

Cynthia Madansky

Filmography

Cynthia Madansky is a multi-disciplinary artist with a major concentration in film and video. She works with 16mm, super 8 and video, creating films and videos which integrate hybrid forms and traditions including experimental tropes, cinema verité, scripted narrative, ethnographic observation and dance and performance. Her work engages with cultural and political themes, such as identity, nationalism, the transgression of borders, displacement, nuclear arms and war, foregrounding the human experience and personal testimony. Madansky is interested in portraying the consequences of politics on the daily lives of individuals, focusing on issues of US foreign intervention and interrogating the concept of personal and national accountability.

Over a period of thirty years she has produced films that have been presented as single channel films and multi-screen installations and projections. Her films have screened at international museums, art spaces and festivals including the Museum of Modern Art, Walker Art Museum, Istanbul Modern, MAXXI, The Rotterdam Film Festival, The Berlinale, Margaret Mead Film Festival, Cinema du Réel, Oberhausen, Transmediale, Viennale, San Francisco International Film Festival, Homeworks Beirut as well as at universities and colleges.

www.madansky.com

[Read about films here](#)

[See films here](#)

Grants (last 5 years)

Foundation for Arts Initiatives, 2022

MacDowell Artist Residency, 2021

Wurlitzer Foundation, Taos, NM, 2020

Fulbright Fellowship, 2018-19

Lightworks Grant, 2018

NYSCA, 2017

Lightworks Grant, 2017

Guggenheim Fellowship, 2017

CES, Fellowship, St. Petersburg, Russia

Wurlitzer Foundation, Taos, NM, 2017

Rome Prize, American Academy of Rome, 2015

Education

Mason Gross School of Fine Arts, Rutgers University, MFA, 1993

Whitney Independent Study Program, NYC, 1988

Cooper Union School of Art, NYC, 1987

Bezalel School of Art, Jerusalem, Israel, 1985-87

Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel, BSW, 1982

Teaching

Smolny State University, St. Petersburg, workshop 2018

American University in Cairo, workshop 2018

Hampshire College, Film and Video, Associate Professor, 2017-2018

Minot, State University, Film and Video Workshop, 2007

Polytechnic University, Undergraduate, Design,

2002-2005; Graduate New Media Program, 2003-2005

Rutgers The State University, Mason Gross School of Fine Arts, Undergraduate Design Studies, 1991-1995

Madansky / Filmography

page 2

2022

Index:Trace (work in progress)

Index:Trace is a film that portrays the past, present and future impacts of the nuclear fuel trajectory in all 50 states, — uranium mines, nuclear weapons, nuclear power and nuclear waste — as told by impacted communities, scientists and activists who are working together for nuclear abolition and environmental justice.

2021

Flowers for LH

16mm, 8 min.

A dance film that reflects on the last play written by Lorraine Hansberry entitled *What Use Are Flowers*.

2020

AA

16mm, 17 min.

Portrayal of the dream diaries and photography of Russian artist Anna Alchuk.

Kalan / What Remains

16mm, 15 min.

A dance film shot in Istanbul reflecting on excerpts from the novel *Kalan / What Remains* by Leyla Erbil.

ESFIR

16mm film, 70 min.

A feature length feminist interpretation of an unrealized experimental script entitled *Women* by Esfir Shub.

2018

KG

Super 8mm, 10 min.

A performance portrait shot in Athens, reflecting on poems from *Three Clicks Left* by the anarchist poet and actress Katerina Gogou.

Willie and Brewsie

16mm, 12 min.

A landscape film shot in the Northeast of the U.S., reflecting on the contemporary resonances of *Brewsie and Willie* written by Gertrude Stein.

2017

ḤARĀM

16mm, 47 min.

An essay film that reflects on sovereignty of the Haram Al-Sharif / Noble Sanctuary, in the Old City of Jerusalem in the context of the Third Temple movement.

GRACE + GRAVITY

16mm, 7 min.

A dance film reflecting excerpts from *Gravity and Grace* by Simone Weil.

A Portrait of Primo Levi

16 mm footage, 8 min.

Commissioned by the Centro Primo Levi, NY in honor of the publishing of a complete edition of his works translated into English.

The Hiroshima Panels Project

HD, 8 min.

A performance by Eiko Otake set against the backdrop of the Hiroshima Panels. Commissioned by the Hibakusha Stories.

2015

E42

16mm, 33 min.

