

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Yilmaz Vurucu

Donaufelderstrasse 93/2/3 1210 Wien
yilmazmv@hotmail.com | +43 699 1109 0939
yilmazvurucu.com | x-arts.eu | vimeo.com/xsentrikarts

Briefly about me: I'm an Austrian based film and video artist, originating out of Canada, with Turkish roots. I've written, produced, and directed ad campaigns and promos for Canadian television. Since moving to Austria, I've focussed more on creating, films, documentaries, and video art. My experience in the materiality of film affords me the luxury of being able to explore different modes of expression and aesthetics. Subjects of interest include community activation, social inclusion, sustainability, hyper-capitalism, individuality and precaritization, totalitarian systems of thought (cults), and coercive thought reform. My methodology includes ethnographic research, reflection, categorization of common patterns and the creation of what I call "poetic moments of visual exploration through fiction."

EDUCATION

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| 2021 - 2024 | MA in Critical Studies
Akademie der Bildenden Künste (Academy of Fine Arts) – Vienna, Austria |
| 2014 – 2016 | BA in Media Studies
University of Koper, Faculty of Humanities – Koper, Slovenia |
| 1993 – 1997 | BA in Film and Media Arts
Temple University – Philadelphia, USA |

FILMS AND EXHIBITIONS

Reproducing Coercion - An exploration on the reproduction of ideology in cults and capitalism

A publication exploring the reproduction of ideology in cults and the similarities between totalistic coercion techniques and modern-day capitalism; accompanied by a half hour film exploring the mindset and perspective of high-demand group members..

- Submitted as part of my Master's thesis in Critical Studies at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste, Vienna

The Believers Project (2024)

A series of fictional explorations into the coercion techniques used by high-demand groups (cults), from the perspectives of members/followers.

- Rundgang 2024, Akademie der Bildenden Künste, Vienna

Newcastle's Industrial Heritage Series (2023)

A series of videos created during a summer residency at the University of Newcastle. The short expose's explore the industrial heritage of the town and the river Tyne, from a social and artistic perspective.

- Wonderlab: Circular Steps for a Circular Future, Vienna

I feel human. Again. (2023)

Short film (narrative drama) exploring the future of AI through a fictional story about a young lady inheriting a bar and reprogramming her deceased father in the form of an AI hologram.

- Schikanader Cinema, Vienna, Austria

Wonderland Films (2022)

A series of short documentary films on circularity and sustainability: each film focusses on a separate NGO in Vienna that utilizes circularity principles in their activities.

- Screened during workshops and exchange/participation events for Erasmus + European exchange programs.

The Open Heritage documentary series (2020)

A series of seven short documentaries relaying the stories of communities positively impacted by the transformation of Urban Heritage sites. The series tells the stories of communities in Stockholm, Vienna, Lisbon, Turin, London, Bratislava, Berlin. Project

funded by the Horizon 2020 EU program.

- Budapest Architecture Film Days (Budapest, Hungary, 2022)
- Living the City Exhibition (Berlin, Germany, 2021)
- Urban Visions Architecture Film Festival (Bologna, Italy, 2022)
- Screened as best case studies in numerous EU funded exchange and research projects.

Sweet Candy (2017)

Narrative short film: "You're listening now, aren't you," says a cold and nearly unconscious Andreas Wagner, over his live broadcast. Social media seems to have offered him a voice, transforming him into an unlikely Internet phenomenon when it least matters.

Official selections: Vasteras Film Festival (Sweden); Four Seasons Film Festival (London, U.K.); Trenton Film Festival (N.J., U.S.A.); Cluj Short Film Festival (Cluj, Romania); WAG Film Festival (Italy); Chennai Film Fest. (India); Cefalu Film Festival (Italy); Front Range Film Festival (U.S.A.); Manifesto Film Festival (Holland); NEO International Film Festival (U.S.A.); CPIFF (Istanbul, TURKEY); Istanbul Short Film Festival (Turkey); InShort Film Festival (Nigeria); Austria Independent Film Festival (Vienna, Austria); OderKurz-Filmspektakel, (Germany); Sunback Film Festival (Kansas City, U.S.A.); Petaluma Film Festival (U.S.A.); Corte Nero Shorts Film Competition (Naples, Italy).

Awards: Best Short Film, Cinema Awards/Canada (2017); North Carolina Film Award/USA (2018); REMI Award, 51st Annual Houston Film Festival/USA (2018)

Gematria (2014)

Narrative short film: Unravelling the "ultimate truth" has become an obsession for a paranoid Mani Haruplex, and he's found secret prophecies tucked away in ancient texts. His discovery will soon be put to the test by others who believe the "absolute truth" is hidden elsewhere.

Official selections: Taratsa Film Festival (Greece); Austrian Independent Film Festival (Austria); Eidolon Film Festival (France); Qabila Film Festival (Egypt); Klappe Film Awards (Austria); MICA Film Festival (Brazil); Clean Shorts Film Festival (U.S.A.); Goa Film Festival (India)

The Sea In Me (2012)

A documentary exploring the future of a small coastal town located on the Black Sea coast of Turkey. The history, culture and way of living of locals, which has evolved over centuries based on a connection with the sea and nature, is being threatened by rapid and unplanned urbanization, increasing rates of migration, and the imposition of pre-fabricated, one-size-fits-all development methods. The documentary was shot during an artist-in-residency in Sinop, Turkey.

