

Mieke Bal – short bio 400 words

A co-founder of ASCA, the Amsterdam School of Cultural Analysis, Mieke Bal's primary commitment is to develop meaningful interdisciplinary approaches to cultural artifacts and their potential effect for the public. She is an internationally renowned cultural theorist, critic, video artist and curator. She focuses on gender, migratory culture, psychoanalysis, and the critique of capitalism. Her 38 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* (Hatje Cantz), and in Spanish, *Tiempos trastornados* on the politics of visibility (AKAL). *Emma & Edvard Looking Sideways: Loneliness and the Cinematic*. Oslo: Munch Museum / Brussels: Mercatorfonds; Yale University Press, 2017 integrated with the exhibition she curated at the Munch Museum demonstrates her integrated approach to academic, artistic and curatorial work. Her video projects of documentaries on migratory culture have been exhibited internationally, including in the Museum of the History of Saint Petersburg in 2011. Then she made "theoretical fictions". *A Long History of Madness*, with Michelle Williams Gamaker, argues for a more humane treatment of psychosis, and was exhibited internationally, including in a site-specific version, *Saying It*, in the Freud Museum in London. In Fall 2017 it was combined with *Reasonable Doubt* in Warsaw. *Madame B*, also with Michelle, is widely exhibited, e.a. in the Centro Galego de Arte Contemporáneo, Santiago de Compostela (2017-18), and combined with paintings by Edvard Munch in the Munch Museum in Oslo in a museum-wide exhibition she curated (2017). It has also been exhibited in shorter versions, *Cause & Effect* (13 screens) and *Prearity* (5 screens). In 2019 it is displayed at the Lethaby Gallery, Central Saint Martins. Her later film and installation, *Reasonable Doubt*, on René Descartes and Queen Kristina, explores the social and audio-visual aspects of the process of thinking (2016). The installation of that project has premiered in Kraków in the festival "Film and Philosophy", and was shown in Amsterdam, Brisbane, Warsaw and Berlin, and partly in 2018 in two exhibition-specific installations in the Frans Hals Museum in Haarlem. She is currently preparing a multi-channel video work *Don Quixote: tristes figuras*. In 2019 a solo-exhibition of her video work will be held in Centro Párrago in Murcia, Spain.

www.miekebal.org