



12 Moons Film Lounge

6th Moon: 13.6.-12.7.

Queer Classics

Monika Treut's view on the sexual avant-garde

For more than 30 years, Monika Treut has carried out sexual-politically pioneering work through the medium of film. After being misunderstood and reviled in Germany in the 1980's, Treut emigrated to the US where she joined a unique feminist, sexpositive, and genderfluid community in San Francisco and in New York City. It was her films about and with such communities that became the works that have shaped feminist and lesbian-queer film history like *Virgin Machine* and *My Father is Coming*.

Treut returned to Germany and has since been celebrated for her work and honored with prizes. Work trips took her to Brazil and Taiwan, where she produced documentary and feature films such as *Warrior of Light* and *Ghosted*. Not losing her sense of humor in times of setbacks has always been one of Treut's strengths. Only her latest film *Gendernauts Revisited*, from which we planned to screen unpublished footage in our *12 Moons Film Lounge*, had to be postponed because of financial difficulties. As a member of *Pro Quote Film*, Treut has been engaged in the strive for diversified film funding committees and equally shared budgets.

In the 6th program of the *12 Moons*, we show a selection of documentary films from Treut's extensive work and focus on her passion for strong and resistant characters. We meet individualists who create their own versions of feminism, who pursue their sexual and physical self-determination with willpower and who are utterly committed to their values and beliefs.

In her film **Gendernauts** (1999), Treut meets the "gender mixers" and "sexual cyborgs" who are changing their bodies with the help of new technologies and biochemical processes, leaving binary gender categories behind. In this documentary, Treut follows her friends—a group of artists—into their cosmos of 90s San Francisco, the then hub of the LGBTQIA+ movement. An up-to-the-minute contribution to biopolitics and rights about one's own body.

In contrast is Camille Paglia, "anti-feminist" (ascription) feminist and American professor of cultural studies who developed her own theory on the connection between sexuality and violence, nature and culture. She claims that no one "escapes their hormonal identity." Currently her work and her persona are back in the debate about a legal dispute over the translation of her book *Free Women, Free Men* in the new-right *Antaios Publishing House*. The short film about the controversial **Dr. Paglia** (1992) provides insights into the psyche and desires of this uncompromising woman.

Eva Norvind also cuts her own path uncompromisingly. The documentary **Didn't Do It For Love** (1997) traces Eva's showgirl success in Paris and Québec, her blonde sex-bomb career in the Mexican film business, her work as a photographer and journalist, as well as her role as a dominatrix and later into a graduate SM educator in New York. She is portrayed into a cool machismo superwoman and a raving self-promoter. But the gaze also falls on the fragile moments in which Eva admits her failure and in which her life breaks new grounds. Treut calls her film the "story of an odyssey through the wilderness of sexuality", *Blickpunkt Film* "searching for clues in the boundaries of sexual pathological feminism", Emily Barton of *Time Out, New York* calls Norvind a "great contemporary revolutionary". A dense, unbiased portrait of an extraordinary life.



Gendernauts

Monika Treut
Germany, 1999, 86 Min.
English with German Subtitles



Dr. Paglia

Monika Treut
Germany, 1992, 23 Min.
English with German Subtitles

Didn't Do It For Love

Monika Treut
Germany, 1997, 80 Min.
English with German subtitles

Event:

21. June, 7pm

Talk with Monika Treut

and a screening of *Dr. Paglia*

Moderator: Vera Hofmann



12 Moons

A year-long program featuring films

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 under-representation 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

Engl. proofreading: Hannah Curran-Troop

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)

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schwulesmuseum.de**