

Approaches, Strategies and Theoretical and Practice-Based Research Methods to investigate and archive video art. Some reflections from the REWIND projects

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This paper will discuss methodologies, approaches and issues, emerging out of three major research projects that have investigated early histories of video art in Europe: REWIND (2004 ongoing), REWIND*Italia* (2011-2014) and EWVA (2015-2018). The paper will discuss how the projects have engaged with the history of the apparatus, the identity and status of the artworks, preservation methods, and the legacy of these video artworks today. A particular focus will be on semi-structured questionnaires for interviews structured to capture oral histories, memories and recollections, that in some cases would have been otherwise lost to future knowledge and the uncovering of lost artworks and their available documentation. The speakers - directly involved in the projects - will discuss solutions, risks and experiences encountered in the projects and future research perspectives for re-covering, collecting, archiving and narrating the histories of early video art in Europe. The paper will discuss also different practice-based research methods, platforms and engagement strategies, including re-installation and re-enactment.

Video art, Media Archive, Research methodologies

1. INTRODUCTION

This paper will discuss methodologies, approaches and issues, emerging out of three major research projects that have investigated early histories of video art in Europe: REWIND (2004 - ongoing), REWIND*Italia* (2011-2014) and EWVA European Women's Video in the 70s and 80s (2015-2018), developed at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, University of Dundee by the REWIND Research Team.

A particular focus will be given to how the projects have engaged with the history of the apparatus, the identity and status of the artworks, preservation methods and migration to digital formats, curatorial and engagement strategies and the legacy of these video artworks today.

2. REWIND

Due to the obsolescence of early video technology - such as various open reel tape and cassette formats utilised in the 70s and 80s -, over time many pioneering early video artworks were no longer available. Some artists and video art centres had migrated artworks to newer formats like VHS to allow for easier distribution and viewing but in most cases of inferior quality to the original. Also due to generational copying the quality of the copies with time progressively deteriorated. So even if some works were in fact available, the result was in most cases poor, and in some cases looked visibly different from how the work was shown in the 70s and 80s (this might also include different versions of the work on later formats).

Prompted by this situation, in 2004 artist and academic Stephen Partridge initiated the REWIND project at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, in collaboration with artist and academic Jackie Hatfield, and received funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council. Partridge had experienced first-hand the obsolescence of the medium as he was a video artist who had pioneered the medium in the mid 70s and was a founding

member of the renown British collective London Video Arts.

At the same time, independently, similar projects of migration and recovery were developed in Europe as well as new research around histories of early video art. Most significant cases include the digitisation of the ZKM video archive in Karlsruhe (Frieling & Herzogenrath (2006); Blas & Weibel (2010)), the video archive at Montevideo, Amsterdam (now LIMA) (Wijers (2003)) and the art/tapes/22 video collection at ASAC - The Historical Archives of Contemporary Arts at the Venice Biennale (Saba (2007)).

The REWIND project aimed to fill a gap in the history of video art by recovering a number of seminal early British video artworks that were at the time believed to be in danger of being lost due to them being held on obsolete formats and therefore not available for viewing. The project migrated them to digital formats and collected bibliographies, conducted interviews - securing the memories of an aging generation of pioneers, and collected various items of documentation (including ephemera e.g. posters, flyers etc). This methodology - which

encompassed bibliographical and archival research and the collection of oral testimonies through semi-structured questionnaires - allowed the gaps to be filled and to verify information in written resources and to recover data and stories that were at risk of permanent loss.

The migration of the videotapes - including 1/2" EIAJ, 1/2" CV, VHS, U-matic, U-Matic Hi Band, Betacam, Betacam SP, 1 Type C, MII to Digibeta and then to file - was carried out by Media Archivist Adam Lockhart at the REWIND Media Preservation Lab (Lockhart (2012)). The lab was founded for the purposes of the project and has been developing techniques in the recovery and restoration of obsolete media, such as heat treatment, signal processing and post-production. Since its inception, the REWIND Lab has recovered and digitised more than 450 videos. Furthermore, the lab has provided consultancy

services and collaborated with other organisations, such as LUX, TATE, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, and Glasgow School of Art on the digitisation and restoration of video works.

