



# *Eye/View - Ukraine*

24 May – 7 August 2022

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Edition "Peace" by Copa & Sordes, 2022



Exhibition location: e-Billboard Congress Center Basel, Messeplatz 22, 4058 Basel, Photography: Dirk Wetzel.

**A collaboration between Videocity, the Media Library of the School of Art and Design FHNW and Congress Center Basel.**

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Press photos can be downloaded here: [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-drKtc28CSZIP\\_Hw8XT-bRBCMB1Vy2zz?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-drKtc28CSZIP_Hw8XT-bRBCMB1Vy2zz?usp=sharing)

Videocity website: <https://www.videocity.org/eye-view>

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## Artists

Yana Bachynska, Sergey Bratkov, Copa & Sordes, Marina Dykukha, Olia Fedorova, Alina Kleytman, Maksym Khodak, Ushnish Mukherjee, Parvez, Mykola Ridnyi, VALIE EXPORT, Peter Weibel

## Location and opening times

Presented outside of the Congress Center Basel on the electronic billboard, Messeplatz 22, 4058 Basel.

Daily from 6:00 until 23:00. Interruptions may occur.

## Curators

Dr Andrea Domesle, Dr Walter Seidl.

## Mediation Programme

For a flat rate of CHF 220 we offer you and your friends, family or work colleagues a personal guided tour and background information on the works on display in German, English, Ukrainian or French. We also offer digital tours via Zoom in Arabic, Korean and Russian. Book your tour by contacting us on [info@videocity.org](mailto:info@videocity.org).

## Thanks

Lenders: the artists, in particular Copa & Sordes for the special edition, as well as the Kontakt Collection, Vienna; ZKM | Centre for Art and Media Karlsruhe

Supporters: Department of the Presidency of the canton Basel-Stadt, Culture department, Austrian Kulturforum Bern, Osteuropa Forum Basel.

## Ukrainian and international video art on as part of "Eye/View"

Much has changed for us with the war. The Videocity team has been in contact with numerous artists and colleagues from Ukraine and fears for their wellbeing daily. "What can we do for you?" we asked. "Be present in the art world, with the works we have created," was the answer.

The Videocity team changed the Basel programme to present works by Ukrainian artists in projects in Switzerland and abroad. This is an important concern for us, as the scene was previously already marginalised by the Western professional gaze and the Russian attack aims at the destruction of cultural assets. Ukrainian video art is exciting, diverse and reflects current debates, i.e. on gender or the politics of memory. Videocity wants to contribute to their visibility.

In view of the war, the annual curatorial concept of *Eye/View* acquired a highly-topical dimension: observing and being observed became situations that now affect everyone to an extraordinary degree. We made this threat more visible in the second part of the cycle. The video works by Yana Bachynska, Sergey Bratkov, Marina Dykukha, Olia Fedorova, Alina Kleytman, Maksym Khodak and Mykola Ridnyi have proven to be a

prediction of war and testify to a life in fear and danger. The gaze regimes that are revealed in the videos revolve around: following, monitoring, focusing, remembering and the unexpected breaking out of the blue.

Sergey Bratkov, who is well-known in the Central and Eastern European art scene, was previously exhibited by Videocity in 2020. For the other Ukrainian artists, this is their first major appearance in Switzerland. Alongside the works by seven Ukrainian artists, videos by VALIE EXPORT and Peter Weibel – the latter born in Odessa in 1944 – will be shown. Both are among the founders of Austrian video art. The videos by the Indian artists Ushnish Mukherjee and Parvez show how much the gaze of others politically shapes our bodies. Copa & Sordes continue their virtual project *Chernobyl/Rose Hedge* started in 2017. After the start of the war, they designed a special edition – all those who purchase the edition contribute a metaphorical building block to the online monument for peace, whilst also supporting Ukrainian artists and cultural workers.

We combine the public exhibition with two support activities:

1. A fundraising campaign to pay as many fees as possible to artists and authors. As a thank you, Copa & Sordes designed a new edition: <https://www.videocity.org/donate>
2. Presentation Partnership for Ukrainian Video Art. „ein fenster inmitten der welt“ by Copa & Sordes in Murrhardt, the Kino REX Bern, the Videocity Stadtparcours St. Pölten, Wiener Galerist, Kulturfestival in Duisburg, Motorenhalle Dresden and Collectoctors from Bern will exhibition the video works. Further interested parties are welcome to contact [videocity.andrea@gmail.com](mailto:videocity.andrea@gmail.com).

