

# Loneliness II

10<sup>th</sup> March – 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Press release for immediate use (28.6.2021)



Bild: Standortaufnahme Loneliness II, Angela Marzullo aus der Serie «Homeschooling», 2005. Foto: Dirk Wetzel.

A cooperation between Andrea Domesle,  
the media library FHNW Academy of Art and Design,  
Pro Innerstadt Basel and Congress Center Basel

## Contact details:

Dr Andrea Domesle

Email: [videocity.andrea@gmail.com](mailto:videocity.andrea@gmail.com)

Mobile phone +41 79 128 23 61

Rahel Christen for further press photos or teasers for TV

[videocity.presse@gmail.com](mailto:videocity.presse@gmail.com)

Press photos can be downloaded [here](#).

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## Artists

36 Videos by 36 artists, outdoor screening on eboard Congress Center Basel:

Mia Bailey, Jonas Baumann, Eleonor Beale, Dimitry Bulnygin, Elmas Deniz, Tomas Eller, Hayden Fowler, Gentle Women, Eva Giolo, Masha Godovannaya, Bettina Grossenbacher, Anette C. Halm, Ji Su Kang-Gatto, Wolfgang Lehrner, Yue Liang, Matthieu La-Brossard und Nathan Clement, Jess MacNeil, Tommaso Malato Renda, Angela Marzullo, Chantal Michel, Alexandra Mitlyanskaya, Mladen Miljanović, Sebastian Mundwiler, Natacha Nisic, Christoph Oertli, Valentina Pini, Jhafis Quintero González, Pipilotti Rist, Salphinah Savin, Studer / van den Berg, Ultra, Yury Vassiliev, Martina Wolf, Chen Xiaoyun, Gyonyoung Yoon, Yuge Zhou.

Online only, later during the year: Valerio Conti, Lilly Hibberd, Tamrin Ingram.

## Curators

Selected by the Baltic Branch of the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts (Kaliningrad, Russia) and the *videocity*-Team:

Polina Chizhova, Anne Cuzon, Rahel Christen, Andrea Domesle, Chiara Giardi, Lucie Pavy, Lia Quirina, Michelle Sacher, Fabienne Schoch and the former interns Alya Alawadhi, Hortense Albisson, Seyma Bayrak, Chiara Döblin, Inna Humeniuk, Meng Meng Li, Laura Rehme, Leoni Reiber, Aline Lusser, Miriam Pinocchio and Ning Zhou.

## Mediation programme

Digital guided tours (in English, German, French, Italian, Chinese, Russian or Turkish) of the current screening cycle are available and can be booked at [videocity.presse@gmail.com](mailto:videocity.presse@gmail.com). For a fixed price of 280 CHF, we offer you, your friends, your family and/or your work colleagues a personal tour with background information about the presented video works and artists on Zoom.

## Thanks

To the lenders, the artists and Collection du Fonds d'art contemporain de la Ville de Genève (Pipilotti Rist, Angela Marzullo) and ShanghART (Yue Liang, Chen Xiaoyun), Noemi Neels, Congress Center Basel, Julian Gresenz, Point de Vue, Dirk Wetzel for photo documentation, Thomas Dillier, graphic designer, and the *videocity*-Team: Linda Christa Bill, Aphrodit-Marie Bodenstedt, Polina Chizhova, Anne Cuzon, Rahel Christen, Andrea Domesle, Chiara Giardi, Lucie Pavy, Lia Quirina, Michelle Sacher, Fabienne Schoch, Giorgia Spina and Ning Zhou.

## Loneliness II Concept

From May to August 2019, Videocity presented the first Loneliness screening cycle across the city of Basel, Switzerland. Yet, the subject "Loneliness" was rarely as relevant as during the current health crisis, where many find themselves isolated from their families, colleagues and friends. For this reason, the team at Videocity decided to extend the Loneliness cycle with a sequel, starting on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Over a period of six months, 36 videos by 36 artists from Switzerland and across the world will be presented. Many of the selected artists are young and, for some of them, it is their first exhibition in Switzerland. Every two months, 12 new videos will be shown.