During REWIND Partridge and Lockhart were also involved in the AHRC funded research project *Narrative Exploration in Expanded Cinema* (2008-9) initiated by Dr Jackie Hatfield (then David Curtis on Hatfield's death), which focused on theories and histories of this artform and its relation to the contemporary digital practices. This collaboration impacted profoundly the canon of REWIND, and resulted in a publication (Rees et al. (2011)).

The project also investigated how to re-exhibit, screen and re-perform the recovered works using a combination of old and new technology, whilst endeavouring to keep the work as close as possible to the original intentions of the artist. For this purpose the REWIND Lab collected display equipment including CRT monitors etc. This collection enabled the re-installment and re-enactment of significant early video artworks at various REWIND events. Examples include the REWIND launch in 2006 at Dundee Contemporary Arts featuring restaged early works by Tony Sinden, Tina Keane, Tamara Krikorian, David Hall, and Kevin Atherton. Atherton restaged his video performance *In Two Minds* for the first time since 1978.

In 2008 doggerfisher in Edinburgh became the first private gallery to take an interest in the REWIND project and staged *Video from the 70s and 80s*, including works from Ian Breakwell, David Hall, Mick Hartney, Tina Keane, Chris Meigh Andrews and Partridge.

In 2010 in conjunction with Street Level Photoworks in Glasgow, works from the important *Event Space One* (1986, Transmission Gallery) and *Video Towards Defining a n A esthetic* (1976, Third Eye

Centre) video exhibitions were restaged in the exhibition *Lost and Found*, and included works from Tony Sinden, Stephen Partridge, Stephen Littman, Pictorial Heroes, Zoe Redman and Kevin Atherton. The Duvet Brothers Live Multiscreen show which toured in 1986 was re-enacted as it was originally, in 2010 at the DJCAD Visual Research Centre, then displayed for several weeks as an exhibition, for the first time.

In the early stages of the REWIND project an Advisory group compiled a selected list of artists - attaining to the criteria of equality and diversity - that would be involved in the project. This list was revised and implemented at later stages, where more artists were included. The information, the materials and the interviews collected were made publicly available through the online database/website.

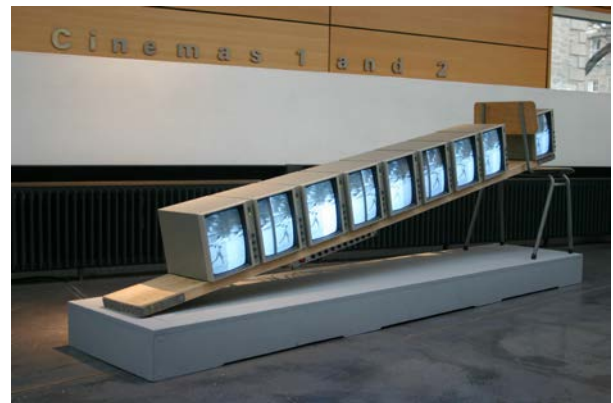


Figure 1: Tony Sinden, *Behold Vertical Devices*, DCA, Dundee, 2006. Courtesy of Danny Hill.

As part of the *Narrative Exploration in Expanded Cinema* project, conducted as a partnership between REWIND and the British Artist's Film and Video Study Collection at Central St Martin's, UAL, Partridge, in 2009, presented a re-enactment from his own body of work: he revisited his early video artwork *Monitor* (1975) as a live performance, for the first time. Using a small monitor, similar to the

one used in the original video, Partridge re-enacted the sequence of gestures from the video, creating a new level in the *mise en abyme* enhancing this very aspect of the work. The performance was streamed live on a wall projection that allowed the audience to explore the work more closely. Partridge performing live in colour clashed anachronistically with the images on the monitor in black and white - and the aged hands of the artist marked the passage of time.