- Siemens Art Exhibition (Istanbul, Turkey, 2012)
- Museon Science and Culture Museum (Den Hague, Netherlands, 2012)

Official selections Arquiteturas Film Festival (Lisbon, Portugal); NWTS Open Air Film Festival (Batumi Beach, Georgia) FrameOut Film Festival (Vienna, Austria); Opuzen International Film Festival (Opuzen, Croatia); Voices from the Waters Film Festival (Bangalore, India); Voices from the Waters Film Festival (Gothenburg, Sweden); 5th Budapest Architecture Film Festival (Budapest, Hungary).

WORK EXPERIENCE

2012 – TO DATE

XsentrikArts

Co-Founder of Vienna based inter-disciplinary project incubator. We use the power of arts, storytelling and creativity as tools for initiating social activation and change. X-arts is active in numerous EU funded projects as partners. My roles include project management, project writing and budgeting, marketing and stakeholder involvement, finance management, strategic planning, partner relations etc.

EU funded projects we're currently active in:

BioYouToon (Erasmus + KA220): The project promotes awareness on biologically sustainability through youth training, culminating in the creation of a comic book targeting youth. X-arts has been involved in the creation of training modules, organizing local

workshops, and the creation of comic books. **Partners:** NGO Nest (DE), Xsentrikarts (AT), Impact Grid (DE), Polygonal North (FIN), MVI (IT), Nicea Association (TR)

Cultural and Historical Awareness for Active Citizenship (Erasmus + KA210): The project promotes awareness on oral history gathering methods through workshop and in-field research, culminating in the creation of a local and international exhibition. X-arts will be creating training modules, organizing local workshops and the exhibition. **Partners:** Xsentrikarts (AT), NGO Nest Berlin (DE), EduLabs (IT)

Park(ING) Day for Fitness(Erasmus + Sport): The project took place in 2022. We transformed parking spots in Vienna (and our partners in their respective countries) into sports and activity zones, promoting engagement and healthy living in our urban environment. We also created a pop-up cinema in the 10. District and screened films on urban transformation and civic engagement, followed up by an exchange with the locals. **Partners:** Xsentrikarts (AT), BG Be Active (BG), Placemaking Europe (NL), Azur Sport Sante (FR), Sport4All (PL)

February 2018 - 2022	Communications Manager Generative Commons Project (funded by H2020), - Various EU Countries <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The gE.CO project created a digital tool kit and interactive map of urban commons initiatives. Provided communication strategies, created and managed website and content, managed publicity.
2020 - 2022	Communications Manager Eutropian GmbH – Vienna, Austria <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Managed the communications strategy of Eutropian, including social media strategy and campaigns, webinars, publicity and branding.
2020	Project Manager Community-led heritage development – Austria and Albania <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Funded by the Austrian Development Agency BACID program. Project leader in expertise transfer. Project focused on the development of a concept for community-led development for built and natural heritage in Peja municipality (Albania). Oversaw expert exchange, creation of webinars and publication for knowledge capitalization.
January 2019 – May 2020	Documentary Series Producer Open Heritage (funded by H2020) – Various EU Countries <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Produced on-site in Vienna, Turin, Lisbon, Stockholm, Bratislava, London & Berlin. Created narrative documentary series; Mentored other partners in production of own short documentaries.
March 2012 - Ongoing	Freelance Video Producer, Social Media Campaign Creator Freelance – Vienna, Austria <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Specializing in the conceptualization and production of social media campaigns, advertising and marketing videos. Notable clients: CTBTO, URBACT gender equal cities, EspressoMobil, Turkish Airlines, OSCE
October 2009 - Ongoing	Filmmaker (Writer, Producer, Director) Freelance – Vienna, Austria <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Wrote, produced and directed numerous award-winning fiction and documentary films. Projects funded mostly through arts grants (E.U., Canada and Austria). Projects include: Daddy's arbitrage (2021), Sweet Candy (2017), Gematria (2014), The Sea In Me (2012), Borders (2011), Dr. Zack (2010). Notable awards: World Cinema Awards (Canada), Remi Award & North Carolina Film Award (U.S.A.), Klappe Film Award (Austria).

- 2016 - Ongoing **Media Consultant and Board Member**
Wonderland European Architecture – Vienna, Austria
- Actively consult and oversee the development of multimedia projects. Highlights include the launch of interactive social media portal (wonderland.cx) and consultancy on the creation of social media campaigns.
- October 2005 – July 2009 **Creative Director**
Samanyolu Broadcast Group – Istanbul, Turkey
- Developed the branding, promotional strategy and on-air design. Managed a team of 15 creatives, including scheduling and budgeting.
- March 2004 – September 2005 **Writer/Producer**
RTV – Toronto, Canada
- Wrote, produced and directed promotional campaign spots and creative brand image spots.
- August 2003 – February 2004 **Promotions Writer/Producers**
Global Television – Winnipeg, Canada
- Wrote, produced and directed commercials for clients, promotional spots and seasonal campaigns for the network.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 **Co-created Positive energy Districts: Activating Local Actors for a Common Roadmap**
Co-Author. Contributors: Yilmaz Vurucu, Bahanur Nasya. Presented at the 59th ISOCARP World Planning Congress and the 5th Urban Economy Forum in Toronto, Canada.
- 2023 **Circular Economy in Art through Eco-design**
Contributor to publication. Published as part of the UCELAB project by Wonderland.
- 2022 **Urban Civic Education Lab**
Contributor to publication with article titled: "Social campaigning to bring common good into the spotlight."
Published by Wonderland.
- 2024 **Reproducing Coercion - An exploration on the reproduction of ideology in cults and capitalism**
By comparing cult coercion methods to the reproduction of capitalism, the thesis seeks to offer a unique perspective on how ideology is reproduced, irrespective of the doctrine.