



a film by JOËLE WALINGA

SELF-PORTRAIT

a SOFT STUDIO PRODUCTION sound design INES ADRIANA music CARL DIDUR and ALICIA NAUTA and MIHARU KOSHI and HARUOMI HOSONO
music supervisor CODY PARTRIDGE titles DANIEL WARTH produced, edited, and directed by JOËLE WALINGA

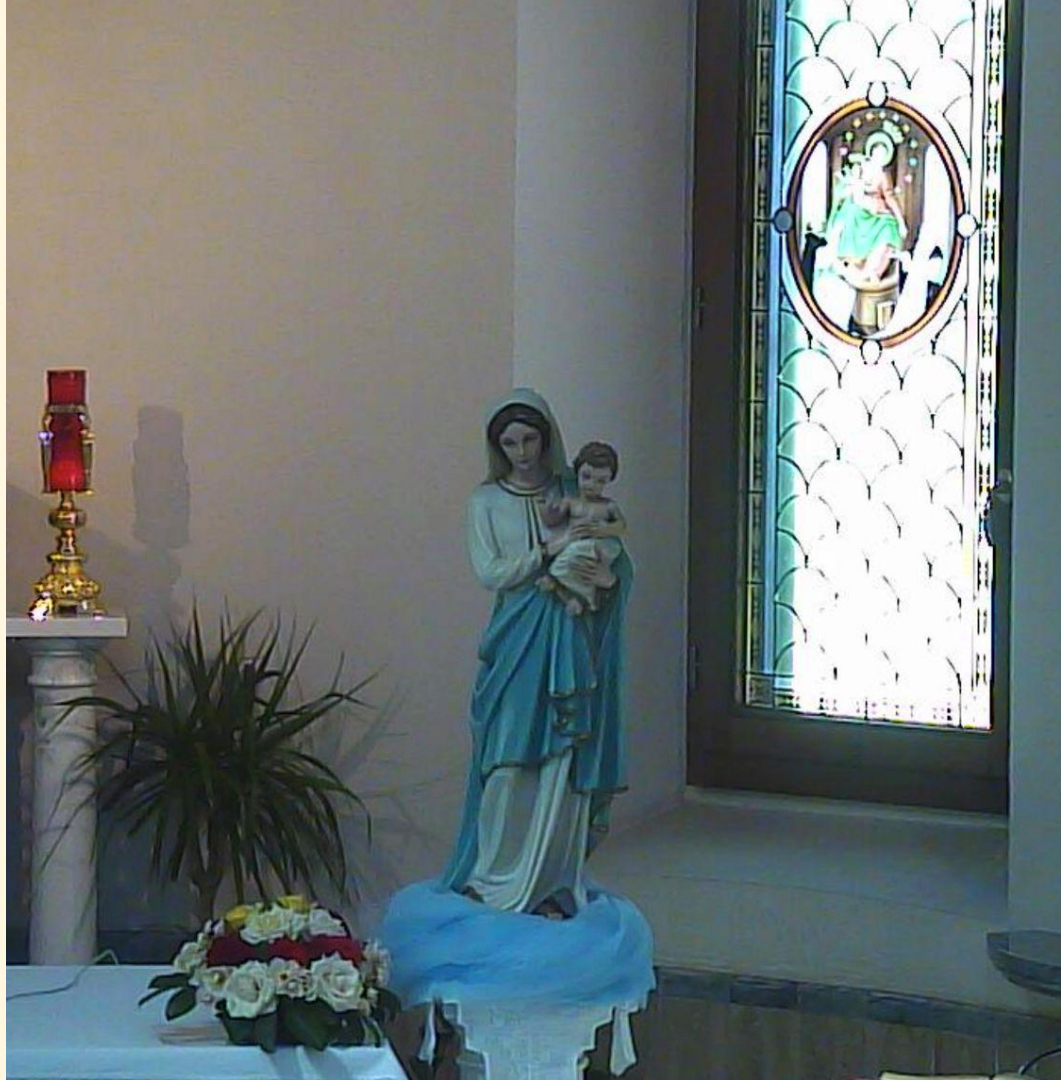


SYNOPSIS

A portrait of humanity as captured by its surveillance cameras.

Directed by artist and filmmaker Joële Walinga, and with sound design by Ines Adriana, *Self-Portrait* is a tapestry of footage collected from surveillance cameras around the world over the last four years. Woven together as a poem, the film travels from moment to moment, beginning with the frozen storminess of winter, to the melt of spring, the lush heat of summer, and finally the decay and cooling of autumn: the dawn of winter. *Self-Portrait* shows a candid peek at humanity as it has chosen to document itself – all of these cameras set up for primarily capitalistic, "property"-protecting purposes, but yielding a beauty and a truth – an incidental portrait.

SXSW
**FILM
FESTIVAL**
2022









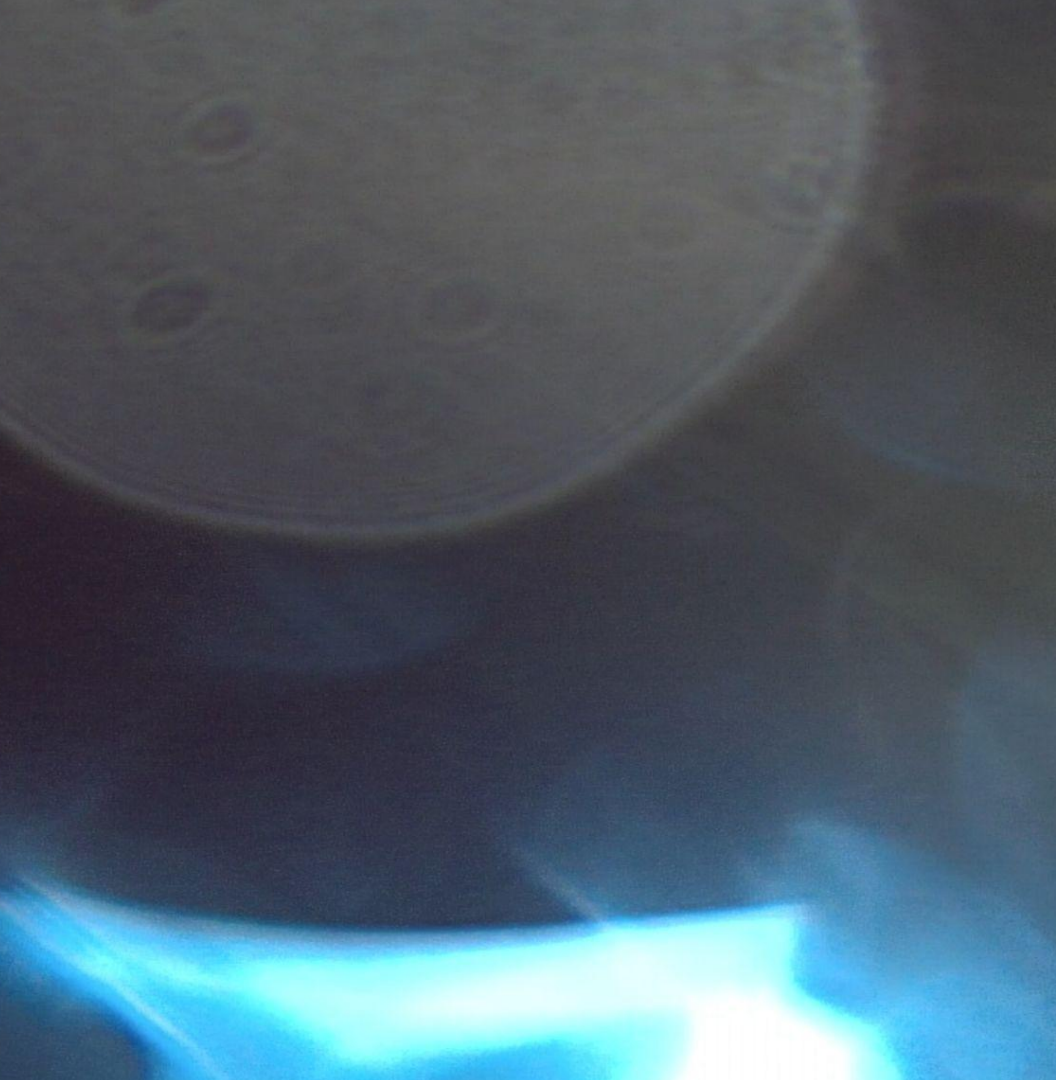


DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Made up of footage from my personal collection of over a thousand videos, the film is a patient and curious look at the things humans have built on this earth, as well as the things they have chosen to position their cameras towards.

All of the footage captured and used in this film is inherently silent. Aurally, the film is composed of the fictional worlds and activities imagined by sound designer Ines Adriana and me. Each moment caught on camera has been expanded beyond the frame with surround sound: children play offscreen behind us, a couple fights in a house to our right, a man plays guitar in the distance to our left, as just a few examples. We were so excited at the opportunity to design fiction within a documentary film, and found that the limits of the static frame propelled us to use our constraints towards broadening each scene and deepening each moment. In expanding the viewer's experience beyond the film's aspect ratio, and beyond what they can see on screen, we manage to maintain that very human experience of observing something – and wanting to observe something – which is always just a little bit out of our reach. As one might feel when overhearing a conversation, or catching a passing glimpse: some of the information is there, and the rest must be imagined.





I believe that when a work invites a viewer's subjectivity into the experience – little bits of their own imagination informed by their own world – the viewer is then given the ability to feel the work deeply, viscerally, in their own unique way. In this way, I've been intrigued by the possibilities for subjective experience that arise from the *absence of information*, as in the unseen sounds used all throughout this film. Is it possible that the less we know, the more we feel?

