

YouTube birth video screening and panel discussion

Saturday 21 September 2013, 7pm

GV Art gallery, London
@GV_Art



Helen Knowles, 'Раждане с оргазъм' 'Birth with Orgasm I',
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kbp3iff50Oc> 2012

Social media websites have heralded an unprecedented wealth of homemade visual birth imagery. Accompanied by extensive personal correspondence between women, keen to share their knowledge and experience of birth, this online footage makes public what is often regarded as a private event: how does this alter our understanding of birth and our bodies and birth aesthetics? Join Helen Knowles, artist and curator, who will present the background to YouTube Portraits and screen some of the footage which she has appropriated for the series; Lisa Baraitser, Feminist writer, psychotherapist and Reader in Psychosocial Studies; Sarah Schmid, YouTube birth film maker, who will explain why she decided to make her film of her unassisted birth 'Alleingebort' and post it on YouTube and Hermione Wiltshire, artist and lecturer at the Royal College of Art, who is currently carrying out research on 'The Birth of the Image'.

Contributors Biographies

Helen Knowles

www.helenknowles.com

Helen Knowles (b. 1975, London) is an artist and curator. She graduated from Glasgow School of Art in 1998 and lives and works in Manchester. In 2005 she founded Birth Rites and in 2008 the first collection of contemporary art dedicated to the subject of childbirth. Recent shows include Women's Art Library, Goldsmiths University (2013); *Life Is Beautiful*, Galerie Deadfly Berlin (2012); *Digital Romantics*, Dean Clough Gallery (2012) and *Walls are Talking*, Whitworth Art Gallery (2010). Her work is held in private and public collections including Whitworth Art Gallery; Tate Library and Archive; Museum of Motherhood, New York and Birth Rites Collection. From July - August 2013 Knowles was artist in residence at the Santa Fe Arts Institute, working with Native American women and midwives.

Hermione Wiltshire

Hermione Wiltshire is an artist and Senior Lecturer on the Photography Programme in the school of Fine art at the RCA. She has exhibited and lectured widely and her work is held in public collections such as The Arts Council, the Weltkunst, MAG and private collections in Italy, Austria and the UK. With Susan K Butler she has developed a series of lectures entitled 'The Physical Image'. She is currently developing two more lectures - 'Venus Violence' and 'The birth of the Image'

Sarah Schmid

Sarah Schmid, Youtube birth video maker, was born 1981 in the eastern part of Germany and grew up as the oldest of 5 siblings and as daughter of a Protestant pastor. After secondary school, she attended medical school and earned a medical degree. Currently Sarah is a housewife, taking care of her four kids. All of them were born at home, three of them unassisted. Recently she translated the book "Cure Tooth Decay" into German and currently she is writing a book about unassisted childbirth. At present, Sarah lives with her family in France.

Lisa Baraitser

Lisa Baraitser is a feminist writer, a psychotherapist, and a Reader in Psychosocial Studies at Birkbeck, University of London, where she is Head of Department. Her work centres on the fraught relations as well as creative tensions between gender, feminism, ethics, maternity and psychoanalysis, the subject of her 2009 monograph, *Maternal Encounters; The Ethics of Interruption* (Routledge, 2009). She is currently working in the area of critical temporalities, investigating a variety of 'practices of staying' - durational relational practices that have become more and more difficult to sustain in current economic conditions of globalized capitalism.