It is remarkable to notice that *Monitor Live!* stressed elements as repetition and the performative aspect of the original *Monitor* and its investigation and self-reflection into the specificity of the medium (Rewind+Play (2009)). On this particular issue, Partridge commented:

The re-enactment was very interesting for me: for the first time, maybe surprisingly I saw how performative the work was from the very beginning, rather than just a very structural and formally didactic piece. The anachronistic use of colour and video projection added a further dimension, and my presence as an older person added a further layer of poignancy. The work seemed to be opened up to new interpretation and audiences' (Leuzzi 2016, p229).

Monitor Live! has stimulated an interesting response to the work, in particular among younger generations, and inspired other re-enactments reaching new audiences on the World Wide Web and exploring contemporary technology (Youtube (2010)).



Figure 2: Stephen Partridge, *MonitorLive!*, Tate Modern, London, 2010. Courtesy of DJCAD Media Archives, University of Dundee.

An important milestone in the project was the consultancy by Partridge and Lockhart in the exhibition *David Hall End Piece* (16 March - 22 April 2012). This was in conjunction with curator Michael Maziere at Ambika P3 Gallery at the University of Westminster, London (Ball (2013)). Hall's installation pieces *Progressive Recession* (1974), and *TV Interruptions (7 TV Pieces): the Installation* (1971/2006) were re-exhibited, but the centrepiece was *1001 TV Sets (End Piece) 1972-2012*. This was the third incarnation of this piece starting with 60 TV sets in 1972 and 101 TV sets in 1975. The piece consisted of 1001 CRT television sets playing out analogue tv, all tuned differently and displaying their own characteristics. Near the end of the exhibition run, the analogue TV signal was turned off at the local transmitter, signaling an end to analogue and the rise of digital. All of the screens displayed white noise for the remaining days of the exhibition. The piece could be considered a unique experience due to the substantial effort displayed in sourcing and installing the 1001 monitors as well as the impossibility of re-installing the work, due to the switch off of the analogue signal (Lockhart 2012, p208). This was also the first time *Progressive Recession* was shown since its debut at *The Video Show* in the Serpentine Gallery in London in 1975.

This time being shown in colour and not black and white.

Two years later Richard Saltoun approached Partridge to curate (assisted by Lockhart) the exhibition: *David Hall Situations Envisaged* (17 July - 14 August 2015) which included a number of video installation works, single channel works, and 16mm films (the latter made in partnership with Tony Sinden) These 16mm films were, at the time, recently scanned by funding received from the Henry Moore foundation awarded to LUX and Steven Ball at CSM, University of the Arts, London. Saltoun as a private gallery dealer had been working with David Hall shortly before his death in 2014, and arranged the acquisition by TATE of his work and archive in collaboration with Hall's daughter Debi Hall. Saltoun continues to represent Hall, and with the interest of commercial galleries once again, confirming the impact of the REWIND project.

One of the main outputs from the REWIND project is a miscellany - edited by media theoretician Sean Cubitt and Partridge - that includes chapters on different aspects, approaches and artworks explored during the project (Cubitt & Partridge (2012)). It is interesting to notice that several chapters reference the interviews collected during the project. These interviews have effectively become a primary source for the REWIND book and more in general for academic research. Also, REWIND published a DVD of UK work from the 1970s (2009) - in collaboration with the art agency LUX- with a curated selection of the recovered works. This publication was a fundamental tool to promote diffusion and availability of these works and through the accompanying booklet to contextualise and analyse the work.

