

“Sometimes it’s the Great Silence of Outer Space”

by

Martijn van Mierlo

Sometimes it’s the Great Silence of Outer Space is a short visual novel (3’10”) based on Ingmar Bergman’s *Scenes from a Marriage*.

Synopsis and film structure

Film is a short visual novel, wherein a voice-over functions as the narrator of the story. Narrating the relationship between two individuals, having utopian ideas towards their relationship, but having to face a more grim reality.

Visually this film is build up from found footage material. However the maker doesn’t consider this material as ‘found footage’, rather an exercise of re-using existing material and creating new images, and narratives with materials being made already. Using digital technics with help of a computer and connection to the world wide web to (re-)create imagery instead of using a actually recording device likewise; camera and audio recording equipment. Using of the computer and internet as an device to (re)capture images. Re-using, re-editing, reframing and re-contextualising these material is both a move forward in the future of image making and filmmaking as well a very efficient working process with a great feeling for sustainability.

Synopsis

In the first shot we see a abstract images of a scale model of the Twin Towers which represent the indestructible couple and sets the date back to 1973 (year of official opening of WTC in New York and first screening of Bergman’s *Scenes From a Marriage*).

In the last shots we see one of the works of Constant Nieuwenhuys (1920-2005) a dutch artist/architect. The image reference to the concept of ‘utopia’ as well in the philosophy and architecture as the utopian way of thinking we know from being in a relationship.

Instead of using only black and white imagery, which Bergman admires so much, I used colored images, however the colored part is all in red and is still monochrome in a sense. The color red symbolizes love, passion and desire.

A combination between some more literally and very illustrative references and a certain abstraction in this film have a close relation with the poetic language of classical novels. Thus this film ‘reads’ as a visual novel there it is detailed yet room for imagination. The viewer (or reader) is in sense engaged in the story by his or her imagination reflection upon the story, and taking a role in this film. Inspiration, starting point & motivation

The second part of the first scene of Ingmar Bergman’s *scenes from a marriage* formed the inspiration for this short film. Important themes in Bergman’s work are; loneliness caused by lack of communication between people, loneliness in general, somberness. Especially man’s inability to communicate on a deeper sense and miscommunication between people is a constantly recurring theme in his works.

Those themes aren’t only well connected with each other and very common in Bergman’s oeuvre but can also literary be found in this particular scene of the script from *scenes from a marriage*.

Some quotes out the script will illustrated that;

"MARIANNE They don't speak the same language. They must translate into a third language they both understand in order to get each other's meaning."

"....We talk everything over and we understand each other instantly. We speak the same language. That's why we have such a good relationship."

"MARIANNE If they spoke the same language and trusted each other, as we do....."

(Scenes From a Marriage, scene one, p.26-27)

Bergman also uses semiotic and symbolism in his work. Many of Bergman's films (although not the case with *Scenes from a Marriage*) are shot in black and white, Bergman praises black and white films "giving the spectator the opportunity to "voir les couleurs" in his or her own imagination". It shapes freedom for the spectator to fill in parts of the story themselves by using his or her own imagination and emotions.

Bergman considered his works as art, films are not made to merely entertain the spectator, Bergman believes the audience got to put effort in understanding the story while he or she is being in the role of spectator.

A concept used by many other artist in the past and still actively used in many contemporary (experimental) cinema. Thus a philosophy and concept which brought up using Bergman's *Scenes from a Marriage* as a starting point for this film.

Credits and technical aspects

A film by Martijn van Mierlo

Voice over by Jason Edwards

special thanks to: Noud Heerkens, Nikos Kostopolous and Matija Pekic

Full HD digital video (1920 x 1080) 25 fps

Stereo sound

Language: English spoken / no subtitles.

Duration: 3 min 10 sec (3'10")

Film Trailer / Teaser:

<https://vimeo.com/164233539>

(meant for public sharing and use as advertising)





Sometimes it's the Great Silence of Outer Space

A Short Visual Novel by Martijn van Mierlo



Curriculum Vitae artist

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Education

2015- Ma of Fine Arts in Photography AKV St.Joost Breda
2011-2015 BDes Photography University of the Arts Utrecht

Internships (& assistant)

2014 Annegien van Doorn
2014 Jan Adriaans
2014 Paradox

Publications

2015 Voortuin, Issue: 'Ikke' Voortuin Magazine#25
2015 Platform Platvorm, First Issue
2014 Vitale Stad, Elba Media magazine
2012 Mt.Figure, Issue#1 Ilussion
2012 .Unst, Hku magazine

Exhibitions

2016 Sometimes it's the Great Silence of Outer Space | Film screening | Eye museum for film | Amsterdam | The Netherlands | Group exhibition

2016 Study into Silence (Installation - draft#1) | (Pop-up) De Blofte 11 | Kunstliefde | Utrecht | Netherlands | Group exhibition

2015 Travelling Without Moving; a study room (Installation)| Fotofestival Schiedam | Schiedam | The Netherlands | Group exhibition

2015 Sunlight in Empty Rooms (video installation) | Chambres de Schie, Fotofestival Schiedam | Schiedam | The Netherlands | Group exhibition

2015 Sunlight in Empty Rooms (video installation) | NFF byob | Tivoli Vredenburg | Utrecht | The Netherlands | Group exhibition

2015 Travelling Without Moving (Installation) | In Other Words Graduation show | University of the Arts Utrecht | The Netherlands | Group exhibition

2015 Travelling Without Moving (ed. Print) | Bart Invites | Amsterdam | The Netherlands | Group exhibition

2014 Flow (Interactive Install.) | Academie Gallery HKU | Utrecht | The Netherlands | Group exhibition

2013 ICE (ed. Print) | Alchemie concept store Hoog Catharijne | Utrecht | The Netherlands | Group exhibition

2012 Raamsdonk (series) | Townhall | Raamsdonksveer | The Netherlands | Solo