir to an enormous fortune. Together with his love of poetry collecting was a way for him to give free rein to his eccentricities, to question social conventions and to express his creativity.

Although James never considered himself a Surrealist, his close relationship to the movement was already evident in the 1930s starting with his presence at the International Surrealist Exhibition in London in 1936. In addition to his relationships and his collaborations with some of these artists, he was their main collector and a chosen brother. He owned around 70 paintings by Leonora Fini, Leonora Carrington and Dorothea Tanning as well as 20 by Magritte and over 100 by Salvador Dalí.

Tableaux N°5/6/8/12: passages of poems written between 1930-81 quoted from the book »The heart and the word« © Tragopan Corporation Limited 1987



Tilly Losch

Dancer, choreographer, film actress
Austrian *1903 †1975

In 1913 Tilly Losch entered the ballet school of the Vienna Opera at the age of 10 and became a member of the State Opera Ballet in 1921 with a debut as solo dancer in 1924. After her time at the State Opera Ballet she worked as a choreographer and solo dancer at the Salzburg Festival, in London and in New York, where she performed with Fred Astaire and Harald Kreutzberg. In 1933 Tilly Losch founded the ballet group »Les Ballets 1933« with the financial support of her husband Edward James whom she divorced after 3 years of marriage in 1934. Around 1940 she took to painting and had her first exhibit 1944 in New York.

Tableaux N°5: „Dance of her hands« (16mm footage 1930-33) by Norman Bel Geddes



René Magritte

Painter
Belgian *1898 †1967

René Magritte was one of the most influential representatives of Surrealism. He is known for illusionistic, humorous and ironic images that challenge viewers' preconceived assumptions about reality. One of his most famous works is »La trahison des images« (Ceci n'est pas une pipe) [literally: The Treachery of Images (This is Not a Pipe)] of 1929. It shows a tobacco pipe with text explaining that it is not a smoking instrument. Magritte worked for some time as a commercial artist but became part of the Surrealism movement in Paris at the end of the 1920s via his collaboration with André Breton, Man Ray, Yves Tanguy and Paul Éluard.

Tableaux N°5 & N°7: »La reproduction interdite« (1937) and »Au seuil de la liberté« (1930), Collection Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam (Formerly collection of E. James), purchased 1966 © Beeldrecht Amsterdam 2007



Elsa Schiaparelli

Fashion designer
Italian *1890 †1973

She created the fashion house of Schiaparelli in Paris in 1927 which she managed from the 1930s to the 1950s. Schiaparelli famously collaborated with Salvador Dalí and Jean Cocteau. The embroidery design illustrates Dalí's paranoiac-critical method in which more than one possible meaning can be attached to the same image: two faces in profile can also be viewed as a rose-filled urn set atop a fluted column.

Tableau N° 14: »evening coat« by Elsa Schiaparelli & Jean Cocteau (1937)



Dorothea Tanning

Painter, graphic artist, sculptor, writer and poet
American *1910 †2012

Except for three weeks she spent at the Chicago Academy of Fine Art in 1930, Tanning was a completely self-taught artist who worked at first as fashion illustrator. After moving to New York in 1935, she discovered Surrealism at the Museum of Modern Art's seminal 1936 exhibition »Fantastic Art, Dada and Surrealism«.

She was introduced to the gallery owner Julien Levy who immediately offered to show her work and gave her two solo exhibitions in 1944 and 1948. Levy also introduced Tanning to the circle of émigré Surrealists whose work he was showing in his New York gallery, including the German painter Max Ernst.

The surreal imagery of her paintings and her close friendships with artists and writers of the Surrealist Movement have led many to regard Tanning as a Surrealist painter, yet she developed her own individual style over the course of an artistic career that spanned six decades.

Tableau N° 9: »Voltage« (1942)



Remedios Varo

Surrealist painter
Spanish *1908 †1963

Remedios Varo studied at the Academia de San Fernando in Madrid. In 1930 she married Gerardo Lizarraga, a fellow student at the academy with whom she lived in Barcelona. There she met avant-garde painters. She became part of the surrealism-influenced group Grupo Logicofobista.

In 1935 she separated from Lizarraga and shortly afterwards met the writer Benjamin Péret who took part in the Spanish Civil War as a volunteer on the side of the Republic. They married and went in 1936 to Paris. There she came into contact with the surrealist painters of the group around André Breton. After the Nazi invasion, the two fled first to Marseille and then to Mexico. There she mixed again with intellectual and revolutionary circles (including Leonora Carrington, Wolfgang Paalen, Octavio Paz and Gunther Gerzso). She had her first solo exhibition in 1956.

