



Michael Spahr

Michael Spahr (VJ Rhaps) is an artist and filmmaker. He lives and works in Bern (Switzerland). He creates video collages by animating and manipulating photos and calligraphies. His work is often interdisciplinary and performed in real-time. He produces audio-visual live performances as well as interactive video backdrops for concerts, plays or new media art shows.

E-Mail vj@rhaps.com
 Website www.rhaps.com
 Videos www.youtube.com/vjrhaps

Biography

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), course film history
 1997-2002 TV production internship (UilenTV, Endemol), camera man, editor (Kanaal7), assistant director (RTL 4/5), editor/producer/chairman (Stichting Pixels) (all in The Netherlands), video journalist (Telebärn, Bern, CH)
 2000-2006 Member VJ collective V.I.T. (2000-2004)/ media art agency Optickle (2004-2006)
 2003-today freelance artist and filmmaker
 2007 trip around the world (Russia, Mongolia, China, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, New Zealand, Samoa, USA)
 2008-today Verein norient, Bern (CH), member of board of directors/video art/editor
 2010 Curator and co-director of 1. NORIENT MUSIKFILM FESTIVAL

Awards & 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 Świat, music film festival Krakow (Poland)
 2008 „Sonic Traces...“, grant by project sitemapping, Swiss Federal Office of Culture (CH)
 2008 „History Dumped“, shortlisted at Skyscraper Festival Manchester (UK)
 2008 „Globocity“, KUNSTSCHUB art prize by gallery Atelier Worb (CH)
 2009 „Beirut Traffic“ (Ya Sharr Mout), Editor's Pick, Videoart.net (New York, USA)
 2009 “norient.com”, Award for innovative music projects by the Canton of Bern (CH)



Art projects (exhibitions, installations, performances) - selection

- 2009 BLUES HORROR BRIGADE (IV), audio-visual performance, Clair-Obscur Festival, Basel (CH)
- 2009 BUNT STATT GRAU..DIE REITSCHULE BIETET MEHR, video installation, Reithalle Bern (CH)
- 2009 GLOBOCITY, video group exhibition, Prognose voor de Toekomst, Deventer (NL)
- 2009 GLOBOCITY, videos, objects & prints, solo exhibition, Atelier Worb gallery, Worb (Bern, CH)
- 2008-today SONIC TRACES: FROM THE ARAB WORLD, interactive audio-visual scientific performance with Thomas Burkhalter and Simon Grab (Festival des Urbaines, Lausanne, CH; Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern, CH; Künstlerhaus Solothurn, CH; Festival Kairo-Beirut, Düsseldorf, Germany)
- 2008 BLUES HORROR BRIGADE (III), performance Metzgergass-Chilbi Schlachthaus Bern (CH)
- 2008 BLUES HORROR BRIGADE (II), sauerkrautrock performance (Festival Sauerkraut Bern, CH)
- 2008 HISTORY DUMPED, video art, shortlisted at Skyscraper Festival Manchester (UK)
- 2008 20th ANNIVERSARY VELOKURIER BERN, video installation Bern (CH)
- 2008 BLUES HORROR BRIGADE (I), rock'n'roll-performance (Bad Bonn Kilbi, Düringen, CH)
- 2008-today FONDUE-OPER, interactive audio-visual installation for theatre by Guy Krneta and Till Löffler (Ursina Greuel, Matterhorn Produktionen, Basel, Zurich, Lucerne, Bern, Aarau, CH)
- 2008 LES PAUVRES SONT TOUS LES MEMES, interactive audio-visual performance for theatre by Cie. Marielle Pinsard (CCS Paris, LU Nantes, France)
- 2008 SOUNDSCAPES FROM THE EDGES, audio-visual performance with Thomas Burkhalter (Krakow, Poland)
- 2007-2008 YA SHARR MOUT, audio-visual performance by Mahmoud Turkmani and Michael Spahr with poems by Nadja Tuéni (Beirut, ZKM Karlsruhe, Biennale Bern, Theaterspektakel Zurich,...)
- 2006 ÄNGELRAIN, video installation for theatre by Ruedi Häusermann with texts by Guy Krneta, Beat Sterchi and Pedro Lenz (Lenzburg, CH)
- 2006 LA LOI DU PLUS FORT (OUEST-EST FESTIVAL), Audio-visual literary performance with the writer Marielle Pinsard (Bern, CH)
- 2005-2008 DIE VERSUCHUNG, DIE ROMANZA DER ELUVIES VON ALFRED WÄLCHLI ZU SPIELEN, interactive audio-visual performance for theatre by Ursina Greuel (Matterhorn Produktionen, Aarau, Zurich, Bern, Basel, Zofingen)
- 2005 OPTINGALE QUARTET: EINSTEIN RE-MIXED, audio-visual performance with Samuel Radvila, Meret Lüthi and Simon Bucher, Biennale Bern (CH)
- 2005 TÖBI TOBLER & MICHAEL SPAHR, audio-visual performance, Dampfzentrale Bern (CH)
- 2004 WINTERSESSION, political video art performance Schlachthaus Bern (CH)
- 2004 HET RAPENBURG CONCERT, video art performance with Optickle/Stichting Pixels at the opening of the cultural season of the city Leiden (The Netherlands)
- 2003 MONTREUX JAZZ FESTIVAL, video installation and VJ/curator with V.I.T., Montreux (CH)
- 2003-2004 MAHATTAAT (KAMILYA JUBRAN), VJ on concert tour (Switzerland, Sweden, Germany, Slovenia, Egypt, France)
- 2002 EXPO.02, several club visuals with V.I.T. (AMJ, Arteplage Biel/Bienne, Cargo-Club Neuchâtel)
- 2001-2003 MANUFACTUR, VJ on concert tour (Switzerland, Slovenia, Austria)
- 2000-2006 100 MOUTHWATERING MENUS, VJ with V.I.T/Optickle (Switzerland, Serbia)
- 1999 AT HOME ABROAD: BABYLON BLUES, audio-visual performance with Malin Ahlén (S), Aleksandra Lopatic (YU), Katarina Soukup (CA), C.E.S.T.A. (Tabor, CZ)
- 1998 AN ALIEN LOOK AT MOKUM, installative performance with Malin Ahlén, group exhibition, gallery Global Reflexion (Amsterdam, NL)



