

ART from ESLEWHERE: Mexico City
The MOMENTUM Collection at LAGOS

NINA E. SCHÖNEFELD



B. T. R. [BORN TO RUN] (2020), HD Video with sound 20'3"

Video and installation artist Nina E. Schönefeld critiques the contemporary social and political climate, exploring the relationship between art, popular culture and mass media in the present digital age. Her stories imagine a near future of all too possible dystopias where, due to drastic political shift, we need to fight for our basic democratic rights. *B.T.R.* is set in the year 2043 in a dystopian future of authoritarian autocracies and restrictions on journalism, where data is the most valuable asset on earth, and authoritarian right-wing governments have implemented youth education camps to gain power and influence. The film's hero, SKY, grew up in one such education camp,

WHITE ROCK. Knowing nothing about her parents she begins to research her heritage, getting in touch with a group of independent journalists and publishers, the most persecuted people on earth, threatened by prison and death every day. In this allegory of a not far-distant future, it seems that freedom of speech is lost forever. The video *B.T.R.* is intended as a preventative measure against such dystopias. It was created as a film of the future but has its roots in the present. It is based on detailed research on Julian Assange and Edward Snowden; on Cambridge Analytica and the pervasive power of data mining; on the crucial role of investigative journalism and the need for freedoms of the press; on the stories of deserters from the far-right.; and on the growing strength of far-right movements around the world, which leads Schönefeld to draw frightening parallels with conditions which led to the rise of Fascism in Germany in the 1920s.



***WHY DO WE KILL* (2022). HD Video with sound, single-channel version of 3-channel video installation, 6'39"**

Nina E. Schönefeld's new work was created in response to the outbreak of war in Ukraine, which is still ongoing at the time of this exhibition. This work is a visually and

aurally striking reflection on mankind's oxymoronic capacity to comingle beauty and violence, strength and frailty, humanity and inhumanity.

ARTIST STATEMENT:

W H Y D O W E K I L L is a video project that is a direct reaction to the situation we are facing in times of war. It is about the feeling of constant insecurity and a panicky, invisible threat. Images of a dancer and various quotes from different sources on the subject of violence are condensed into a kind of collage to create a feeling of our worst nightmares.

Violence is the use of force to injure, abuse, damage, or destroy. It is "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, which either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development, or deprivation." Alternatively, violence can primarily be classified as either instrumental or reactive and hostile. Unlike the other two broad categories, the subcategories of collective violence suggest possible motives for violence committed by larger groups of individuals or by states. Collective violence that is committed to advance a particular social agenda include crimes of hate committed by organized groups, terrorist acts and mob violence. Political violence includes war and related violent conflicts, state violence and similar acts carried out by armed groups. Slow violence is a long-duration form of violence which is often invisible, such as environmental degradation, pollution and climate change.

The complex theme of violence is connected to a systemic problem of the world. The principle of constant economic growth, combined with globalization, is creating a scenario where we could see a systemic collapse of our planet's natural resources. Capitalism is inherently exploitative, alienating, unstable, unsustainable, and inefficient and it creates massive economic inequality, commodifies people, degrades the environment, is anti-democratic, and leads to an erosion of human rights because of its incentivization of imperialist expansion and war. W H Y D O W E K I L L ?

- *Nina E. Schönefeld*



Nina E. Schönefeld (b. 1972 in Berlin, Germany. Lives and works in Berlin and Ibiza, Spain.)

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Interdisciplinary video artist Nina E. Schönefeld studied at the University of Arts in Berlin (UDK) and at the Royal College of Art in London. In addition to her visual art practice, she is a lecturer in Fine Art at various private art colleges. Together with Marina Wilde she founded "Last Night In Berlin" a cultural platform documenting art openings in Berlin. She holds a Master of Arts and a PhD in Art Theory (Dr. Phil.). Schönefeld is half Polish and half German. Critiquing the contemporary social and political climate, the future scenarios in her art works are closely linked to current political, ecological and social issues in the world. Her sculptures and set designs for her video installations are composed of various light sources, sound systems, electronic machines, costumes, interiors and video projections. Through the use of these unusual mediums, objects and videos, Schönefeld questions the contemporary roles of artists, exploring the relationship between art, blockbuster movies and the present digital age. Her stories imagine a dystopian world where, due to drastic political and environmental shift, we need to fight for our democratic rights and survival.