Whilst the first cycle of Loneliness contrasted with the hustle and bustle of the pre-pandemic fairgrounds, the 2021 cycle approaches the subject of loneliness from the angle of a pandemic. The cancellation of numerous events, the limitations on gatherings, international travel and people's social lives have left a strong mark on wellbeing and created a lot of isolation. What long-term impact will the pandemic have for both individuals and businesses? What are the different ways in which loneliness can be manifested? The selected video works use the subject of "Loneliness" as a starting point and open up a conversation on its different forms.

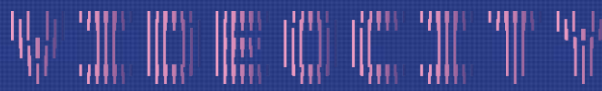
Videocity is a free outdoor screening that can be viewed individually according to personal needs.

## Examples of the programme

The Korean artist **Gyonyoung Yoon** depicts the experience of homesickness; the feeling of being far-away from home. In her video work "Filling in the Physical Reality, Living in the Digital Reality", the artist uses digital tools to re-create familiar and comforting environments. It doesn't take years of living abroad to empathize with Gyonyoung Yoon's experience. Homesickness, in the form of missing people, places and even specific tastes and textures is a widely shared feeling. Digital means have now given us tools – even if often palliative and ephemeral – to fill in many of these blanks. However, even though digital technology has been an essential component of living in a global pandemic, often it also emphasises the longing of physical experiences.

The Russian artist **Dmitry Bulnygin** approaches at the connection between the loneliness and our consumerist lifestyles. His work 'Bad Karma' is a representation of a consumerist inferno: a long supermarket queue without end, moving slowly, keeping up with the pace of an (invisible) cashier's scanning. Yet, in the midst of a global pandemic, this 2010 work reminds us of a different time, pre-face masks and social distancing. Whilst we are all longing for everything to back to 'normal', Bulnygin puts the spotlight onto its shortfalls. Is the consumerist rat race really an image of fulfilled life that we should be striving for? 'Bad Karma' remarkably shows no customers interacting, just isolated shoppers with their trolleys and shopping baskets. A survey by the Swiss Federal Statistical Office has shown that, in 2017, 38% of the adult population in Switzerland experienced loneliness. Feelings of isolation, especially for the most vulnerable populations and those living alone, soared in the last 12 months. In a post-pandemic world, could loneliness become a ghost of the past?

The French artist **Natasha Nisic** explores the feeling of loneliness in public spaces in her 'Les Endormies' by filming commuters on the Tokyo's underground drifting into sleep. For if there is one moment when one is alone with oneself, it is when one sleeps. With their heads bowed, their eyes contemplate an elsewhere that exists only for them. As we come across these distant figures, they seem very close to us. The passengers on the trams crossing the Messeplatz may also have heavy eyelids and eyes that close, while for a moment they unknowingly make eye contact with fellow travellers, companions in their solitude.



## *Loneliness II* 12 videos by 12 artists

### Location

**eBoard Congress Center Basel**, Messeplatz 21, 4058 Basel (outdoor screening on a billboard)

Integral to this location are the sounds of the city that replace the original soundtracks of the video works. Coincidences of everyday life – noises and reflections – intervene with the compositions; they can emphasise or contradict aesthetic elements and thus interact with the works. The surroundings allow the video works to be seen in a new light in busy public space of the city of Basel. The video works contrast with the hustle and bustle of the public square, gain a whole new meaning.

### Timeline

10<sup>th</sup> March – 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Every day, from 08:00 to 24:00, 12 videos without sound will be shown on the eBoard of the Congress Center Basel at Messeplatz 21 near the Swissôtel Le Plaza. There may be occasional breaks in the presentation.

### 12 Videos by 12 artists (each cycle ca. two months)

10<sup>th</sup> March – 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021

Jonas Baumann, Dimitry Bulnygin, Elmas Deniz, Anette C. Halm, Yue Liang, Tommaso Malato Renda, Mladen Miljanović, Natacha Nisic, Pipilotti Rist, Salphinah Savin, Gyonyoung Yoon, Yuge Zhou.