Film projects (animation films, video clips, documentaries, short movies) - selection

- 2009 12-12-12 – APOCALYPSE NOW?, mockumentary about Blues Horror Brigade
- 2008 YA SHARR MOUT, documentary film by Sabine Gisiger (DschointVentschr/SF DRS), animated art work & design CD/DVD by Michael Spahr
- 2008 BLUES HORROR BRIGADE: ASTEROÏD FUNK, music video clip
- 2008 THEY ARE HERE, mockumentary about Blues Horror Brigade
- 2008 ABDUCTED BY ALIENS, mockumentary about Blues Horror Brigade
- 2008 ALIENS IN SWITZERLAND, mockumentary about Blues Horror Brigade
- 2008 JESUS' FLESH AND BLOOD, short movie for agent-provocateur.ch
- 2007 NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND, short movie for agent-provocateur.ch
- 2006 GRÜSSE VON LAIKA, documentary movies by Optickle (Spahr, Hugo Ryser, Sam Radvila)
- 2006 1,2,3...ALLEZ HOP!, music video clip by Optickle
- 2005 BÜMPLIZ – A DAY IN URBAN SWITZERLAND, documentary film by Michael Spahr
- 2004 FILEWILE: CHUMPNRUN, music video clip
- 2004 SAT-PROJEKT/TIME-OUT, documentary film by Anne-Marie Haller and Michael Spahr
- 2002 BUY MORE INCENSE, *orient*-documentary film by Thomas Burkhalter and Michael Spahr
- 2002 TRILOGIE: DIE POLIZEI UND IHR ALLTAG, animation film trilogy
- 2001 MANUFACTUR: BUZDEG, music video clip by V.I.T.
- 2001 LDEEP: SÄGET U, music video clip by Urs Bräm & Michael Spahr

Publications

- 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)