

# 12 Moons Film Lounge

## 1st Moon: In the Beginning, the Mothers 17/01 – 14/02/2018

The first cycle of the program *12 Moons* is dedicated to the relationships between the filmmakers, the protagonists and their mothers.

*When I hear the deepest truths I speak coming out of my mouth sounding like my mother's, even remembering how I fought against her, I have to reassess both our relationship as well as the sources of my knowing.*

Audre Lorde

Culturally, the figure of the *Mother* functions as a multifarious and reductive screen of projection. She serves as a symbolic placeholder for the nation-state or as an allegory for failed attempts at overcoming the Oedipal complex. She becomes the epitome of 'authentic femininity', while her sexual desire is being negated. She is a metaphor for nature and socialization at the same time. The history of film offers myriads of such stylized representations – ranging from the glorification of the Mother to her demonization.

Mothers\* are subjected to an unrealistic multitude of attributions and ascribed duties that force her into positions so demanding that all those involved are inevitably doomed to fail. In turn, the mother\*-child relationship can be one of the most crucial relationships in our lives. Yet, it is also the first relationship to get hurt in our current social structure. There cannot be a "good" mother\* amidst wrongs. Wounds remain.

The first cycle attends to these wounds. The program presents five powerful films from various parts of the world: the filmmakers negotiate their relationships with their mothers, share their experiences and offer insights into their emotional worlds. The results are mementos, both tender and skeptical, encounters with complex beings, both alien and familiar. In their attempt at creating mutual understanding, these films demonstrate the vulnerability of daughters and mothers alike with high sensitivity and disarming honesty.

The camera becomes a tool for creating professional distance, while also serving as a portal into intimate worlds, enabling the filmmakers to reflect on their daughterhood: their desire for autonomy and boundaries as well as their yearning for recognition. Different life plans compete, things unspoken come to light, moments of reconciliation and intimacy are followed by moments of distancing. Greater societal issues always resonate from these tangible mother-daughter conflicts.

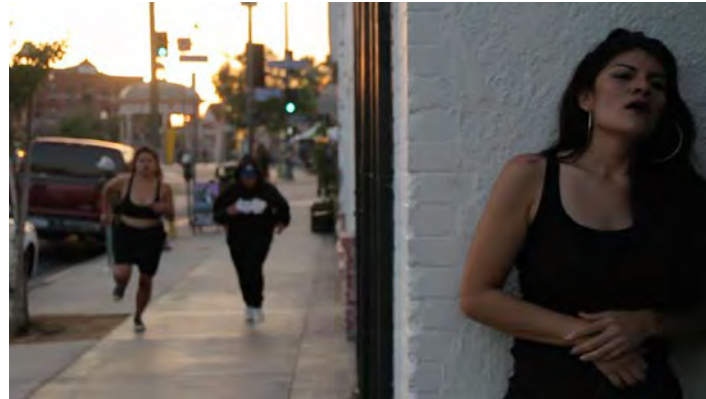
The filmmakers have found their own ways of confronting their biographies and of working through them. Their film making process has brought them closer to themselves and enabled them to step into their personal as well as political power. With their courageous films, they invite us to look deeper into our own *mother wound* or to see it in an entirely new light.

## 1st Moon: In the Beginning, the Mothers

17/01 – 14/02/2018

### Film selection

3 films as projection, looped



#### **Matriarchy**

Rosa Navarrete & Patricia Zamorano  
USA, 2017  
10'

Language: English, Spanish

A non-linear poetry-short film about a defiant Chicana struggling between her life of crime and becoming her family's next matriarch in times of her mother's illness.

Official selection, Chicano International Film Festival 2017



#### **Mothership Goes To Brazil**

Josefin Arnell  
Sweden/Netherlands, 2016  
27'

Language: Swedish with English subtitles

From a Swedish burned down forest Josefin brings Mothership (her own mother) to the spiritual town Abadiania in Brazil to meet John of God - one of the most famous healers in the world. But when they arrive, John of God has been hospitalised. A mother-

daughter-relation, infected by alcoholism, codependency and love.

Premiere at the International Documentary Festival  
Amsterdam 2016 – PARADOCS & Amsterdam Art Weekend



#### **Ri Chang Dui Hua – Small Talk**

Hui-Chen Huang  
Taiwan, 2016  
88'

Language: Taiwanese with English subtitles

It is considered taboo in Taiwanese culture to question a mother's love. Anu is a tomboy and since her marriage to her abusive ex-husband, the father of her two daughters, her only romantic relationships have been with women. Mother and daughter set off on a journey together into the past during which Anu is confronted with questions that have tormented her daughter for years. The two women discuss loneliness, trust and abuse, yet most of these discussions end in painful silence. Hui-Chen Huang paints a picture of the changing lives and conditions of three generations of women in Taiwan.

