

## **Study Day: Self-shooting (Journée d'étude « Autofilmage(s) »)**

Friday May 4, 2018

9 h 30 - 17 h 30

Université de Montréal

The focus of this study day will be the issues surrounding self-shooting today in documentary filmmaking, video art, fiction film, and the hybrid zones where these three filmmaking categories intersect. We use the term self-shooting in the broad sense, as the moment a filmmaker becomes present onscreen in their own film, they are self-shooting.

We will look at the way in which the practice of self-shooting challenges the 'documentary pact' (a guarantee to viewers that what they are being shown in the film is in fact real) and the 'autobiography pact' (affirmation that the text's author, narrator and protagonist are one and the same). Certain works attempt to escape these implicit pacts, while others seek to affirm them. We will explore different filmic devices that may be used to achieve these ends.

We will also explore the tension between intimacy, vulnerability and the critical intentions behind certain examples of self-shooting. Whose point of view should the filmmaker adopt? How does the filmmaker's onscreen presence affect their own engagement and the way in which the viewer is addressed? This meeting will also give us an opportunity to think about the conversation that Rosalind Krauss initiated in 1976 about the issue of narcissism in the presentation of the self. How is this relevant today, in light of the emergence and expansion of new technical means to film oneself on a daily basis? Lastly, we will consider the possibilities of political action through self-shooting. Could this practice subvert the procedures of control and identification that are currently in place, while assuring visibility in the public forum? We could, for example, examine the implications of certain instances of self-shooting in which masks or make-up are used.

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