3<sup>rd</sup> May – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Eleanor Beale, Matthieu La-Brossard and Nathan Clement, Tomas Eller, Eva Giolo, Anette C. Halm, Gentle Women, Bettina Grossenbacher, Angela Marzullo, Christoph Oertli, Valentina Pini, Martina Wolf, Chen Xiaoyun.

1<sup>st</sup> July – 12. September 2021

Mia Bailey, Hayden Fowler, Jhafis Quintero González, Masha Godovannaya, Ji Su Kang-Gatto, Wolfgang Lehrner, Jess MacNeil, Chantal Michel, Alexandra Mitlyanskaya, Sebastian Mundwiler, Studer / van den Berg, Ultra, Yury Vassiliev.

### First cycle of artists and their works (10<sup>th</sup> March – 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021)

**Jonas Baumann**, \*1983 in Basel, Switzerland; lives in Basel, Switzerland

[www.jsbaumann.ch/](http://www.jsbaumann.ch/)

“Towels”, 2018

1:40 min, no sound

16:9

**Dmitry Bulnygin**, \*1965 Novosibirsk, Russia; lives in Cesson-la-Forêt, France

[www.bulnygin.com/](http://www.bulnygin.com/)

“Bad Karma”, 2010

6:17 min, sound

16:9

**Elmas Deniz**, \*1981 in Bergama, Turkey; lives in Istanbul, Turkey

[www.elmasdeniz.com](http://www.elmasdeniz.com)

"Made to be Seen", 2018

6:08 Min., sound

16:9

**Anette C. Halm**, \*1973 Ostfildern, Germany; lives in Reichenbach/Fils nearby Stuttgart, Germany

[www.anette-c-halm.de](http://www.anette-c-halm.de)

"Hurensau", 2019

4:00 min, sound

16:9

**Yue Liang**, \*1979 in Shanghai, China; lives in Toronto, Canada

[www.shanghartgallery.com/](http://www.shanghartgallery.com/)

"Video No.20150609 (Upside-down)" 2015

25:13 min, sound

9:16

**Tommaso Malato Renda**, \*1980 in Erice, Italy; lives in Trapani, Italy

[www.tommasomalatorenda.eu/](http://www.tommasomalatorenda.eu/)

"My Home in the Sun", 2019

4:10 min, sound

16:9

**Mladen Miljanović**, \*1981 in Zenica, Bosnia-Herzegovina; lives in Banja Luka, Bosnia-Herzegovina

[www.mladenmiljanovic.com](http://www.mladenmiljanovic.com)

"Performance without Title", 2018

3:08 min, sound

16:9

**Natacha Nisic**, \*1967 in Grenoble, France; lives in Malakoff, France

[www.natachanisic.net/](http://www.natachanisic.net/)

"Les Endormi(e)s" (The Sleeping Ones), 2004

12:00 min, no sound

4:3

**Pipilotti Rist**, \*1962 Grabs SG, Switzerland; lives Zurich and the Swiss Alps

<http://pipilottirist.net>

"(Entlastungen) Pipilottis Fehler", ([Absolutions] Pipilotti's Mistakes), 1988

11:17 min, sound

4:3

Collection du Fonds d'art contemporain de la Ville de Genève (Inventar Nr. 1998-011)

**Salphinah Savin**, \*1998 in Muttensz, Switzerland; lives in Dornach, Switzerland

[salphinah vimeo](http://salphinah.vimeo) [www.kulturkick.ch/projekte/2020.013](http://www.kulturkick.ch/projekte/2020.013)

"Leere" (Emptiness), 2020

2:52 min, sound

16:9

**Gyonyoung Yoon**, \*1993 in Seoul, South Korea; lives in Seoul, South Korea.

[www.studiogyo.com](http://www.studiogyo.com)

"Filling in Physical Reality, Living in Digital Reality", 2020

3:20 min, sound

16:9

**Yuge Zhou**, \*1985 in Beijing, China; lives in Chicago, USA

[www.yugezhou.com/](http://www.yugezhou.com/)

