

Miraculous Aqueduct (2018)

Directed by David Finkelstein
Created and performed by David Finkelstein and Ian W. Hill
Music: David Finkelstein
Editing, sound mix and visual design: David Finkelstein
Total running time: 15.5 minutes
david@lakeivan.org
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Short description of the work:

A poetic exploration of the strategies for unleashing creativity, both scattershot and focused.

Description of work:

A poetic exploration of the sources of creativity. Do we take a scattershot approach to inspiration, throwing ideas out at random, to see which ones take root? Or can we plug directly into a never-ending source of new ideas, an effortless flow? *Miraculous Aqueduct* is a journey through an interior landscape filled with tarot cards, towers, and centurions; a collage of words, images and music, in which the film's two narrators discover that acknowledging inner blocks is the key to overcoming them.

Miraculous Aqueduct has been screened at KLEX (Malaysia), Artists' Television Access (California), Videomedija (Serbia), Instants Vidéo (France), Medicine Show (New York), Moviate (Pennsylvania), Magikal Charm (New York), Cairo Video Festival (Egypt), Twin Rivers Media Festival (North Carolina and Virginia), Berkeley Video and Film Festival (California, Grand Festival Cine Poem Experimental Award), West Sound Film Festival (Washington), and United States Super 8 Film + DV Festival (New Jersey).

DAVID FINKELSTEIN's video work has been featured in numerous film festivals around the world and has won awards at 25 of them. In 2013, he was an invited artist at the Traverse Vidéo Festival in Toulouse, France. His two feature films premiered at New Filmmakers in New York. He has had solo screenings of his films in Bilbao, London, Porto, New York, Chicago, Portland, Austin, North Carolina, Minnesota, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Philadelphia, and San Francisco. His work has been funded by The Fund for Creative Communities, The Field, Movement Research, Meet the Composer, The Brooklyn Arts Exchange, BACA, and other sources.

His films have screened at festivals in Mexico, Croatia, Spain, Egypt, Serbia, Argentina, England, Slovakia, Malaysia, Canada, Germany, France, and the United States. In France, his work has screened at Videofformes, Traverse Vidéo, Instants Vidéo, Oodaq, Marseille Underground, Bandits Mage, and Les Inattendus. Awards for his films include the Audience Favorite Award from the Berkeley Video and Film Festival for *Recording Device* and "Best of Festival: Experimental" from the Brooklyn Arts Council Film Festival for *Earth and Moon in Love*. He has been commissioned three times to create videos for the Outmusic Awards, and these videos were subsequently shown on the PrideVision cable network and the PBS series "Under the Pink Carpet."

DAVID FINKELSTEIN

Brief Artist's Biography:

DAVID FINKELSTEIN's video work has been featured in numerous film festivals around the world and has won awards at 24 of them. In 2013, he was an invited artist at the Traverse Vidéo Festival in Toulouse, France. His two feature films premiered at New Filmmakers in New York. He has had solo screenings of his films in Bilbao, London, Porto, New York, Chicago, Portland, Austin, North Carolina, Minnesota, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Philadelphia, and San Francisco. His work has been funded by The Fund for Creative Communities, The Field, Movement Research, Meet the Composer, The Brooklyn Arts Exchange, BACA, and other sources.

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FILMOGRAPHY

Soap is an Illusion (Dirt: Part One) (2022) 20.5 minutes, video
Spontaneous Artifacts (2021) 77 minutes, video
A Collection of Eccentricities (2020) 17.5 minutes, video
Spiral Garage (2019) 14 minutes, video
Miraculous Aqueduct (2018) 15.5 minutes, video
Recording Device (2017) 24.5 minutes, video
The Linen Closet (2016) 22 minutes, video
Privy (2015) 20 minutes, video
Suggestive Gestures (2014) 75 minutes, video
Invincible City (2012) 21 minutes, video
The Two Fauns (2011) 18 minutes, video
Epistolary Fusillades (2010) 18 minutes, video
Marvelous Discourse (2009) 21 minutes, video
Burning Arc (2009) 10 minutes, video
Terrifying Blankness (2008) 30 minutes, video
Reproductive Technology (2008) 25 minutes, video
Wrested Variations (2007) 7.5 minutes, video
Two Distinct Courses of Action (2006) 24 minutes, video
Agnus Dei (2006) 9 minutes, video
Electrical Fields (2006) 12 minutes, video
Display Devices (2005) 25 minutes, video
Lovely Academic Slaughter Houses (2005) 27 minutes, video
All Love is Sweet (2005) 10 minutes, video
Earth and Moon in Love (2004) 21 minutes, video
Born in Mid-Flight (2004) 34 minutes, video
Radiant Emanators (2003) 19 minutes, video
Lake Ivan Exists. episode #30: The Artificial (2002) 29 minutes, video
Lake Ivan Exists. episode #47: Mardi Gras (2002) 29 minutes, video
Lake Ivan Exists. episode #37: Starfield (2001) 29 minutes, video
Lake Ivan Exists. episode #21: The Bathroom (2000) 29 minutes, video

Music Videos:

Saltwater Cassis
Right to Surrender Yolanda and the Plastic Family
The Sickness of Beauty Yolanda and the Plastic Family
Honoring the Ancestors Steve Sandberg
Armaan Steve Sandberg
Island Song Romonovsky and Phillips
Fucked by the Devil Jayne County

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ARTIST STATEMENT

My video work is constructed in layers.

To begin a new piece, I first videotape a completely improvised text, typically using two actors. I have been developing my technique of improvising text since 1993. I am interested in improvisation as a way of generating language directly from an actor's intuitive discovery of what each performance is about, as it unfolds spontaneously. A subtle and intimately physical experience between two people is thus made into audible language.

For the next layer, I listen repeatedly to the text, clarifying for myself the emotional undercurrents and musical flow which formed the underlying structure of the original spontaneous performance. During this phase, I compose a musical score for the video, which clarifies this flow for the listener.

In the final phase, I listen to the text even more (now enhanced with a musical score), and gradually develop many layers of meticulously crafted digital imagery, to further clarify the emotional and musical threads which run through the improvisation. The carefully constructed nature of the images works as a counter-dynamic against the spontaneous, liquid flow of the original improvised material. Like a dream, an improvisation seems on the surface to be full of volatile, unpredictable changes, but it is actually a completely unified form of composition, in which often every line of text can be seen to be simply a new way of looking at a single, unified idea. The images and music thus help the viewer to perceive the tremendous thematic and emotional unity which underlies the seeming changeableness of the improvisation.

The full process of creating the video in three layers (text, music, images) typically takes from six to ten months.