As a follow-on engagement project from REWIND, Lockhart developed the Arts and Humanities Research Council funded project *TV21* (DJCAD, University of Dundee, 2014) in collaboration with Dundee Contemporary Arts and film educator Sandie Jamieson. The project was structured as a workshop for young people (aged 16-19) who were trained in the production of video and sound and familiarised with the REWIND collection. The intention of the project was for the young people to make short works in response to work from the REWIND collection in the spirit of David Hall's *TV Interruptions* (1971) and the UK Channel 4 series produced by Fields & Frames *19:4:90 TV Interventions* (1990). An exercise as part of *TV21* gave the participants the chance - under Lockhart's supervision - to explore and re-enact an iconic early British video artwork (David Critchley's *Dialogue*, 1977, 7 min) to investigate how the old medium and the new medium worked. In this case, the re-enactment - to use concepts outlined by Anglo- Canadian media art curator Sarah Cook - enabled the transmission of how the medium worked and how contemporary technology can be

employed to translate an obsolete apparatus (Cook 2007, p136).

Further work by Lockhart on the preservation of media artworks, was investigated with the recreation of two works by David Hall using virtual reality. These are to be seen not as a replacement for the work but as an illustration of how they would be seen once the original display equipment (CRT monitors) have gone obsolete. These works were *A Situation Envisaged: The Rite II* (1989), displayed at NEO festival, Dundee, Scotland in 2017 and *Television Interruptions: The Installation* (1971/2006) shown at *Besides the Screen* conference, King's College London, 2018. These were made in conjunction with VR professionals Rhoda Ellis and Sang-Hun Yu respectively.

3. REWINDITALIA

The REWIND project was followed by REWIND*Italia* which officially started in 2011, with the support of the AHRC.

Differently from REWIND, REWIND*Italia* did not aim to recover and migrate early Italian video artworks to digital, but to explore and re-assess the pioneering contribution of Italian video art centres, productions and artists in the development of the medium as an artform in the 70s and 80s.

It aimed to uncover the systems of production and distribution that characterised the early Italian video art scene and the international relationships and collaborations developed with European and American galleries, curators, artists and festivals.

Based on these premises, REWIND*Italia* - similarly to REWIND - carried out a rigorous literature review, archival research in private and public archives and a number of semi-structured interviews conducted in Italy, to retrace the multiple and complex stories of Italian video art. Relying on the available literature (including Bordini, Fagone), the project pursued, at the same time, the idea of providing an overview of the known stories - which were in many cases marginalised in the art history canon - and to fill some gaps in the existing narratives. The semi-structured questionnaire explored, in particular, access to apparatus, participation in exhibitions, festivals and symposiums and access to International early video artwork collaborations among Italian video art centres. The early stage of data collection led to the publication of the *Chronology of Video Art in Italy (1950-1994)* (Leuzzi

3.1 Luca Maria Patella: a Case Study

Although REWIND*Italia* did not aim to recover any works, some significant exceptions were made. Leuzzi discovered that the video and media

pioneer Luca Maria Patella had in his private collection some 1/2" EIAJ open reel tapes from the 70s. These had never been recovered before, so there was an opportunity to preserve some pioneering works by the artist. Considering the importance of the contribution of Patella in early video history and the fact that at the time there were no early video artworks by Patella available (although many were documented in old catalogues and books), the open reels were recovered by Lockhart in the REWIND Lab. The reels revealed three video artworks - that were poorly documented in the available literature (Di Marino (1994))

- showing the synergy in the use of different types of media, highlighting the signature style of Patella (including film, carousels, home-made machines, photography, artist's books and prints), his famous word plays (inspired by James Joyce's *Finnegans Wake* and Laurence Sterne's *Tristram Shandy*), his reference to psychology, theory of perception and colours and self-quotes (Leuzzi (2015), Barilli (1975)). These works were entitled *Grammatica dissolvente - Gazzúff! Avventure & cultura* [Dissolving Grammar - Gazzúff! Adventures and Culture], not dated (archival research allowed Patella and Leuzzi to date the video to 1974-75); *Arte della conoscenza di alettica* [Art of Dialectical Knowledge] (B/W, EIAJ, 1/2" tape, open reel) dated 1974 and recorded in the artist's CVs and catalogues; and *Viaggio in Luca* [Journey in Luca], video documenting Patella's exhibition at the ICC Internationaal Cultureel Centrum in Antwerp, in 1976. In particular, *Grammatica di ssolvente* and *Arte del la conoscenza di alettica* included recordings of Patella performing with a machine he invented in the 70s for 'manual and musical varied fading' ('*dissolvenze variate manuali e musicali*') (Leuzzi 2015, p170). The machine - now dismantled - allowed the performer to create fade in and fade outs of slides in a gradual and complex rhythm, accompanied by a musical score. The video is today considered the only visual trace of this apparatus. The migration of these videos finally allowed the inclusion of Patella's contribution in the Italian video art canon and more in general in the art history of the 70s (Lancioni (2013)).