Filmed at the EUR district in Rome, E42 reflects on Italian fascism, architecture and refugees.

Anna, Pina, Teresa

16mm, 6 min.

A dance film shot in the Sala Scherma in Rome, reinterpreting a pivotal scene in Rossellini's *Roma Città Aperta*.

Viva Agua

16mm, 12 min.

A performance film reflecting on excerpts from *Água Viva*, by Clarice Lispector.

2014

White Sands

16mm, 3 film projections, 8 min.

An experiential film installation about the nuclear legacy of New Mexico.

Dear

Super 8mm, 15 min.

A diary film portraying the friendship of two teenage girls living in Chinatown, New York.

Tarlabaşı

HD, 6 min.

A dance film responding to a state-sponsored urban renewal project of gentrification and dislocation in Istanbul.

If Not,

16mm, 15 min.

A live projection film shot in Ephesus, Turkey and the Gowanus, Brooklyn reflecting on poetry by Sapphos translated by Anne Carson.

2013

1+8 Installation

A custom made algorithmic eight-screen video installation about Turkey and her eight neighbors integrating the extensive archive of footage of landscapes, architecture, direct address interviews and performances from the bordertowns. Co-directed with Angelika Brudniak.

Madansky / Filmography

page 3

2012

1+8

HD, 131 min.

A feature film about Turkey and its unique geo-political position between East and West portraying the bordertowns that connect and separate Turkey and its eight neighbors: Greece, Bulgaria, Georgia, Armenia, Nakhchivan/Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq and Syria. Co-directed with Angelika Brudniak.

2011

Spellbeamed

16 mm, 13 min.

A hand painted 16mm film reflecting on notations from Walter Benjamin's archive. Commissioned by Zeena Parkins.

Blue

16mm, 6 projection installation, 3 min each.

Six short dance films reflecting on fashion, the sea and labor, shot in an old shipyard on the Golden Horn, Istanbul. Commissioned by Orta Anadolu.

Co-directed with Angelika Brudniak.

2009

Bubble

HD, 5 min.

A music video with Zeena Parkins and the Plastic Girls. Commissioned by Zeena Parkins. Co-directed with Angelika Brudniak.

2008

Minot, North Dakota

16 mm, video, 18 min.

A portrait of the U.S. Air Force base town guarding 150 nuclear missiles in northern North Dakota. Co-directed with Angelika Brudniak.

2007

Elle

16 mm, 15 min.

A dance portrait shot in Brooklyn, reflecting on movements of falling and getting up.

Alex & José

16 mm, 4 min.

A meditation on gender and the body.

Winter

Super 8mm, 7 min.

A portrait of winter shot in India, NY, Istanbul and in flight over Greenland.

2005-2006

The PSA Project No. 1-15

16 mm, Super 8 mm, video, 3 min. each

Public Service Announcement films protesting American troops in Iraq.

2004

Still Life

Super 8mm, 35mm print, 15 min.

Reflecting unflinchingly at the violence of war and occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

2003

Devotion

16 mm, 34 min.

A sparing and minimal meditation on the unraveling of a relationship.

2002

I Dream of the Bosphorous

HD, Installation, 15 min.

Portraits of the Bosphorous sea in winter.

2001

Past Perfect

16 mm, 43 min.

A meditation on the elusiveness of Jewish history set against the backdrop of contemporary Poland.

Ritual By Rote

Super 8, 5 min.

A portrayal of obsessive Jewish rituals.

1998

Treyf

16 mm, 54 min.

An unorthodox documentary by and about two Jewish lesbians speaking about queer Jewish identity. Co-directed with Alisa Lebow.

1995

Internal Combustion

Super 8mm, 8 min.

A portrayal addressing the silence surrounding lesbians and AIDS. Co-directed with Alisa Lebow.

1993

We At Her

Super 8mm, 8 min.

A portrait of a young woman.

1982

For Fairuz

Super 8mm, 8 min.

A portrait of one morning.

1979

On The Women's Question

16mm, 24 min.

An interpretation of the institution of marriage.