Tableau N° 7: »Watertaxi« (1962)



»Canti di Casa D. No 1«

PERFORMANCES BY

Hubertus and Christa Süß-Gassner, Christina Assmann, Christopher Loy, Ann Vance, Silke Silkeborg

DIRECTORS OF PHOTOGRAPHY AND CAMERA

Wolfgang Kreutz (1st Camera Operator & Lighting)

Goscha Steinhauer (2nd Camera Operator)

Jytte Hill (DOP & Lighting, 2nd shooting)

4 CHANNEL SOUND INSTALLATION

Michele Del Prete, mastering by Michele Del Prete & SFX Tom Gatzka

COMPOSITIONS & MUSIC

Nora Kümel, Christopher Loy, Michele Del Prete

ORIGINAL MUSIC

Prolog - Muse l'Orfeo Favola in Musica (Claudio Monteverdi), conducted by Jordi Savall (Tableau N°14)

Ergo Dormio, (Tableau N°10)

VOICE OVER & SPEECH

Christopher Loy, Ann Vance

ARTWORKS ON LOAN, ARTEFACTS, OBJECTS

Tina Assmann, Kai Cui, Deborah Fortes, Chris Herms-Glang, Meike C. Janssen, Myriam Pippich, Ulrike Wittern, Kathrin Zelger

PROJECT MANAGER, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Deborah Fortes, Sophie Stollberg

STAGE DIRECTOR, SET DESIGN, COSTUMES & WARDROBE

Deborah Fortes, Laura Franzmann, Ulrike Wittern

CHOREOGRAPHY & DIRECTION TABLEAUX N°5 & N°14

Nora Kümel

DIRECTOR, VFX EDITOR, ANIMATED GRAPHICS, TABLEAU ARRANGEMENTS

Ute Janssen

VFX ASSOCIATED EDITOR & COLOUR GRADING

Wolfgang Kreutz

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Dr. Noemi Smolik, Catering Haus Lichtung, Angela und Leo Höger Merkel, Maria and Jens von Larcher, Susanne & Rosanna Santos-Seidl, Rossi Schreiber

Christina Assmann

Painter, sculptor, stage designer, performer, experimental filmmaker

Christina Assmann lives and works in Düsseldorf as an artist and stage designer and she is a mother of 3.

Christina Assmann collects, orders, examines, disassembles, puts back together again, combines and fragments. She turns candles into wax, wax into heads and back. Pictures are placed inside buildings inside pictures. Everything is turned inside out and upside down.

Her compulsive hunting, collecting and inexhaustible flow of ideas awaken the observer's own unchallenged perceptive faculties. »Watch children playing and the way in which a tree becomes a ship's mast and the way shattered pieces of glass become a treasure and you understand, what everything is about.«

For Tableau N°14 (Leonor Fini) Christina designed a paper costume that she wears during her performance at the auditorium Santa Margherita in Venice on October 18th, 2024.

christinaassmann.com



Meike Conrad Janssen

Painter, sculptor

Meike Conrad Janssen lives and works in Düsseldorf as an artist and freelance handywoman with a background in sculpture. She studied at the Kunstakademie Düsseldorf and got her journeyman's certificate from the Düsseldorf Chamber of Commerce.

In her works she creates interpretations and depictions of globally lost myths. »As a handywoman specialised in spatula techniques, sgraphito, fresco and paintwork, I work on ruins, reformations and accompanying phenomena, transforming the conditions of industrial and residential buildings through linear or flat application of paint.«

For Tableau N°14 (Leonor Fini) she created a white egg in collaboration with woodturner Lothar Tamms. The white egg indicates female fertility. The fact that this egg appears outside the body suggests that it did not originate within - it is an alchemistic creation separate from any biological processes.

meike.c.janssen@gmail.com

lothar.tamms@t-online.de



Kai Cui

Sculptor and lecturer

Kai Cui lives in Hamburg and works as a sculptor and full time lecturer at Hamburg School of Fine Arts (HfbK). His focus is on exploring paradoxes and black humour with a particular interest in optical illusions and misinterpretations. In addition to his work as an artist he was also active as an organizer for renowned art institutions such as the Künstlerdorf Schöppingen Foundation.

Kai studied at Bauhaus University Weimar and Düsseldorf Art Academy where he was a master student of Katharina Fritsch.

For »Canti di Casa D. N° I« he creates a »guardian statuette« with a mask inspired by the extroverted house of Edward James in Italy.

kaicui@gmx.de



Deborah Fortes

Production designer and architect

Deborah Fortes is a Hamburg-based production designer, product designer and urban practitioner.

She works in the fields of architecture, the movie industry, exhibition design and public spaces. 2024 she was co-curator with Beatrice Angut Lorika Oola for »Fashion Africa Now« in cooperation with Design Zentrum Hamburg.

