

FILM & POETRY SYMPOSIUM

16-18 June 2018

Atopos CVC and National Film Archive

http://atopos.gr/textme_lab-film-poetry-festival-symposium/

The relationship between image and text has been an interest of experimental filmmakers almost from the beginning of cinema. Different methods of combining film and language / poetry have been proposed and introduced as terms in various phases of the 20th century, such as the film poem, poetry film, film essay, the video poem, text film, etc. In each of these types/genres, filmmakers experimented with methods of combining verbal language and image, such as the use of text on the screen (a tradition that begins already in silent cinema and reaches its peak within fluxus films), the use of poetic voice over and spoken word (often with the poets themselves reading their own works), the idea of actual language translations to pictures, as well as the research of poetic forms in the cinema, i.e. the investigation of a concept of a more "vertical", lyrical filmmaking form that reminds of the tradition of modernist poetry.

In the post-internet era, text is very central to the aesthetic and political avant-garde, and despite the fact that pessimists often refer to a generation that "does not read books", we are going through a particularly textual era, surrounded by social media often organised around words. Text, therefore, remains central to the creative process of the so-called post-internet-art, which is often concerned with the over/(mis)/information of the time. The culture of memes, images that combine small texts with illustrations, is the most widespread form of 21st century image-poetry hybrid. And while it has been appropriated widely also by the new right, the so-called alt-right, it has been equally important for queer communities and their claims.

The event included the screening of a collection of films we bring together for the first time feminist and queer film poems and film essays from Greece, as well as artists of the greek diaspora, as well as a talk / round table between three researchers and artists on poetics will discuss some of the methodologies they are interested in and use in the analysis and creation of poetic cinematographic works: Rea Wallden, a researcher and philosopher on the cinematic image with an interest on the avant-garde, Fil Ieropoulos, an academic from Buckinghamshire New University with a doctoral dissertation on the film poem, and Tom Konyves, a poet and filmmaker from Vancouver who drafted the videopoem manifesto, invite the audience to an open discussion about the methodologies of poetic cinema, ideas on the synthesis of language, word and sound, definitions of poetry and the cinematic language, and interdisciplinary translational methods between visual and verbal expressive means.