## Videocity exhibition experiment on the electronic billboard of the Congress Center Basel, Messeplatz 22, 4058 Basel

Typical of this location is that the sounds of the city form the soundtrack of the videos. Coincidences of everyday life – noises and reflections – intervene in the compositions; they can emphasise aesthetic elements or contradict them, interacting with the works. The environment allows for the video works to be seen in a new light in the busy public space of the city of Basel. The video works contrast with the hustle and bustle of the public square and take on a whole new meaning.

### Artists and Videos

Total duration: circa one hour

Yana Bachynska \*1991 Lviv, Ukraine, lives in Kyiv, Ukraine

<https://secondaryarchive.org/artists/yan-bachynskiy/>

“I’m sick and tired of you“, 2018

5:05 min., sound

Sergey Bratkov \*1960 in Kharkiv, Ukraine

[https://www.galerievolkerdiehl.com/artist/Sergey\\_Bratkov](https://www.galerievolkerdiehl.com/artist/Sergey_Bratkov)

“Architectural Measurements“, 2018

4:09 min., sound

16:9

Copa & Sordes

[www.chernobyl-rose-hedge.net](http://www.chernobyl-rose-hedge.net), since 2017

GIF, a few seconds, without sound

Marina Dykukha \*1985 Kyiv, lives in Kyiv, Ukraine

<https://marinadykukha.com>

“Big bro is fucked up watching you“, 2014

0:16 min., sound

Videocity edition, single channel from an interactive installation in Kyiv 2014

Olia Fedorova \*1994, lives in Kharkiv, Ukraine

<https://oliafedorova.com>

“Dry Fire“, 2021

0:48 min., sound, looped three times

16:9

Maksym Khodak \*2001 Bila Tserkva, Ukraine, lives in Kyiv, Ukraine

<https://www.maksymkhodak.com>

“Flags of Propaganda“, 2018

Videocity version 1 channel, looped, 3 min., without sound

Alina Kleytman \*1991 Kharkiv, Ukraine, lives in Kyiv, Ukraine

<https://www.alinakleytman.com>

“Responsibility“, 2017

6:25 min., sound

16:9

Kontakt Collection, Vienna

Parvez, \*1967 India, lives in Basel, Switzerland

[www.parvez.work](http://www.parvez.work)

“I watch you“, 2018

2:02 min., no sound

16:9

Ushnish Mukherjee

“The Narration Between Write And Rub Off“, 2017

2:04 min., no sound

16:9, b/w

Mykola Ridnyi \*1985 Kharkiv, Ukraine, lives in Kyiv, Ukraine

<http://www.mykolaridnyi.com> “Seacoast“, 2008

1 min, looped three times, with sound

VALIE EXPORT \*1940 born as Waltraud Lehner in Linz, lives in Vienna, Austria

<https://www.valieexport.at/>

“Selfportrait with Eyes“, 1970

0:15 Min., no sound

4:3, s/w

Kontakt Collection, Vienna

Peter Weibel, \*1944 Odessa, lives in Vienna, Austria, and Karlsruhe, Germany

[https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter\\_Weibel\\_\(Künstler\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peter_Weibel_(Künstler))

“The Endless Sandwich, Tele-Aktion I“, 1972

2:03 min., with sound

4:3, s/w

ZKM | Zentrum für Kunst und Medien Karlsruhe

Peter Weibel

“Augentexte“, from the series “Videotexte“, 1974

1:10 min., with sound

4:3, s/w

ZKM | Zentrum für Kunst und Medien Karlsruhe

## About Videocity

Videocity is a public art project founded in Basel, Switzerland in 2013. Its aims are to support video artists and to mediate video art to diverse audiences, both indoors and outdoors, and especially in unusual locations and free of charge. The project was initiated by Dr Andrea Domesle and is currently composed of a large network of international research assistants. In 2019, Videocity was awarded the recognition of Swiss audio-visual heritage (Kulturgut der Schweiz). This was the first time that a curatorial project received such designation in Switzerland. Since the beginning of the project, over 160 video works have been presented to the public. You can find more information about Videocity's history here: <https://www.videocity.org/>

## Further information about the locations and partners

The Exhibition Square (Messeplatz) in Basel, with its exhibition halls and the cone of light designed by Herzog & de Meuron, the "Eye to the Sky", is a very special place: both a hub for Basel traffic and for people from near and far, for cultures, products, innovations and ideas. It is a "place of lively exchange, presentation, experimentation, observation, learning and knowledge transfer. It is a dynamic place. Here new things can be tested, decisions are made that sometimes even show their relevance worldwide in the future". (Jonas Scharf, Managing Director Congress Center Basel). Coming from Badischer Bahnhof, the route to the city centre leads via Messeplatz.