& Catricalá (2015)). The chronology acted as a tool to organise and map relationships, genealogies and exchanges, outlining production and distribution centres, exhibitions and theoretical publications and retrace the cross-fertilisation of video with different media.

3.1. Engagement Events

REWIND*Italia*'s participation at the VideoEx Festival at the Walcheturm (Zurich, July 2014) marked a milestone in the project: Partridge and Leuzzi invited musician and composer Claudio Ambrosini - who

had experimented with video in the 70s and early 80s at Galleria del Cavallino in Venice - to create a re-enactment of his early video performance *Videosonata* (1979) in front of a live audience at the VideoEx Festival in Zurich, as part of a curated screening program dedicated to Italian experimental film and video. The original *Videosonata* was opened by Ambrosini introducing the work: the artist explained to an imaginary audience that his objective was to replicate how a video could work on the piano and re-create the scanning of the cathode ray tube using a monitor and an electric piano. In the version at the Walcheturm, Ambrosini decided to mediate the work to the audience in the room, by introducing the original piece and explaining the historical context and the analogue technology employed with which it had been produced. After this introduction, he proceeded to perform.

Projecting the original *Videosonata* on the wall - both in Zurich and later in a second iteration at the CCA, Glasgow - allowed Ambrosini to literally engage live with the original video, but also stimulated a higher involvement and empathy within the audience, expanding the work in space and time. Present and past were confronted in the same temporal and spatial frame and interlaced a 'palimpsest' of sound - one recorded in the past and one live in the present - including moving image (Leuzzi (2019)). This re-enactment helped to collect further traces of the original work, incorporating original oral recollections and data in the existing documentation of *Videosonata*. The rehearsals provided pivotal opportunities of research: while the artist re-performed the work several times to re-familiarise himself with the gestures and the different equipment, the research team was allowed to collect documentation and to dissect the work via the new production. These approaches aim to inform the preservation of the work, beyond mere migration, exploring forms of re-interpretation and engagement and contributing to the current conversations and debates on forms of preservation of new media art (Rinehart & Ippolito (2014)).

3.2. The Book

The REWIND*Italia* book marked another milestone: which emerged in reviews and scholarly papers, REWIND*Italia* has become an important research tool in Italy and internationally likewise (Tozzi (2015); Blackwood (2016)). The book included a number of historical and seminal pieces about Italian video art translated for the first time into English as well as new commissioned chapters which analysed aspects, themes and approaches from different perspectives. In particular the translation of historical pieces by Renato Barilli, Lola Bonora, Silvia Bordini, Paolo Cardazzo, Simonetta Fadda, Vittorio Fagone, Marco Maria Gazzano, Luciano Giaccari, Sandra Lischi, and Valentina Valentini, allowed the English-speaking academics, curators

and practitioners to have access for the first time to video art histories, data, theory and primary sources which documented the most relevant video art centres, artists and exhibitions from the 70s and 80s including art/tapes/22, Centro Video Arte in Ferrara, Videobelisco in Rome, and Galleria del Cavallino. Furthermore, some of chapters, as for example those by Bonora, Giaccari and Fagone, are now rare or difficult to access. For this reason, REWIND*Italia* has become an important resource for Italian academics as well.