Recent exhibitions include, in 2022: Video Installation @Habibi Kiosk, Münchner Kammerspiele / Art Speaks Out @COP27, EGYPT @Ikono TV / TRILOGY OF TOMORROW @Haus am Lützowplatz / Sirens are calling from the shadows @A:D:CURATORIAL Gallery / OH MY DATA @Diskurs Gallery Berlin / HAZE CITY @Artspring-Festival in Berlin / A portrait of Spirits @Berlin Bark Gallery. In 2021: Facing New Challenges: Cities @Heidelberger Kunstverein, Heidelberg, Germany / States Of Emergency @MOMENTUM, Kunstquartier Bethanien, Berlin / DECEMBER'S CHILDREN @Lage Egal, Berlin / Corona Culture @Alte Münze, Berlin / The Circle @CICA MUSEUM, Gyeonggi-Do, Korea / Gods & Monsters @Kunstverein Familie Montez, Frankfurt a.M., Germany / SWAB Barcelona Art Fair 2021 (Lage Egal), Barcelona, Spain / Seoul International ALT Cinema & Media Arts Festival (NeMaf), Seoul, Korea / HER Power @Art Life Foundation, Hong Kong, China / Embark @129 GALLERY (Western Comfort Boat), Berlin / Points of Resistance @Zionskirche (MOMENTUM / KleinerVonWiese



Gallery), Berlin / SIGNALE @ARTSPRING-Festival in Berlin / Roppongi Art Night @Roppongi Art Festival, Tokyo, Japan. In 2020: Facing New Challenges: Water @Heidelberger Kunstverein, Heidelberg, Germany / DIGITAL S3CR3TS @Die Digitale, Weltkunstzimmer, Düsseldorf, Germany / At the Limit @Kunsthalle Bratislava Museum, Slovakia / Boxenstopp @KWADRAT Gallery, Berlin / Beyond Elysium @Kleiner Von Wiese Galerie, Berlin / Something True @Schau Fenster, Berlin / #Payetonconfinement @Galerie la Pierre Large, Strasbourg, France / COVIDecameron @ MOMENTUM / Kunstquartier Bethanien, Berlin / N.O R.O.C.2.3. @Contemplatio Art, Germany / L'Artiste Et Les Commissaires @Lage Egal, Berlin. In 2019: L.E.O.P.A.R.T. @Philipp Haverkamp Galerie, Berlin / Trilogy of Tomorrow @Galerie la Pierre Large, Strasbourg, France / Show Me Your Selfie @Aram Art Museum, Seoul, South Korea / Salon Hansa: InterINTIMES AutoPORTRAIT @Lachenmann Art Konstanz, Germany & Frankfurt/Main, Germany / SHOW ME YOUR SELFIE @DISKURS Gallery, Berlin / Topographies of The Stack @Alternative Culture Making Art Space, Shenzhen, China / Water(Proof) @Federation Square, Melbourne, VIC Australia / Zeit, sich zu berauschen @Salon Gallery, Berlin / +1 @Safe Gallery, Berlin / Water(proof) @ MOMENTUM / Kunstquartier Bethanien, Berlin / Anima Mundi Festival 2019 – Consciousness @Palazzo Ca' Zanardi, Venice, Italy / Anima Mundi Arts Festival @THE ROOM Contemporary Art Space, Venice, Italy / Il est temps de s'enivrer @Bamhaus Luxembourg, Luxembourg / Kommunizierende Röhren 2 @Salon Rene Holm, Berlin / Mitte Media Festival 2019, Berlin / Light Year 48: Digital Fairy Tales: Vengeance is Mine @Manhattan Bridge / The Leo Kuelbs Collection, New York, U.S. / Digital Fairy Tales: Vengeance is Mine @Made In NY Media Center by IFP, New York City, U.S. / ? Art Is My Revenge @Lage Egal, Berlin / Villa Heike & Other Stories @Villa Heike, Berlin / #Notsoawhitecube @Lage Egal, Berlin. And many more.