Deborah was assistant director, set designer and in charge of costumes.

moments.concepts@gmail.com



Laura Franzmann

Painter, working with textiles and installations

Laura Franzmann is an artist based in Berlin. Through detailed associative research she examines iconographic elements and interweavings in visual and literary material based on motifs from archaeology, mythology, folklore and sacred art. Their figuration enables her to view the creative process as communication with the invisible spheres of reality.

Laura was in charge of costumes and make-up and documented the production in Italy.

laurafranzmann.com



Tom Gatza

Musician, multi-instrumentalist, theatre composer and producer

Tom Gatza has been working as a pianist and producer at the crossroads between jazz, pop and electronic music since his participation in the pop course at the HfMT Hamburg. He creates and performs stage music and sound designs for theatre and dance at the Thalia Theater Hamburg, Kampnagel Hamburg, Bühnen Bern, Staatstheater Cottbus and Münchner Kammerspiele, among others. Tom Gatza also produces and composes for various artists such as Jan Plewka, Lina Maly and Aisha Badru. With his solo project, he has already been invited by NDR, the Fusion Festival, c/o Pop and the Elbphilharmonie.

Tom mastered the audio of »Canti di Casa D. N° I« and adapted it for a 4-channel sound installation by Michele Del Prete at the auditorium Santa Margherita in Venice.

tomgatza.com



Chris Herms-Glang

Conceptual artist

Chris Herms-Glang lives and works in Hamburg as artist and freelance creative director. Her work is inspired by themes of re-upcycling and sustainability. She transformed discarded fishing nets found on North Sea beaches into unique headpieces.

Trained at Alsterdamm Art School in Hamburg and at HfbK, she worked for many years as creative director at the advertising agency Scholz and Friends, Hamburg. She has exhibited at home and abroad and continues to work on the themes of re-upcycling and sustainability.

For »Canti di Casa D. N° I« she contributed her wearable »Ghost Net Object in Blue«. This object made its debut at the World Food Fair Expo in Milan 2015.

hermsglang.com



Jytte Hill

Filmmaker, director of photography, lecturer

Jytte Hill is a freelance filmmaker and lives near Flensburg. Since 2024 she is a lecturer for film at the University of Applied Sciences in Flensburg. After her master degree at HfbK-Hamburg by Wim Wenders and Gerd Roscher she has made about a dozen films of short and medium durations. Apart from her own films she has directed the camera in various other productions. Some of the most recent are:

2021 SolAir Silmandé Artist-Cooperation project

2017 Die fünfte Himmelsrichtung

2016 Schmetterling

2012 Burn Out Love

During a second shooting on location in Italy Jytte was director of photography for »Canti di Casa D. N° I«.

oceanhill@gmx.de



Ute Janssen

Multidisciplinary artist, producer, curator

Ute Janssen's work stands in a long tradition of experimental video and film productions in which she provides space and time for improvising with colleagues on a given subject. Since 1989 she participated in international exhibitions, film festivals and artfairs. Until 2023 she was lecturer at the University of Fine Arts in Hamburg for video and time-based media.

After the project »Oslo Opera« in Norway 2019-2021 a large part of the ensemble came together again for »Canti di Casa D. N° I«.

As before, Ute's position is that of artistic director and producer.

artbasis.info



Nora Kümel

Multidisciplinary artist, musician (singer, piano), music producer, director

Nora Kümel lives and works in Hamburg as an instrumentalist and choreographer. She views her artistic work as a process and has always dealt with interdisciplinary issues. She has developed a very personal musical, narrative and visual language in which different classical and new media are combined to form an innovative unit.

For her music theatre, performances and film productions she writes, produces, sings and performs most of her creations herself. In her works Nora Kümel deals with consumerism and critique of capitalism as for example in her techno-opera in which the fundamental questions of »having« and »being« are reflected.

For Tableaux N°4 & N°15 she composed the piece, sang all voices of Macbeths' Witches and produced the music. Sound mixing by Henning, Sound Engineering Hamburg.

klavinora@gmail.com



Christopher Loy

Musician, performer and visual artist

Christopher Loy (all pronouns) is a queer multidisciplinary artist based in Berlin, working in the areas of music, performance and visual arts. After studying time based media arts at the HfbK Hamburg with Prof. Matt Mullican, they studied Cello at the UdK in Berlin. In 2023 the artist took part in the Berlin Music Commission's Music Ambassador program, enabling them to attend a residency with Darren J. Cunningham (aka Actress) in Toulouse. Recent Notable appearances include their participation in Ari Benjamin Meyers' performance Kunsthalle for Music at Museum Abteiberg (2024) and in Pinkie, a solo performance which premiered at Hošek Contemporary in Berlin (2024).

