

Short film MENTAL ASYLUM, 2014.

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ABSTRACT

The video piece *Mental Asylum* explores the intersection of new media and storytelling. It was recorded on a Mac using it as a modern type of diary. A conversation with the self, the making of this video was an interaction between the artist and the Mac PhotoBooth. It is intriguing to think the protagonist was looking at herself, telling herself a story, *her* story. The element of storytelling is a spontaneous, non-scripted stream of consciousness. It captures a particular moment in time, letting us know it is July 1st. However, we don't know the year, so there is an element of timelessness and uncertainty. In fact, it could be a story that repeats time and time again, like a person that deals with a mental health disorder might experience over and over again. The video is remembering that low point while the individual could be forgetting the exact emotions and expressions.

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MENTAL ASYLUM SYNOPSIS

Mental Asylum explores personal identity in a very vulnerable place, a person's mind in the depths of mental illness. It is a recording from the first day of admission into a psychiatric hospital. The piece provides access to the struggle of the self and the very core of identity when everything seems lost.

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DESCRIPTION

This piece is a modern take on confession, it opens up a secret, something that is far too often kept to oneself. The video art piece "Mental Asylum" explores personal identity in a very vulnerable place, a person's mind in the depths of mental illness. It is a recording from my admission into a psychiatric hospital with clinical depression. The piece provides access to the struggle of the self and the very core of identity when everything seems lost.

SUSANNE WAWRA
wawra.susanne@gmail.com
www.susannewawra.com

"Mental Asylum" is a confessional piece that deals with the self and identity. This is a very private recording that was not intended to be seen by anyone, while knowing that film by its very nature implies an audience. It taps into the emotional potential of real life and explores showing the real, without any cut or filter. It allows for an intimate analysis of the artist's confidential experiences and emotions.

"Mental Asylum" is a revelation of the private self, a record of the mind in ill health. Here, video is used as a device extending the boundaries of interior dialogue to include the audience.

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DETAILS

Duration: 07:56
German, English subtitles
Artist: Susanne Wawra
Completed 2014

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VIMEO

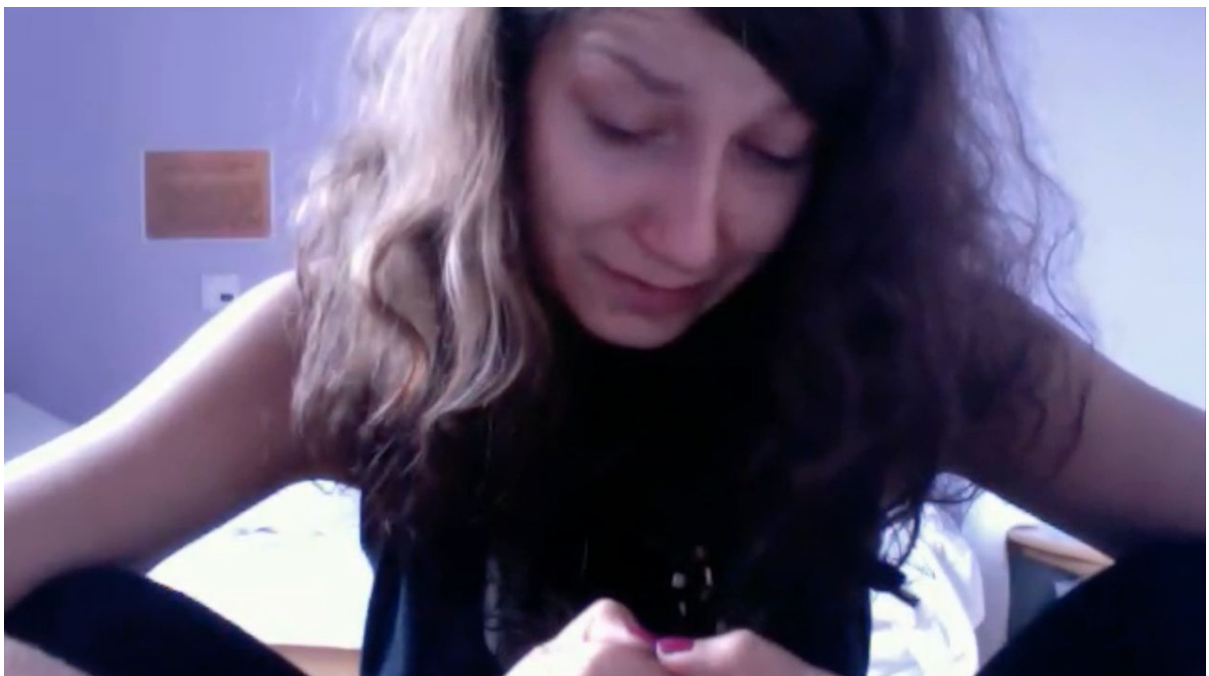
vimeo.com/96517983

Password: asylum

SUSANNE WAWRA
wawra.susanne@gmail.com
www.susannewawra.com

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FILM STILLS



SUSANNE WAWRA
wawra.susanne@gmail.com
www.susannewawra.com



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ABOUT THE ARTIST

Susanne Wawra is a German visual artist and poet based in Dublin, Ireland. Susanne holds a MA in English and Communication & Media from the University of Leipzig, Germany. After an exploration of work life in an international big name company, she decided to swap a secure career for life as an artist.

The human condition is a recurring theme in her work. Particularly, she explores vulnerability and *Weltschmerz* through painting, collage and video. Her work has been exhibited in Ireland and the UK, Germany, Italy and the United States.

Even though English is not her mother tongue, it is her preferred medium for poetry. Her first collection "Schizo-Poetry - Fragments of Mind" with co-writer Kevin Nolan was published in May 2015.

More info at www.susannewawra.com.

SUSANNE WAWRA
wawra.susanne@gmail.com
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PHOTO OF ARTIST