"When the East of the day meets the West of the night", 2020

5 Min. (*videocity* version), sound

3:4

## Second cycle of artists and their works (3<sup>rd</sup> May – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021)

**Eleanor Beale**, \*1996 in London, UK; lives in London, UK

<https://www.eleanorbeale.com/>

"Memory CD: ROSA", 2020

5:01 min, sound

16:9

**Matthieu La-Brossard**, \*1997 Paris, France; lives in Geneva, Switzerland, and **Nathan Clement**,

\*2002 Reunion Island; lives in Geneva, Switzerland

<https://vimeo.com/nathanclement>

"Callmebyblondie", 2021

3:11 min, sound

16:9

**Tomas Eller**, \*1975 in Meran, Italy; lives in Vienna, Austria

<http://www.meyerkainer.com/artists/hiddentrack-2/Bio/Tomas-Eller.php>

"Parallel-Sync", 2001/2011

2:40 min, no sound

16:9

**Eva Giolo**, \*1991 in Brussels, Belgium; lives in Brussels

[www.elphy.org](http://www.elphy.org)

"Shattered", 2016

9:32 min., sound

16:9

**Anette C. Halm**, \*1973 in Ostfildern, Germany; lives in Reichenbach/Fils nearby Stuttgart, Germany

[www.anette-c-halm.de](http://www.anette-c-halm.de)

"I carry your Pain", 2010

2:48 min, sound

16:9

**Gentle Women**, Eugenia Lapteva, \*1987 Kaliningrad, Russia and Alexandra Artamonova, \*1987

Kaliningrad, Russia

<http://gentlewomen-art.blogspot.com/>

"Personal Christmas, Part II" 2020

9:41 min (loop), sound

16:9

**Bettina Grossenbacher**, \*1960 in Thun, Switzerland; lives in Basel, Switzerland

<https://bettinagrossenbacher.com/>

"16°12'N/22° 61'W", 2011

9:10 min, stereo sound

16:9

**Angela Marzullo**, \*1971 in Rümlang, Switzerland; lives in Geneva, Switzerland

<http://www.angelamarzullo.ch/>

Different works from the series "Home Schooling", 2005

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**Christoph Oertli**, \*1962 in Winterthur, Switzerland; lives in Basel, Switzerland and Brussels, Belgium  
<https://christophoertli.ch/de/>

“M. René”, 2012

11:00 min, stereo sound

16:9

**Valentina Pini**, \*1982 in Soregno, Switzerland; lives in Zurich, Switzerland

[www.valentinapini.ch](http://www.valentinapini.ch)

“Water into Wine”, 2020

6:56 min, sound

16:9

**Martina Wolf**, \*1971 in Wurzen, Saxony; lives in Frankfurt a.M., Germany

[www.martinawolf.de](http://www.martinawolf.de)

“Souda Bay SWIMMINGPOOL”, 2013

10:20 min, no sound

16:9

**Chen Xiaoyun**, \*1971 in Hubei, China; lives in Hangzhou, China

<https://www.shanghartgallery.com>

“Drag”, 2006

4:11 min, sound

16:9

### Third cycle of artists and their works (1<sup>st</sup> July – 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021)

**Mia Bailey**, \*1975 in Bangkok, Thailand; lives in Karlsruhe, Germany; Iowa City, USA and Basel, Switzerland

<http://miabailey.net>

“Saline” from the series “Flight”, 2007

9:40 min, no sound

16:9

“Mobile” from the series “Flight”, 2007

11:40 min, no sound

16:9

**Hayden Fowler**, \*1973 in Te Awamutu, New Zealand; lives in Sidney, Australia and Berlin, Germany

<http://haydenfowler.net>

“Goat Odyssey”, 2006

15:10 min (loop), sound

16:9

**Masha Godovannaya**, \*1976 in Moscow, Russia; lives in Vienna, Austria

<https://mashagodovannaya.wordpress.com>

“Tomorrow I failed completely”, 2020

6:30 min, sound

16:9

**Ji Su Kang-Gatto**, \*1989 in Seoul, Korea; lives in Dusseldorf, Germany

<https://www.jisukanggatto.com/>

“How to make Bulgogi”, 2018

5 Min.

**Jhafis Quintero Gonzáles**, \*1973 in La Chorrera, Panama; lives in Montagny-près-Yverdon, Switzerland,

[www.jhafisquintero.com](http://www.jhafisquintero.com)