4. EWVA

During REWIND*Italia*, analysing Italian women artists' early video in relationship with works in the REWIND Collection, several early women artists' video artworks shared similar imagery, and common features and themes, sometimes even if the artists did not have direct contact between each other (Leuzzi (2012)). This aspect can be especially traced with women artists who were addressing feminist issues, even if they were not involved in collectives or considered themselves feminists. Of course, this can be also directly linked to the specificities of video (including for example live feedback, the difficulty in editing the material, the portability of the apparatus) as a recently acquired medium that at the time, artists were interested to experiment with.

This *fil rouge* had not yet been fully investigated at a European level and EWVA (DJCAD, 2015-2018)

- led by feminist video pioneer Elaine Shemilt - received funding to explore the subject. The project was developed through a mixed methodological approach inspired by the previous REWIND projects, that encompassed archival and bibliographical research; collecting and comparing published and archival materials, including video artworks, video documentation etc and qualitative interviews. The interviews spanned issues previously covered in projects like REWIND and REWIND*Italia* including access to apparatus, distribution and production but also issues specific to this project including feminist theory, feminist video collectives, and political movements. Particular attention, for example, was paid to feminist collectives such as Circles in London, which enabled production, promotion and

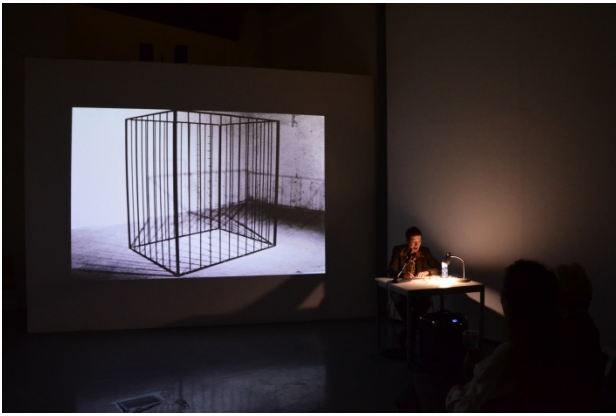


Figure 3: Claudio Ambrosini performing live, *Videosonata (From Giorni)*, Kunstraum Walcheturm, Zurich, 2014. Courtesy of REWINDItalia.

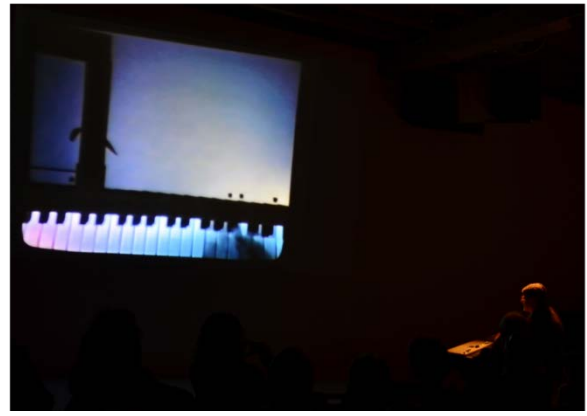


Figure 4: Lydia Schouten performing live at *Self/Portraits*, VRC, DCA, Dundee, 2016. Courtesy of Simone Liuzzi.

distribution, playing a key role in supporting women artists moving image (Deepwell (2014)).

4.1. Curatorial Platforms for EWVA

In 2015 - a few months into the project - the EWVA team started exploring curatorial strategies and platforms as forms of practice-based research methods to carry out the research, receive feedback and engage both with specialists in the field and a general audience.

Autoritratti (The Showroom, London, 12 December 2015) was a performative screening which explored different methodological tools, including dialogue, autobiography, critique, cross-genre and fragmented narratives (Leuzzi (2019)). This approach was inspired by Italian feminist thinker Carla Lonzi and her book *Autoritratto* (1969). In *Autoritratto*, Lonzi merged different interviews recorded independently with artists. The result was an imagined and fictive dialogue, that outlined a portrait through the relations among artists and their critics.

Inspired by Lonzi's approach and theory, *Autoritratti* created a dialogue of selected video 'self-portraits' by women artists - both pioneers and from younger generations - who have explored the themes of identity and selfhood from different perspectives, investigating the female and male bodies, eroticism and desire, motherhood, the stereotypical and patriarchal image of women in media and the marginalisation of women in the art system. The platform employed real and interpreted voices, that were performed by artists and performers.

