

Mieke Bal – short bio

A co-founder of ASCA, the Amsterdam School of Cultural Analysis, Mieke Bal develops interdisciplinary approaches to cultural artifacts and their potential effects. She is an internationally renowned cultural theorist, critic, video artist and curator, and the recipient of five honorary doctorates. She focuses on gender, migratory culture, psychoanalysis, and the critique of capitalism. Her forty-some books include a trilogy on political art: *Endless Andness* (on abstraction), *Thinking in Film* (on video installation), both 2013, *Of What One Cannot Speak* (on sculpture, 2010). Her early work comes together in *A Mieke Bal Reader* (2006). In 2016 appeared *In Medias Res: Inside Nalini Malani's Shadow Plays. Emma & Edvard Looking Sideways: Loneliness and the Cinematic*, accompanying the exhibition she curated at the Munch Museum in 2017 demonstrates her integrated approach to academic, artistic and curatorial work.

After eighteen video documentaries on migratory culture, she began making 'theoretical fictions'. *A LONG HISTORY OF MADNESS*, with Michelle Williams Gamaker, argues for a more humane treatment of psychosis, and was exhibited in a site-specific version in the Freud Museum in London. *MADAME B*, also with Michelle, was combined with paintings by Edvard Munch in the Munch Museum in Oslo (2017).

Her later film *REASONABLE DOUBT*, on René Descartes and Queen Kristina, explores the social and audio-visual aspects of the process of thinking (2016). She is currently exhibiting a sixteen-channel video work *DON QUIXOTE: TRISTES FIGURAS*. Her latest film, *IT'S ABOUT TIME! REFLECTIONS ON URGENCY* was produced in Poland, in 2020.

www.miekebal.org