

# WET LOUNGE #5

6PM 14TH FEB 2020 - TENT ROTTERDAM

## ABOUT US

WET is a Rotterdam-based production and distribution cooperative for experimental film and video, founded by Anna Łuczak, Erika Roux, Marta Hryniuk, Nick Thomas and Sophie Bates in 2018. We come together to pursue a mode of production based on collaboration and mutual support, assisting each other through the exchange of labour, equipment and expertise. WET is also a platform for distribution, curating and programming with a focus on works which question existing film orthodoxies, and which propose alternative (social, historical, political and aesthetic) perspectives on the medium. We host an online screening platform at [wetfilm.org](http://wetfilm.org). You can contact us at [info@wetfilm.org](mailto:info@wetfilm.org).

## ABOUT WET LOUNGE

WET Lounge is a series of five expanded screenings. The events take place between mid 2019 and early 2020, and are hosted by TENT Welcomes. During each Lounge, we will showcase works by artists operating in the gaps between video art and cinema, somewhere between the communality of cinema and the architectural experimentation of contemporary art.



Still from Maya Schweizer - Before the Rehearsal

## WET LOUNGE #5

Conversations, modes of address and dialogue are tools which we use to form perspectives and opinions among friends, lovers, strangers and colleagues alongside the many gestures we perform and enact through our bodies. The video works presented in WET Lounge #5 investigate relationships between characters on screen who are played by the artists themselves, friends, non-professional and professional actors. Using performance, role-play, re-enactment and rehearsal these artists and filmmakers grapple with and question identities, issues of representation, hierarchical power structures and stereotypes; bringing to the surface the complex relationships between character and performer.

The works engage with and take inspiration from existing forms of moving image from episodic reality TV to advertising and fly-on-the-wall documentaries. Through our collective watching we relish and indulge in moments of tension, disagreement and awkwardness. The works included use tropes to tease out or heighten our experience and add layers of humour and critique, challenging established cinematic and televisual languages by embracing the DIY nature of their working conditions, a move which becomes not simply an economic choice, but also an aesthetic practice.

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WET Lounge is supported by the Subsidie Visuele Kunsten from Gemeente Rotterdam, and by TENT.

## SCHEDULE

### Installation

**18:00-21:00**

Auto Italia Live -  
Episode 1: Talking Objects in Space  
50' loop  
2011

### Screening

**18:45-19:01**

Maya Schweizer - Before the Rehearsal  
16'  
2008

**19:01-19:10**

Sophie Bates - Lamp Post Diner  
9'  
2020

**19:10-19:26**

Annika Larsen - Dog  
16'  
2001

**19:30-19:40**

Break

**19:40-19:52**

Irina Botea -  
Stereotypical Conversations  
12'  
2007

**19:52-20:16**

George Kuchar - Weather Diary 3  
24'  
1988

**20:16-20:32**

Keren Cytter - Vengeance, Episode 6  
16'  
2013



Gemeente Rotterdam



[WWW.WETFILM.ORG](http://WWW.WETFILM.ORG)

This is the last in the current series of WET Lounge. Thank you to all the artists and everyone who came to the screenings!



# WET LOUNGE #5

## ARTISTS & WORKS

**Sophie Bates** employs mimicry, re-enactment and hyperbole in her performance and video works. Constructing scripts from everyday interactions, she appropriates the language of TV dating shows and advertisements. The performances are in an unflinching key with an ever-changing voice: flat, awkward, tragicomic and puzzled in its search for expression.

*Lamp Post Diner* is a re-enactment of an online article - which appeared as clickbait on the artist's web browser - about a pregnant waitress and a police officer in a diner in New Jersey USA. The story was reported by the website Brides Blush, "a one-stop shop for all brides;" the re-enactment brings together a New Jersey story, a British Police Officer and a leisure centre cafeteria in Rotterdam.

**Irina Botea** uses multiple media - digital video, film, video installation, performance, photography - to inspect contemporary socio-political dynamics and the possibility of their transformation. Her work combines reenactment strategies with auditions and elements of direct cinema to look into the role that trauma, history, language, and music play in the formation of the individual and the community.

In *Stereotypical Conversations*, a group of people adopt the perspective of 'the other' to talk about themselves within the context of stereotypes. Four Americans take on the persona of four Romanians and improvise a conversation based on quotes randomly extracted from online discussions in which Romanians express their opinion "on how the Americans are".

**Maya Schweizer** is a visual artist, video artist and photographer. Her practice operates at the interface between art and film, documentary and fiction. In her video works and installations, the French artist utilises representations of seemingly everyday occurrences to liberate hidden narratives.

In *Before the Rehearsal*, Schweizer documents the comedy group Slow Children Crossing as they meet in a private apartment to rehearse a new sketch between a microwave and a refrigerator. After the rehearsal the actors discuss marketing strategies for attracting greater media attention to their group.

**Keren Cytter** makes films, video installations and drawings that represent social realities through experimental modes of storytelling. Her videos recall amateur home movies, creating intensified scenes drawn from everyday life in which the overwhelmingly artificial nature of the situations portrayed is echoed by the means of their production.

For *Vengeance*, a seven-part video narrative epic, Cytter takes her own changing life situation as inspiration. After moving to New York, Cytter adopted the US TV-platform of the "daily soap" as a format to process classic themes of drama in personal relationships: love, envy, betrayal, and vengeance. Cytter's characters perform exaggerated scenes of genre clichés, such as cheating on partners, and professions of love.

**Annika Larsson**, is a Swedish artist, working mainly with film, video, performance and installation. She is interested in incidental but meaningful gestures and rituals, in corporal-linguistic patterns of behavior that conceal hierarchical social power structures.

*Dog* portrays two men wearing business suits with black leather gloves, a padlock neck chain and a dog. The piece begins with an orchestral score, followed by a repetitive original soundtrack with no dialogue between the characters. The video is staged, stylised and slowed down. The piece builds a narrative and relationship between the dog and men through close ups of gestures happening between the pet and its owner.

**George Kuchar** produced a large catalog of idiosyncratic films over six decades, first as a young man in his native New York, and later in San Francisco, where he taught for forty years at the San Francisco Art Institute. The films take various forms, often exploiting genres such as the melodrama, diary film, classical cinema or horror, but with Kuchar's distinct style (and screen presence), they are in a field of their own.

*Weather Diary 3* is one of a series of weather diaries that Kuchar made in El Reno, Oklahoma, purportedly to document tornadoes, but the inhabitants of the motel are just as much the subject as any meteorological activity. Food, animals, bodily functions, and a budding friendship with a young man staying in the motel all feature in this twisted tale.

**Auto Italia** is an artist run organisation that commissions and produces new work - collaborating directly with emerging artists. Founded in 2007, it aims to provide a framework for developing alternative approaches to production and exhibition formats. *Auto Italia LIVE* is an artist-run TV series, performed before a studio audience and broadcast live over the Internet. Working in collaboration with Auto Italia a wide variety of artists produced new work through weekly episodes, engaging directly with the format of live Television and a history of artists using broadcast media platforms to distribute work. Episode 1 was broadcast live on 24/9/2011.

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Made by Nathan Budzinski, Benedict Drew, Benedictions (Patricia Lennox-Boyd and Jamie Stevens featuring Jeremy Glogan, Steve Kado and Morag Keil). Narrated by Saul Reichlin. Discussion: Robert Carter, Tim Ivison, Andrew Kerton, Leslie Kulesh, Huw Lemmey, Michael Oswell, Eddie Peake, Francesco Pedraglio, Heather Phillipson, Julia Tcharfas, Lorenzo Tebano, Jess Wiesner and Charlie Woolley.

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