Best Documentary, 31st Teddy Award  
Official Selection (Panorama), 67th Berlinale  
Official Selection, 53rd Golden Horse Film Festival  
Nomination Best Documentary, 53rd Golden Horse Film Festival  
Best Editing, 53rd Golden Horse Film Festival

2 films on monitors, looped



#### **Mothers – 4 Pieces**

Michaela Schäuble, Nan Mellinger,  
Sandra Kulbach, Johanna Straub  
Germany, 2006  
58'

Language: German

The four-part documentary joins the four life plans of very different women around the age of sixty. The film shows the varying, at times connective biographical search of four daughters that try to paint a picture of their own mothers and the relationship to them. The combination of the episodes expands the project to a portrait of a generation. A portrait about biographies and living realities of women, whose influence on society - not in regard of their profession, but as mothers educating their daughters - is as fundamental as it is invisible and silent.

Funded by Berliner Senatsverwaltung für Wissenschaft,  
Forschung und Kultur, Künstlerinnenprogramm 2005  
Nomination Best medium-length Documentary, Hot Docs  
International Documentary Film Festival 2007  
Förderpreis of Thüringer Staatskanzlei, film/video tage  
Koblenz 2007



#### **I Am**

Sonali Gulati  
India, 2011  
71'

Language: English and Hindi with English subtitles

*I Am* chronicles the journey of an Indian, lesbian filmmaker who returns to Delhi, eleven years later, to finally confront the loss of her mother whom she never came out to. She speaks to parents of other homosexual Indians and pieces together the fabric of what family truly means, in a landscape where being gay was a criminal and punishable offence until recently (editor's note: and again is). With courage, determination, and humour, families share untold stories that have thus far remained in the realm of secrecy and silence.

Grand Jury Award – Best Documentary Feature, Indian Film  
Festival of Los Angeles  
Audience Award – Best Documentary, Philadelphia Asian  
American Film Festival  
Best Documentary Feature, Asian Film Festival of Dallas  
Audience Award, Asian Film Festival of Dallas  
Best Documentary, Fargo-Moorehead LGBT Film Festival  
Best Documentary, Queer Lisboa Film Festival  
Best Gay/Lesbian, Great Lakes International Film Festival  
Special Jury Award, Kashish Film Festival Mumbai  
Jury Prize – Best Documentary, image+nation, Montréal LGBT  
Film Festival  
Audience Award – Best Documentary, Bangalore Queer Film  
Festival  
Jury Prize – Best Documentary, Long Island Gay and Lesbian  
Film Festival

## 12 Moons

### A year-long program featuring films by feminist filmmakers and video artists

For *12 Moons*, one of the exhibition rooms at Schwules Museum is transformed into a film lounge inviting visitors to encounter various cinematic formats and international (queer) feminist positions. The film lounge is open during regular Museum opening hours, with each new moon initiating a new program cycle.

The series is a yearlong intervention against the underrepresentation of women's\* perspectives, specifically in media and museum contexts, but also in the arts and society overall. Month by month, the screenings raise questions about the construction and communication of forms of *femininity\_ies*, and also gauge the potential of an alternative gaze.

In search of classics in lesbian and feminist film history, of contemporary queer positions and of the voices of women\* of color, we will turn to the OWLs (Older Wiser Lesbians) and talk to experts of porn film. We will dig through archives and visit festivals and ask the communities about the stories that need to be seen and heard.

The selected films provide insights into everyday lives and desires, they question relationship structures and power constellations. A critical eye is cast on societal pressures, while times of uprising and resistance against coercive gender norms offer inspiration. The utopian concepts and moments of healing emerging from the selected films are testimonies to the global struggles of women\* for respect, self-determination and spaces to unfold.

*12 Moons* is funded by the Senate Department for Culture and Europe as part of the project *Year of the Women\**.

#### Team

Curator: Vera Hofmann

Assistance: Felix Roadkill

Scenography with Carolin Gießner and Théo Demans

**Sun, Mon, Wed & Fri: 2-6pm,  
Thu: 2-8pm, Sat: 2-7pm,  
Tue: closed**

**7,50 € (4 € reduced)**

**+49 (0)30 69 59 90 50  
schwulesmuseum.de**