The curated selection included Italian (Anna Valeria Borsari, Ketty La Rocca, Federica Marangoni) and British (Catherine Elwes, Tina Keane and Shemilt) video pioneers, and therefore showed some of the common themes (as the body, motherhood, identity) and approaches - that fil rouge - at the core of the EWVA project (Leuzzi et al (2015)).

Autoritratti was included in the feminist programme *Now You can Go* (London, The Showroom, Raven Row and the ICA), organised by the Feminist Duration Reading Group and coordinated by Helena Reckitt and Dimitra Gtizta (Reckitt (2017)). Being part of a feminist program allowed EWVA to explore the works from different feminist theories, and stimulated the debate and feedback on the project from a younger generation of practitioners, curators and art historians.

This event was also an occasion to recover a video artwork by Anna Valeria Borsari, which had been partially migrated to digital by La Camera Ottica in Udine and thanks to what could be defined a 'light' digital restoration of the work it was possible to show in full for the first time at the Showroom.

In December 2016, a second iteration of this curatorial platform was curated by Dr Diana Georgiou, Giulia Casalini and Leuzzi and drew inspiration once again from Lonzi and from the Italian feminist philosopher Adriana Cavarero's book *Relating Narratives: Storytelling and Selfhood* (2000), where exploring one's identity is possible only through the desire to hear their own story narrated by another person. The selection encompassed works by artists from different generations and countries expanding on EWVA's core idea of common thematic and approaches in women's artists' video. The themes spanned from motherhood to identity, eroticism, love and representation within the patriarchal system. Artists included Pilar Albarracín, Cinzia Cremona, Catherine Elwes, Francesca Fini, Antonie Frank Grahamsdaughter, Sigalit Landau, Tamara Krikorian, Muda Mathis & Pipilotti Rist, Lydia Schouten, Elaine Shemilt, Annegret Soltau.

In October 2016, Leuzzi and Lockhart co-curated Elaine Shemilt's *Doppelgänger Redux*, a live re-enactment of Shemilt's early video performance *Doppelgänger* conceived and realised in a residency at South Hill Park Art Centre between 1979 and 1981.

The choice of adopting this form of re-enactment was inspired by the experience gained through REWIND and REWIND/Italia. From a researcher's perspective, in *Doppelgänger*'s case the re-enactment could play a fundamental role as practice-based methodology, to dissect the work and investigate how it was technically created: the re-enactment allowed us to learn that Shemilt utilised a video monitor to provide a live feed from the camera. The live feed was featured on a monitor that was reflected on the corner of the mirror used in the video. Based on the reflected live feed, Shemilt drew her self-portrait on the mirror creating the *doppelgänger*. The re-enactment stimulated the artist's physical memory and allowed the curators to be actively engaged in the new production.

Other experimental curatorial platforms, adopted during EWVA, included *The Polyphonic Essay on Memory* curated by Alexandra Ross, Gayle Mickle and Leuzzi, as part of NEoN Festival in November 2017 (Dundee, Vision Building). This research event focused on memory from a feminist perspective. Each curator independently selected two artworks from the EWVA and REWIND archives, which they revealed to each other during the event. Inspired by Pinkola Estés' feminist classic *Women who run*



Figure 5: Elaine Shemilt, *Doppelgänger Redux*, Nunnery Gallery, London, 2016. Courtesy of Orlando Myxx.

with the wolves (2008), Leuzzi explored Jungian archetypes through *Transit* (1986) by Antonie Frank Grahamsdaughter and *Der Herzschlag des Anubis* (The Heartbeat of Anubis, 1988) by Maria Vedder and Bettina Gruber. Other works selected included comments on historical and personal memory. After the works were screened, the curators improvised a discussion, responding live to the selected works, based on the research conducted in the archive and engaged with the feedback from the audience.