### Partners

What they all have in common is that they encourage exchange, inspiration and new encounters. With the simultaneous presentation of partly the same videos, both the Congress Center Basel and the media library FHNW offer different points of reference and spatial contexts and thus allow the videos to be experienced differently in each case.

### Videocity

Since 2013 Videocity has been opening up new ways for culture and business to interact. Basel's shops and cultural institutions open their shop windows and halls or make their billboards available to video artists. For a few weeks Videocity becomes an intangible part of Basel and encourages unexpected encounters. The videos allow everyday life to appear in a new light and, vice versa, everyday life to appear in the videos. Since then, during the nine editions of approximately six-week of videocity.bs, around 100 video works by around 100 artists - Pipilotti Rist was present three times and Ursula Palla twice - have been shown.

In 2013, 2014 and 2015, Videocity formed a multi-stage outdoor exhibition between the exhibition site (Messeplatz), market (Marktplatz), the SBB railway station and the St. Jakobs Stadium. Since 2016, videocity.bs has been focusing on the major locations: the eBoards of the Congress Center Basel and Videocity shop window at GLOBUS Basel department store. In 2017, the media library joined, after the Academy of Art and Design FHNW moved into its new building the FHNW tower block situated in the Dreispitz area. Videocity shows videos without sound at the public locations and experiments with the influence of the city sounds and surroundings on perception and how artists integrate this situation into their compositions. The presentation in the media library offers a comparison, as the works are made with the original sound and are intended for indoor spaces.

Each year since 2017, an artist has been offered the unique opportunity to create a site-specific work especially for the media facades of the City Lounge, North Hall and South Hall at the Messeplatz in Basel with its unique architecture conceived by Herzog & de Meuron, in the so-called "Eye to the Sky". The work of art exists only temporarily at this exceptional location.

Videocity is a platform for the wider public, professionals, art lovers and amateurs, beyond protected museum walls. It was developed for the city and its cultural scene by the Basel-based cultural manager and curator Dr. Andrea Domesle and presented together with Mathias F. Böhm, managing director of Pro Innerstadt Basel.

## Congress Center Basel

The Congress Center Basel – the largest congress centre in Switzerland in terms of space - hosts over 200 events each year with around 200,000 visitors. The Congress Center Basel is directly connected to the Herzog & de Meuron exhibition hall via a passageway. Only a few other locations in Europe have a congress centre with a direct link to a trade fair site. This way, such combined events, which are increasingly in demand, find their optimal conditions. With its modern infrastructure, Congress Center Basel is playing in the international arena.

The media library of the Academy of Art and Design FHNW offers a relaxed, concentrated and stylish study atmosphere, accessible to students and interested members of the public. There is literature on the displayed artists. Further, there is video art, thanks to its special keywording into subject areas, allows for comparative research. The media library collection of literature and media (including important collections on the subject of the video) embodies the ideal embedding of the project in a scientific, artistic and research environment.

## Initiator and head curator

Dr Andrea Domesle, MAS, has been renowned as a specialist in international and Swiss modern and contemporary art since the publication of her doctorate on "Leucht-Schrift-Kunst" by Reimer Verlag, in Berlin 1998. As a cultural manager, she specialises in the development and positioning of art projects. She lives in Basel and works as a curator, author and lecturer on art history, museum and curatorial studies and creative writing at universities in Switzerland and abroad. She has organized over 120 exhibitions, including 19 tours with 500 artists in Switzerland, Europe, Asia and the USA on socially relevant topics alone or with co-curators. Please see: [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrea\\_Domesle](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrea_Domesle); [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/ROOMER's\\_SIGHT](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/ROOMER's_SIGHT).

Today, Videocity is an international team and network: <https://www.videocity.org/team>

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**Layout, Graphik, CD:** Bureau Dillier.

**Website:** [videocity.org](https://videocity.org)

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