



Shelly
2019

Video made in Snapchat, edited in Final Cut Pro

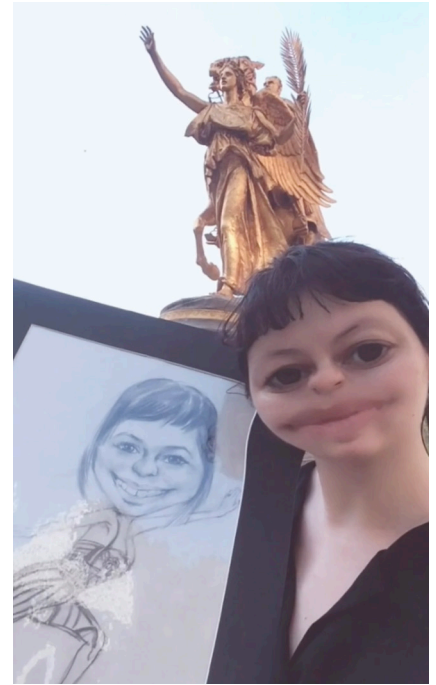
Duration: 00:44:58 minutes

Directed, Performed, Written, Produced, Filmed, and Edited by Katie Vida

Shelly (Long Description):

Shelly (2019) is a video work developed entirely on Snapchat, the ubiquitous social media app known for its face altering (or filtered) features. The piece includes filtered selfie video “diaries” by Shelly, a Sparta, Kentucky native who has exhausted her savings on a three month Airbnb rental in Bushwick, Brooklyn to explore New York City. Shelly’s only link between her upbringing and the Arts is a little known poet and artist, Baroness Elsa von Freytag-Loringhoven (1874-1927), who briefly lived in Sparta upon arriving in in the United States in 1910. Some scholars have argued that Freytag-Loringhoven later went on to gift “Fountain” to Marcel Duchamp in 1917, potentially making her one of the most important marginalized art historical figures of the 20th century. The space between Shelly and Baroness Elsa is one of marginality, both somber and playful in its liminality. What Shelly finds, arriving in New York City 100 years after the Baroness inhabited it, is the difficult task of parsing her disparity and her wonderment, her curiosity and her limitations. Though Shelly could never afford to stay in New York, her meanderings in the city are meaningful for their short-lived revelations. Alongside her confessional videos, a simultaneous scopophilia arises as she begins to obsessively video document museum-goers at the moment they capture a photograph of an artwork on their phones. This dual address of the private and public sheds light on smartphone technology as a form of embodiment, elucidation, connection, and at times, detachment.

Shelly has screened internationally at Brussels Independent Film Festival 2020 (Brussels, Belgium) where it won “Best Experimental Film”, Obskuur Ghent Film Festival 2020 (Ghent, Belgium) where it won “Best Underground Film”, Microscope Gallery (Brooklyn, NY), Galerie HELL (Berlin, Germany), and Grant Wahlquist Gallery (Portland, Maine).



Shelly (Short Description):

Shelly (2019) is a video work developed entirely on Snapchat, the ubiquitous social media app known for its face altering (or filtered) features. The piece includes filtered selfie video “diaries” by Shelly, a Sparta, Kentucky native who has exhausted her savings on a three month Airbnb rental in Bushwick, Brooklyn to explore New York City. Shelly’s only link between her upbringing and the Arts is a little known poet and artist, Baroness Elsa von Freytag-Loringhoven (1874-1927), who briefly lived in Sparta upon arriving in in the United States in 1910 before relocating to New York. Though she could never afford to stay in the city, Shelly’s meanderings are meaningful for their short-lived revelations.

Brief Artist Statement:

I am an interdisciplinary visual artist working across fields of performance, sound, and video art to explore themes of authorship, identity, and queer + feminist historical narratives. Often favoring the quotidian as subject matter, my work takes on an experimental approach to available media and readymade technologies (smartphone apps etc), rather than privileging the highly produced, at times prodding at or satirizing the latter. My approach engages self-reflexively and sometimes humorously with the subject of artistic production and pursuit, unpacking what it means to be a maker in the contemporary milieu.



Director: Katie Vida
Screenwriter: Katie Vida
Editor: Katie Vida
Producer: Katie Vida
Performed by: Katie Vida
Music by: Katie Vida

Artist Biography:

Katie Vida (Brooklyn, NY, United States and Berlin, Germany) is an interdisciplinary artist. Vida is the recipient of fellowships at The MacDowell Colony, Shandaken Project, VCU Qatar and Fanon: Center for Print Media Research (Doha, Qatar), Yaddo, Millay Colony, Budapest Puppet Theater (Budapest, Hungary), and Yale Norfolk among others. Vida has presented work at venues including: Galerie HELL (Berlin, Germany), The Richard and Dolly Maass Gallery at SUNY Purchase (Purchase, NY), ALLGOLD MoMA PS1 (Queens, NY); Creative Time (New York); Yale University Art Gallery (New Haven, CT); and The Luggage Store (San Francisco, CA), and was awarded “Best Experimental Film” for “Shelly” at the Brussels Independent Film Festival and “Best Underground Film” for the same film at Obskuur Ghent Film Festival in 2020. Vida holds an MFA from Yale University School of Art and a BFA from Rhode Island School of Design.