In March 2018, EWVA also experimented with an iteration of the format *3G Three Generations of Women Perform*, at Threshold artspace at Horsecross Arts in Perth (Scotland). The event curated by Iliyana Nedkova and Leuzzi incorporated

a lecture and a curated screening of women artists' early video - that included works by Klara Kuchta, Federica Marangoni, Elaine Shemilt and Teresa Wennberg - with live performance from the video pioneer Elaine Shemilt, and young artists, with the aim to contextualise some themes, approaches and styles emerged in the works within feminist theory and the history of video art and to stimulate an inter-generational dialogue.

EWVA also explored more traditional curatorial formats including exhibitions: *The Time Is Right For* at Summerhall, Edinburgh in 2017, which was an exhibition curated by Leuzzi and Lockhart. It featured work by Marikki Hakola, Elaine Shemilt, Ketty La Rocca and Giny Vos. The theme drew inspiration from the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Edinburgh Festival and included works by four European women video pioneers that engaged with societal and political themes.

For this event Finnish video pioneer Marikki Hakola recovered, with the support of AV-arkki, the video *The Time is Right for...* that was presented for the first time in its recovered version at Summerhall. In this case EWVA stimulated the independent recovery of the video, providing an outlet for exhibition and contextualisation.

For this exhibition we also re-installed Giny Vos' *Giovanni Arnofini and his Young Wife* (1984). This re-installation allowed investigation into the apparatus involved in the original work and the themes raised by the work.

As can be immediately assumed from the title, that work employs a reproduction of the famous 15th century masterpiece by Jan van Eyck located at the National Gallery in London. In a still debated and controversial interpretation by Erwin Panofsky (1934) the painting would represent the Arnolfini wedding, and the two figures visible in the reflection on the convex mirror would be the witnesses at the ceremony, a necessary element to legalise a marital oath. In Panofsky's view, this interpretation is reinforced by the graffiti-esque inscription in Latin that reads 'Jan van Eyck was here 1434' which appears above the mirror. The latter, in Vos' version, is replaced by a monitor, which shows the live image of the viewer, captured by a video camera. In this way the artist literally embraces the futurist concept of placing the viewer 'at the centre of the painting'. Drawing from Panofsky's fascinating interpretation, the contemporary viewer is the witness of the scene, testifying the '*hic et nunc*' (here and now). This interactive feature must have seemed particularly new to the visitors in the 1980s when portable video cameras and CCTV were not readily available as they are today.

Giovanni Arnofini and his Young Wife also raises issues of surveillance and control evoked by the fact the work was made in the infamous Orwellian year of 1984.

4.2. The Book

As for the previous projects the most relevant output for EWVA is a book edited by Leuzzi, Elaine Shemilt and Partridge (Leuzzi et al (2019)). The book includes a number of thematic chapters (including identity, eroticism, motherhood, the ephemeral use of the apparatus) as well as chapters dedicated to specific geographical areas and countries (e.g. Poland, the Balkans, Ireland). Due to the expanse of the area and the period, neither the project nor the book could cover exhaustively the subject.

Therefore, the EWVA book aims to become a powerful tool to stimulate further the research into women artists' fundamental contribution to the development of early video art in Europe.

5. CONCLUSIONS

The REWIND projects have managed to successfully recover and promote artworks and histories from the early development of video art in Europe that - otherwise - would have been lost. Through exhibitions, screenings, and various engagement projects and events, articles and books, the team has aimed to support the recognition of those video pioneers that had been marginalised in the art system and were not yet in the art history canon. The REWIND projects have impacted the field, influencing curators, authors and practitioners, and inspiring exhibitions, publications and projects.

Looking at the various outputs of the research, with time, the REWIND team has identified areas, aspects, artists and mediums that could benefit from further investigation. Therefore, in the future the team will continue to develop projects from the REWIND Archives and projects, with the aim of further promoting knowledge and research in the field, capitalising on the exceptional expertise and network gained in the past fifteen years.

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