All footage in this film has been collected with a strict respect for personal privacy, focusing mostly on wide frames of infrastructure or objects, of ways of living on the earth as it shifts from country to country and culture to culture. A specific focus is placed on frames which are simply beautiful: how exciting, that the surveilling of property could yield a perfect frame, and capture the changing of light at just the right time, with just the right angle, the right warmth, the right flare in the lens.

As we move from season to season, we bear witness to the flow of time and the ephemerality of each captured moment. And we feel this sense of momentum alongside the feeling of being at home, as members of the community of earthlings.





JOËLE WALINGA DIRECTOR

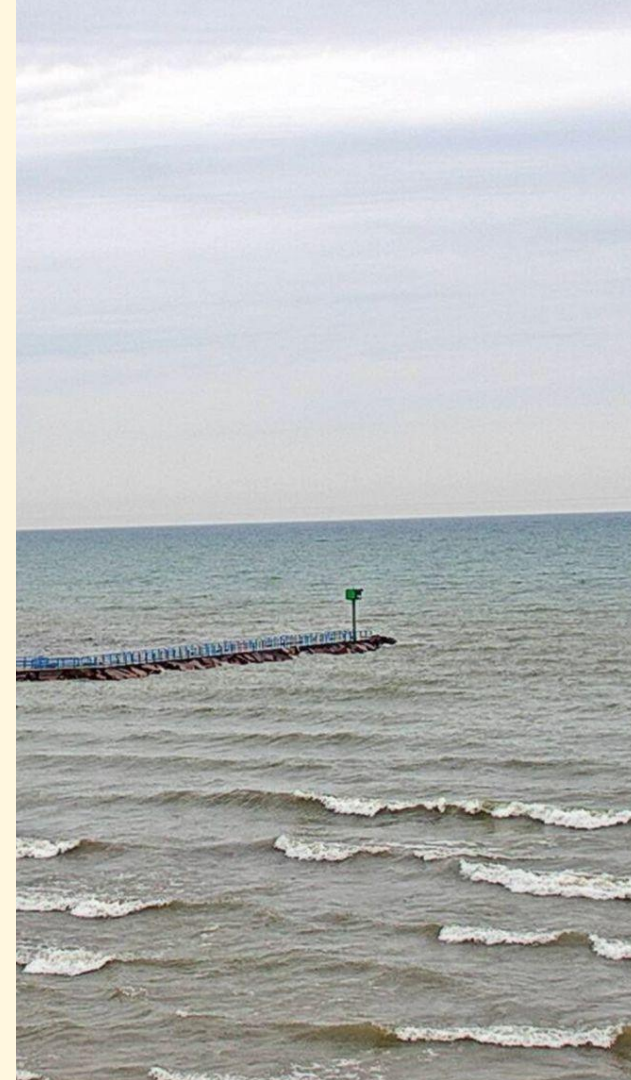
Joële Walinga is a Canadian artist and filmmaker of French and Dutch descent. She studied intermedia at **NSCAD University** and **Concordia University**, but was unable to afford tuition and quit in her second year.

Walinga's work has been shown at the **Art Gallery of Ontario**, **International Short Film Festival Oberhausen**, **SXSW Film Festival**, **Gallery 44 Centre for Contemporary Photography**, **DOXA Documentary Film Festival**, the **Cinémathèque Québécoise**, and **Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival** among others, and is available at the **Canadian Filmmakers Distribution Centre** and online at **Doc Alliance Films**. She is an alumna of the 2021 **Berlin International Film Festival's** talent development programme **Berlinale Talents**. She has been awarded several grants from the **Toronto Arts Council**, the **Ontario Arts Council**, and the **Canada Council for the Arts**. Her second feature film "Self-Portrait" has its world premiere in the **Visions** section of the **SXSW Film Festival** in March 2022.

SOFT STUDIO PRODUCTION COMPANY

Soft Studio is an independent Canadian production company of film and video art, founded by artist and filmmaker Joële Walinga. The company is named for those ideas that only come when you're lying in bed, in what Walinga refers to as her "soft studio".

"Self-Portrait" is Soft Studio's first official production, premiering at the **SXSW Film Festival** in March 2022, with the support of **Telefilm Canada** and the **Canada Council for the Arts**.









CAST, CREW, TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Director, producer, editor: JOËLE WALINGA
Sound design: INES ADRIANA
Music: CARL DIDUR, ALICIA NAUTA
MIHARU KOSHI, HARUOMI HOSONO

“SELF-PORTRAIT”

Documentary
Canada
2022
68'
Colour/B&W
Digital 4K
Sound: 5.1
No dialogue

PRESS AGENT

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SOFT STUDIO PRODUCTIONS

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