

## Bettina Hoffmann - Bio

Bettina Hoffmann's work is located at the intersection of photography, film, sculpture, dance and theatre. She is choreographing and filming interactions of people to create video tableaux and performances to examine mechanisms of social relations, conflict and communication. Her focus is on body movements, subtle gestures, distance and proximity between people. She is interested in ambiguous movements and actions that shift from caring to violence and vice versa.

To develop work, she is experimenting with movement improvisations based on simplified everyday situations. Sometimes she introduces rules that dictate or restrict a participant's use of specific body parts, which leads towards unusual, and sometimes unsettling and contradictory movements. She employs verticality and horizontality of people's bodies to investigate power and vulnerability. The ability to move either independently or only with the help of others, demonstrates the integral role that interdependence plays within a contemporary socio-political system.

She is using office attire to uniform the actors/dancers, thus reflecting on societal codes while creating a stark contrast between appearance of normality and their weird actions.

Using cinematographic techniques such as close-up, slow motion, repetition (looping) and unusual camera perspectives and movements, she is interrogating notions of subjectivity, interiority and exteriority, and the construction of reality.

Hoffmann's work was exhibited in Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, United Kingdom, Rumania, South Korea, Japan, USA and Canada.

Solo exhibitions include *Choreography of Movements*, Goethe Institut Montreal, 2019, *Touch at Occurrence*, 2016, *Drain* at Oboro, Montreal, 2014, *Émile*, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, 2009, *Décalage* at Prefix Institute of Contemporary Art, Toronto, Kristi Engel Gallery, Los Angeles 2008, *Mois de la Photo à Montréal*, 2007.

Her videos were presented at film festivals + video art fairs internationally, e.g. *L'atypique trouble*, *Traverse Vidéo*, Toulouse, France, *Video Art Award* at Sculpture Museum Marl, Germany, *Crossroads*, Cinematheque San Francisco, USA, *Movement on Screen*, Liverpool, UK, *Document*, European Media Art Festival, Osnabrück, Germany, and several times at the *VAD* video festival, Girona, Spain during which she received a special award. Her performances were presented at the Darling Foundry, Tangente and Occurrence in Montreal and several venues in Tokyo.

Her work is in several private and public collections in both North America and Europe. e.g. the Museum of Contemporary Photography in Chicago, The Audrey and Sydney Irmas Collection, Los Angeles, Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, Musée national des beaux-arts de Québec, Berlinische Galerie in Berlin.

Hoffmann received a Master of Fine Arts degree from Hochschule der Künste, Berlin and attended the California Institute of the Arts and the Rijksakademie van beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam.