

# Michael Spahr \*\*\* VJ Rhaps \*\*\* Art Video Media

## Biography and Contact

Michael Spahr (VJ Rhaps) is a media artist, filmmaker, historian and journalist who lives and works in Bern (Switzerland).

Michael Spahr is a storyteller who likes to work at the cutting edge of art, politics and society. He mainly works with digital images and sounds. He creates video collages, photo series, radio features, online articles, music clips, documentary films, audio-visual performances, virtual reality and transdisciplinary exhibitions.



1973	born in Bern (Switzerland) on March 19
1988-1993	Städtisches Gymnasium Bern-Neufeld (CH), High School Diploma E
1989/1990	Fort Bragg High School (California, USA), High School Diploma
1993-1996	Universität Bern (CH), university studies history, philosophy and media science
1996-1998	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (NL), university studies history, Master of Arts
1996-1997	Algemeen Cultureel Centrum Amstelveen (NL), courses video & script writing
1997	Universiteit van Amsterdam (NL), studies film history
1997-2002	Jobs and internships for TV production companies as producer, camera man, editor, assistant director, director and video journalist (NL: Stichting Pixels, UilenTV, Endemol, Kanaal7, RTL; CH: Telebärn)
2000-today	freelance artist and filmmaker
2000-2006	Member VJ collective V.I.T. (2000-2004) and media art agency Optickle (2004-2006)
2006-today	Teaching workshops and lectures about Vjing, video art, animation and (web) media
2007	World trip (Russia, Mongolia, China, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, NZ, Samoa, USA)
2008-2015	Verein norient, Bern (CH), member of board of directors/media artis/online editor
2010-2014	Curator and co-director of Norient Musikfilm Festival
2010-2019	Radio Bern RaBe, community radio station in Bern (CH), editor-in-chief
2017-2018	Curator of art and media project SQUATOPIA



E-Mail	<a href="mailto:vj@rhaps.com">vj@rhaps.com</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.michaelspahr.ch/en/">www.michaelspahr.ch/en/</a>
Vimeo	<a href="https://vimeo.com/vjrhaps">https://vimeo.com/vjrhaps</a>
YouTube	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/troesenbeck">www.youtube.com/troesenbeck</a>

# Works Michael Spahr - Selection - 1

Video Art (Single Channel, Virtual Reality) 2015-2020



**Pandemonic**  
*HD Video*  
2'45  
2020



**Remember the Sea...?!**  
*VR Video*  
2'  
2020



**Remember Civilisation...?!**  
*HD Video*  
3'  
2019



**Orchideen in Zureich**  
*VR Video*  
1'  
2018



**Clima(c)tic Changes**  
*HD Video Series*  
15'  
2015

# Works Michael Spahr - Selection - 2

Video Art (Single Channel, Augmented Reality, Video Installation) 2012-2015



**Freedom Fighters**  
*AR Video*  
*Virtuale Switzerland*  
*2'*  
*2015*



**Höllisch Himmlisch Holligland**  
*HD Video*  
*10'*  
*2015*



**Illusions of Safety**  
*Video installation*  
*3'40*  
*2013*



**Curse of Conformity**  
*Video installation*  
*1'50*  
*2013*



**Pimpolis**  
*HD Video*  
*12'*  
*2012*

# Works Michael Spahr - Selection - 3

Video Art (Single Channel, Video Installation) 2008-2011



**Nippon Nightmare**  
*HD Video*  
0'40  
2011



**Götzen Fallen**  
*HD Video*  
2'  
2011



**Globocity - Rise and Fall**  
*HD Video*  
20'  
2009



**Disturbing Dancing Party**  
*Video installation*  
2'  
2009



**News From Switzerland**  
*SD Video*  
0'40  
2008

## Works Michael Spahr - Selection - 4

Media Art (audio visual performance, interactive theatre video backdrop, transdisciplinary work) 2006-2018



**Squatopia**  
*Multimedia transdisciplinary exhibition*  
*Grosse Halle Reitschule Bern*  
*2018*



**Sonic Traces (norient)**  
*AV performance series*  
*Michael Spahr/Thomas Burkhalter/Simon Grab*  
*Switzerland, Poland, Italy, Germany, Austria,*  
*England*  
*2008-2015*



**Ya Sharmout - Oh, Evil, die...!**  
*AV performance*  
*Mahmoud Turkmani/Michael Spahr*  
*Lebanon, Switzerland, Germany*  
*2006-2008*



**Fondue-Oper**  
*Interactive theatre video backdrop*  
*Matterhorn Produktionen*  
*Schweiz, Deutschland*  
*2008-2013*



**Les pauvres sont tous les mêmes...**  
*Interactive theatre video backdrop*  
*Cie. Marielle Pinsard*  
*Switzerland, France*  
*2008-2010*

# Works Michael Spahr - Selection - 5

Movies (video clip, campaign video, short film, mockumentary) 2008-2018



**Garden Office**  
*HD Drone Video*  
2'50  
2020



**Memories in a Posthuman Wonderland**  
*VR Video Clip*  
*Music: Simon Grab*  
15'10  
2019



**Nein zum Medienmassaker**  
*nonobillag.ch*  
*HD Campaign Video*  
1'35  
2018



**Cumbia Alpina**  
*HD Video Clip*  
*Music: The Swiss Conspiracy*  
4'15  
2013



**Close Encounters...**  
*SD Mockumentary Series*  
*Blues Horror Brigade*  
35'  
2011

# Michael Spahr \*\*\* VJ Rhaps \*\*\* Art Video Media

## Awards and Grants

- 2005 BÜMPLIZ, grants by city and canton of Bern (CH)
- 2006 GRÜSSE VON LAIKA, grant by Kulturfest Aarau (CH)
- 2007 YA SHARR MOUT (Turkmani & Spahr), grant by Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia (CH)
- 2008 BUY MORE INCENSE, First Prize, Muzyka i Swiat, music film festival Krakow (Poland)
- 2008 SONIC TARCES, grant by project sitemapping, Swiss Federal Office of Culture (CH)
- 2008 GLOBOCITY, KUNSTSCHUB, art prize by gallery Atelier Worb (CH)
- 2009 NORIENT.COM, Award for innovative music projects by the Canton of Bern (CH)
- 2010 SONIC TRACES, art award for digital culture, Migroskulturprozent (CH)
- 2011 NIPPON NIGHTMARE, Best Animation Film One Minute Award, Aarau (CH)
- 2012 PIMPOLIS, grants by Kunstpunkte, Burgergemeinde, canton and city of Bern (CH)
- 2014 MUTTER HAUSFRAU VATER ARZT, public award, Theatertage Heidelberg (Germany)
- 2015 CLIMA(C)TIC CHANGES, grants by Burgergemeinde and canton of Bern (CH)
- 2018 SQUATOPIA, grants by SRKS, Pro Helvetia, Ernst Göhner Stiftung, Canton, City and Burgergemeinde Bern, Migros Kulturprozent (CH)

## Exhibitions, Performances, Festivals,... since 1998

videokunst.ch - Showroom & Videofenster, Bern (CH) \* Wake Up – Climate Change!, Köln (DE) \* Helsinki, Zürich (CH) \* Haus der Elektronischen Künste, Basel (CH) \* Grosse Halle, Dachstock, Kino, Tojo, Rössli, Sous le Pont, Reitschule, Bern (CH) \* Kunst & Nachhaltigkeit, Mobiliar, Bern (CH) \* Dampfzentrale, Bern (CH) \* transform, Bern (CH) \* Fahrnisbau, Bern (CH) \* 150 Jahre visarte, HSLU, Luzern (CH) \* BEA, Bern (CH), \* Alte Feuerwehr Viktoria, Bern (CH) \* videocity.bs, Basel (CH) \* Virtuale Switzerland, Lausanne (CH) \* Soon Gallery, Bern (CH) \* Heidelberger Theatertage (DE) \* Schlachthaus Theater, Bern (CH) \* Theater Winkelwiese, Zürich (CH) \* Stadttheater Schaffhausen (CH) \* Theater Chur (CH) \* Stadthausaal Effretikon (CH) \* Eisenwerk, Frauenfeld (CH) \* Swiss Festival Australia, Melbourne (AUS) \* Santa Fe Complex, New Mexico (USA) \* Snapfilm Festival, Krakau (PL) \* Atelier Worb (CH) \* Südpol, Luzern (CH) \* Expo Milano (IT) \* Buchmesse Frankfurt (DE) \* Walcheturm, Zürich (CH) \* Palace, St. Gallen (CH) \* Theaterspektakel, Zürich (CH) \* Alpentöne, Altdorf (CH) \* MY Sound of Music, Salzburg (Ö) \* One Minute Festival, Aarau (CH) \* Proyecto Circo, Havana (CUB) \* Proyecto Circo, Almeria (SP) \* Château Mercier, Sierre (CH) \* Images, Vevey (CH) \* Biennale Bern (CH) \* Reterieving Humanity, Santa Fe (USA) \* Cinémaster, Bern (CH) \* Progonse voor de Toekomst, Deventer (NL) \* Festival des Urbaines, Lausanne (CH) \* Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern (CH) \* Künstlerhaus S11, Solothurn (CH) \* Festival Kairo-Beirut, Düsseldorf (DE) \* City University, London (UK) \* Museum Rietberg, Zürich (CH) \* Film Forum, Freiburg (DE) \* Shedhalle, Zürich (CH) \* Skyscraper Festival Manchester (UK) \* Bad Bonn Kilbi, Düringen (CH) \* Sauerkraut Performance Festival, Bern (CH) \* Metzgergass Chilbi, Bern (CH) \* Clair-Obscur Festival, Basel (CH) \* Dock 18, Rote Fabrik, Zürich (CH) \* Sommernachtsträume, Burgdorf (CH) \* Turnhalle PROGR, Bern (CH) \* Gare du Nord, Basel (CH) \* Fabriktheater Rote Fabrik, Zürich (CH) \* Kleintheater Luzern (CH) \* Theater Tuchlaube, Aarau (CH) \* Kulturtag der Südlichen Weinstrasse, Herxheim (DE) \* CCS, Paris (FR) \* Lieu Unique, Nantes (FR) \* Le Bourg, Lausanne (CH) \* Muzyka i Swiat, Krakau (PL) \* Al Madina Theater, Beirut (LIB) \* ZKM, Karlsruhe (DE) \* Konservatorium Bern (CH) \* Theater Zofingen (CH) \* Het Rapenburg Concert, Leiden (NL) \* Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin (DE) \* Townhouse Gallery, Kairo (EGY) \* Fabrik, Hamburg (DE) \* A City of Women, Ljubljana (SLO) \* Moods, Zürich (CH) \* Kuppel, Basel (CH) \* Montreux Jazz Festival (CH) \* At Home Abroad Festival, C.E.S.T.A. Tabor (CZ) \* An Alien Look at Mokum, Amsterdam (NL) \* Expo.02, AMJ/Biel/Neuchâtel (CH) \* Clandestino Festival, Göteborg (SE) \* Porgy and Bess, Wien (Ö) \* Kud France Preseren, Ljubljana (SLO) \* Arge Nonntal, Salzburg (Ö) \* Grabenhalle, St. Gallen (CH) \* Mokka, Thun (CH) \* Posthof, Linz (Ö) \* Innenhofkultur, Klagenfurt (Ö) \* Solothurner Filmtage (CH)

## Publications

- 2018 LEBEN IN DER KUNST (Sammlung Carola & Günther Ketterer-Ertle), DieMobiliar, Bern (CH)
- 2017 RABE – 20 JAHRE ALTERNATIVES KULTUR-RADIO, Verein Radio Bern, Bern (CH)
- 2014 SONIC TRACES: FROM THE ARAB WORLD, LP, Traversion Verlag, Deitingen (CH)
- 2011 DIGITALE KULTUR UND MEDIENKUNST AUS DER SCHWEIZ, Ch.Merian Verlag, Basel (CH)
- 2011 CONNECT. ART BETWEEN MEDIA AND REALITY, Verlag für Moderne Kunst, Nürnberg (D)
- 2011 BLUES HORROR BRIGADE: LIVE ON TITAN, CD/DVD, Pro Stata Records (CH)
- 2008 AGENT-PROVOCATEUR, Book/DVD, Verlag Scheidegger & Spiess, Zürich (CH)
- 2008 BLUES HORROR BRIGADE: YOUR PLANET BELONGS TO US, CD/DVD, Pro Stata Records
- 2008 YA SHARR MOUT, CD/DVD, DschointVentschr/SF DRS (CH), Enja Records, München (D)
- 2006 BÜMPLIZ – A DAY IN URBAN SWITZERLAND, DVD, Optickle GmbH, Bern (CH)
- 2006 REZEPTOUREN, Book/DVD („Grüsse von Laika“), Q-Zeitung Aarauer Kultur, Aarau (CH)