Madansky / Filmography

page 4

Retrospectives

MUSAC, Leon, Spain, 2014
La Enana Maron, Madrid, 2007
Yerba Buena Art Center, 2007
San Francisco Cinematheque, 2006

Collections

Still Life, Talents 3 DVD, The Art Video Collection, Paris.
PSA No. 11, For Life Against the War, Filmmakers
Cooperative, NYC.
The PSA Project, no. 1-15, compilation DVD,
Films for Peace, India

Reviews

Ilhan Ozan, *m-3*, Review of 1+8
Alisa Lebow, *Alt Yazı*, Review of 1+8
David Rakoff, Review of Past Perfect
Sobhi Zobeidi, *Asking All the Wrong Questions*, Art
School Palestine, Cinema Studies Conference, 2006
Alisa Lebow, First Person Jewish, 2007
Terri Ginzberg, Presentation on *Still Life*, MLA, 2007
Kamal Al Solaylee, Review of On the Jewish Question,
YYZ, 2001
Sue Wechter, "Offering Female Perspective",
University of Buffalo, Review of Devotion
Demokrasiyle Gelen Filmler, Culture and Art Section
of Haber, Istanbul
Lauren Berlant, *On the Desire for the Political*,
University of Chicago, 2008
James Wagner, Review of exhibition at Momenta
Gallery, 2001
Ori Z. Soltes, Jewish Artists on the Edge, review of
installation "On the Jewish Question", 1997

Exhibitions

MAXXI, Rome, 2016
Cinque Mostre, American Academy in Rome, 2015
MAXXI, Rome, 2014
Fridman Gallery, NYC, 2014
1+8, SALT, Istanbul, Turkey, 2013
Momenta Gallery, Brooklyn, NY, 2005
White Hot, Smack Melon Gallery, Brooklyn, NY, 2000
Jewish Artists on the Edge, Santa Fe, NM, 1999
On the Jewish Question, YYZ, Toronto, Canada, 1998
Here and Elsewhere, YYZ, Toronto, Canada, 1996
Update Exhibition, Copenhagen Denmark, 1995
Center for the Visual Arts, Denver, CO, 1994
Esperanza Gallery, San Antonio, TX, 1993
Zimmerli Museum, New Brunswick, NJ, 1993
National Gallery of Australia, Sydney, Australia, 1992
Artists Space, NYC, 1992
Salon Show, Art in General NYC, 1992
10 on 8 Installation, NYC, 1991
Cooper Union Houghton Gallery, NYC, 1989
Young NY Artists, Sala Mendoza, Venezuela, 1989
Whitney Independent Study Program, NYC, 1989
Maps and Madness, Bronx Council on the Arts, 1988
"New Work", Marine Midland Bank, NYC, 1987
"Queer Art", New Langton Arts, San Francisco, 1987
CUNY Graduate Center, NYC, 1987
LI University Gallery, NY, 1987
Houghton Gallery, Cooper Union, NYC, 1987

Presentations

Master Class, International Film Festival, 2015
MUSAC, Leon, Spain, 2014
Bilgi University, Istanbul, Turkey, 2013
Escola Tècnica Superior d'Arquitectura del Vallès,
Barcelona, Spain, 2007
Society for Cinema Studies Conference, Chicago, 2007
Minot State University, ND, 2007
Trivandrum Art School, Kerala, India, 2006
NYU Film School, NY, 2005

Oberlin College, OH, 2005
Hunter College, NY, 2005
San Francisco Art Institute, CA, 2005
Art Institute of Chicago, IL, 2005
California College of Design, CA, 2005
Hamilton College, NY, 2002
Rutgers University, NJ, 1995

Residencies

MacDowell Artist Residency, 2021
Wurlitzer Foundation, Taos, NM, 2017, 2020
Fulbright Fellowship, 2018-19
Lightworks Grant, 2018
NYSCA, 2017
Lightworks Grant, 2017
Guggenheim Fellowship, 2017
CES, Fellowship, St. Petersburg, Russia
Rome Prize, American Academy of Rome, 2015
Art Omi, NY, 2014
NYSCA, 1998, 1999, 2011, 2014
Art Matters, 2011, 1990, 1989
NYSCA, 2011
NYSCA, 2009
North Dakota Historical Society Grant, 2006
NYSCA, 2006
Santa Fe Art Institute, Artist Residency, 2006
Jerome Foundation, 1997, 2004
Experimental Television Center Grant, 2004
Ucross Foundation, Artist Residency, 2000
National Foundation for Jewish Culture, 1997
New York Foundation for the Arts, 1997
Vito Russo Award, 1996
Paul Robeson Funding Exchange, 1995
Astraea Foundation, 1995