For »Canti di Casa D. No I« they take on the roles of a young poet. They also contributed two soundtrack compositions for the installation (Tableaux N°5 & N°7, inspired by James, Magritte, Carrington).



Michele Del Prete

Composer of electro-acoustic music, lecturer

Ph.D. in Philosophy (Freie Universität Berlin); Music Studies (MA in Venice and Graz). He performed his electro-acoustic works in complex spatialisation settings in Graz (IEM), Madrid (Museo Reina Sofia), Chatham (Historic Dockyards), Manchester (Mantis).

Collaborations with Pierluigi Billone, Roberto Bacchetta, Igor Imhoff, and Sound Rebels (Amsterdam).

He is the artistic director of Registri, an international sound-art, organ, and electronic music festival dedicated to the 1745 Nachini organ of San Servolo, Venice.

He is Professor of Aesthetics at the Academy of Fine Arts in Venice.

For »Canti di Casa D. N° I« Michele composed a 4-channel sound installation. He will perform excerpts thereof at the Auditorium Santa Margherita in Venice on October 18th, 2024.

A special thanks to Aspasia Patrozou (cello), Claudio Donaggio (setup), Niccolò Baccega (documentation).

michele.delprete@accademiavenezia.it



M. Pippich & K. Zelger

Designer, design researcher and digital designer

Miryam Pippich lives and works in Oslo, Norway as a design researcher and digital designer with a background in conceptual design from the Academy of Fine Arts in Hamburg and Angewandte in Vienna. Her work focuses on understanding human behaviour and creating awareness of interactions with nature, while maintaining a mindful and empathetic approach to her target audience.

Kathrin Zelger lives and works in Vienna as founder and creative director of »Ursula Futura«

For Tableau N°4 Miryam and Kathrin provided footage of their project »L'Ô Water Ring«.

miryampippich.com

www.ursulafutura.com



Silke Silkeborg

Multidisciplinary artist, painter

Silke Silkeborg lives and works as a visual artist in Hamburg and Leipzig. She investigates the darkness of the night. She works in the immediate nocturnal environment of places that she explicitly selects for this purpose. In this way she depicts the specific nature of nocturnal phenomena. She is interested in capturing the interplay between brightness and darkness of natural and urban places from different perspectives and translating this into painting.

In Tableau N°8 she performs in the role of a drawing artist inside the house.

silkesilkeborg.com



Ann Vance

Filmmaker, painter, performer

Ann Vance lives and works in Paisley near Glasgow. Her work is inspired by themes both personal and political. Theories of feminism and anarchism inform her ongoing praxis. She currently works as a social worker and community artist.

In »Canti di Casa D. N° I« she performs in the role of »Society Delire« in Tableaux N°11/14/15. She also reads a poem from »The heart and the word« by Edward James.

annvance.co.uk



Ulrike Wittern

Textile artist and lecturer

Ulrike Wittern lives in Hamburg and works as a textile artist and full time lecturer for screenprinting and experimental textile design at the Hamburg School of Fine Arts.

She has designed a holistic concept (five costumes) for »Canti di Casa D. N° I« in a process from existing textile remnants and found material. The objects are not explicitly intended as clothing, but simply designed for their shape and materiality.

»I would like to use experimental material to create imagination. A textile work is complete when it is in motion« — Ulrike Wittern

u.wittern@stoelken.net



Christa Süß & Hubertus Gassner

Psychologist & art historian / writer

The filming of »Canti di Casa D. N° I« took place at the invitation of Hubertus Gassner and Christa Süß-Gassner during 6 days in autumn 2022 and spring 2023. The project centres around Edward James' postmodern house, which was completed in 1983 in collaboration with his friend Michael Schuyt. This house holds special significance as it was not only a creative endeavour, but also a return to James' childhood home. He would spend the last years of his life here before passing away in nearby San Remo. The typology of the architecture, its natural surroundings and its history which is also linked to surrealism and an exaggerated mix of different architectural styles, becomes a stage for the imagination of the participants.

Christa Süß-Gassner, psychologist, played the role of a guardian in »Canti di Casa D. N° I«, inspired by the paintings of early Surrealists. She experiments with a blue wearable made from fishing net by Chris Herms-Glang in Tableau N°9 and N°14.

Hubertus Gassner plays the role of a magician in Tableaux N°8/10/14/17, wearing a tailored white suit and carrying a parrot on his shoulder.

After concluding his active career as lecturer of art history at the Kunsthochschule Kassel and as director of museums in Essen and Hamburg, Hubertus now focuses on writing books on various topics of art history.

Christa and Hubertus live in Hamburg and Italy.

Many thanks for their invitation into the life of Edward James.



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