“Mirror”, 2017

1:27 min, sound

16:9

“Spiders”, 2014

1:33 min, no sound

16:9

“We only exist when we communicate”, 2010

1:10 min, sound

16:9

**Wolfgang Lehrner**, \*1980 in Vienna, Austria; lives in Vienna, Austria

[www.wolfganglehrner.com](http://www.wolfganglehrner.com)

“Medineo. Season 01. Episode 03: Divided by the Sea, Connected by the Ocean”, 2021

7:08 min, sound

16:9

**Jess MacNeil**, \*1977 in Iverness, Canada; lives in Northern N.S.W, Australia

<http://jessmacneil.com>

“The Angle of Incidence”, 2012

11:07 min, sound

4:3

**Chantal Michel**, \*1968 in Bern, Switzerland; lives nearby Thun, Switzerland

<http://www.chantalmichel.ch>

“Sorry Guys”, 1997

15 min, sound

4:3

**Alexandra Mitlyanskaya**, \*1958 in Moscow, Russia; lives in Moscow, Russia

<http://www.kandinsky-prize.ru/mitlyanskaya/?lang=en>

“Turnaround Difficulties”, 2019

3:14 min, sound

9:16

**Sebastian Mundwiler**, \*1978 in Arlesheim, Switzerland; lives in Basel, Switzerland

[www.sebastianmundwiler.ch](http://www.sebastianmundwiler.ch)

“Die Rolltreppe”, 2010

13:20 min, sound

16:9

**Studer / van den Berg**, Monica Studer, \*1960 in Zürich, Switzerland, Christoph van den Berg, \*1962 in Basel, Switzerland; both live in Basel, Switzerland

[www.studervandenbergh.ch](http://www.studervandenbergh.ch)

“Dark Matter”, 2012

6 min (loop), no sound

16:9

**Ultra**, Elizaveta Kapustina, \*1998 in St. Petersburg, Russia; lives in Vienna, Austria

<https://www.kunstabhinterhof.at/artist/elizaveta-kapustina/>

“Human Computer Interaction”, 2020

2:22 min, sound



16:9

**Yury Vassiliev**, \*1950 in Kingysepp, Russia; lives in Kaliningrad, Russia

<https://readymag.com/sobornost/russianred/>

“Mama”, 2002

0:47 min, sound, 4:3

## 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 140 video works have been presented to the public. You can find more information about Videocity's history here: <https://2019.videocitybs.ch/>

## 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.bs* 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 parcours between exhibition site (Messeplatz), market place (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 the *videocity.bs* 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 passage way. 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.

Since 11 April 2020, "Food #1" has been on the web - easily accessible from the comfort of your own home: <https://mediathek.hgk.fhnw.ch/event/videocity2020>.

Furthermore, interpretations of works in German and English can also be viewed. Other videos will follow with their original soundtracks.

### **Pro Innerstadt Basel**

Pro Innerstadt Basel maintains and promotes Basler City altogether as the region's most attractive and largest shopping, trade and service centre. Pro Innerstadt Basel is an association of retailers, restaurants and hoteliers, cultural and leisure businesses, homeowners, service providers and all those who share our goal of preserving and developing Basel City as a place of experience, enjoyment and shopping.

### **Initiator and 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 specializes 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).

© concept and name of *videocity* by Andrea Domesle

**Text** by Polina Chizhova with the help of Chiara Giardi and Hortense Albisson

**Layout, graphic, CD** Bureau Dillier with Giorgia Spina for 2021

**Old Projectweb page** with the history of the project [videocitybs.ch](http://videocitybs.ch)

**New Projectweb page** is coming soon [videocity.org](http://videocity.org)