

# VALENTINA LARI



[www.valentinalari.co.uk](http://www.valentinalari.co.uk)

Born in Florence, Italy, 1975. Graduated with an MA in script writing and directing at Goldsmiths College, London in 2003, Lari lived in England until 2015. She's currently living in Ghent, Belgium.

Her visual work mainly focuses on sense of loss & death. She exclusively work with analogue photography and prints her own photographs. As a filmmaker, although her preferred choice is 16mm and supers8mm, she integrates film with digital and explores the various possibilities that the digital format itself offer.

Lari exhibited in UK and Europe as photographer and her early short films (*Scheinruhe*, *October Games*) of a more classic narrative approach, have been awarded and screened in international film festivals. Using mixed media (HD, 16mm, supers8mm) she creates experimental films that can be regarded both as video installation and short film.

*In The Dark Closet* (2007) an installation/photography piece on children welfare was selected as part of the art showcase of The Human Right Nights Film Festival in Bologna and her experimental film *Post Mortem Souvenir* (2008) based on JG Ballard's work was part of *12 Steps Down* group show at Shoreditch's Town Hall, London. Both her photographic and film work were included in *Panic II & III* (2011/2012) group on site exhibitions inspired by the panic movement created in the 60ies by revolutionary filmmakers Alejandro Jodorowsky and Fernando Arrabal. In 2011 her film *In Loving Memory*-previously exhibited at the Old Operating Theatre Museum of London in 2005 and in Florence in 2006-was showcased in Ghent, Belgium as part of a group show on death and relics: *Letting Go*. In 2012 the video was also part of *In Paradisum*, an art exhibition at Rich Mix Gallery, London connected to the performance on the eponymous requiem interpreted by British composer Benjamin Till.

Lari was awarded a travel & art grant by the Mütter Museum, of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia in 2010 for the production of an experimental short film and a series of photographic images and the finished piece entitled *The Deformity of Beauty* has been screened in various festivals & universities throughout 2012 and 2013. In late 2013 she completed a short experimental documentary on rituals and superstitions in Victorian England *Dido's Lament: Victorian Rituals of Death and Mourning*.

In 2014 Valentina Lari was selected for the prestigious national Creative England's Talent Centre Launch Net. Work Programme for emerging filmmakers organized by the BFI (British Film Institute) and Lighthouse (digital culture & fine art agency).

Between Dec 2013-Jan 2014 she collaborated with Laurence Talairach - Vielmas (Déléguée Scientifique AERES -LLCE- and Professeur des Universités at Toulouse University) and the anatomy department of the University of Toulouse Rangueil on a film and photographic project *Liminality* which concerns a pathological and medical collection that require immediate funding and support in order to preserve its beautiful 19th anatomical waxes and specimens. A presentation of the project was part of Nuit du Patrimoine ENVT at Musée d'anatomie de l'Ecole Nationale Vétérinaire de Toulouse and a screening of the final film *Liminality* and a photo exhibition was held at La Fabrique, CIAM Centre d'Initiatives artistiques de l'Université de Toulouse II-Le Mirail, Toulouse in 2014. The project is also supported by Association EXPLORA, Toulouse. The film "Liminality" is currently internationally touring with Fabrica Vitae group show.

Lari's latest photography work was included in Post Mortem exhibition, Rommelare Instituut, Ghent, Belgium Oct-Dec 2015. Exhibiting artists: Jan Fabre, Berlinde de Bruyckere, Pascale Pollier Green, Eleanor Crook, Wil Mathijs, Harlinde De Mol, Chantal Pollier, Martin Uit den Bogaard...

### **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

**2014**

*Liminality*, La Fabrique Galerie d'Art, CIAM Centre d'Initiatives artistiques de l'Université de Toulouse, France

**2008**

*The Kiss Hoarder*, The Old Operating Theatre Museum, London

**2007**

*In The Dark Closet*, Art Cafe' Gallery, Human Rights Nights Festival, Bologna, Italy

**2006**

*In Loving Memory*, Le Giubbe Rosse Historic Art Cafe, Florence, Italy

**2005**

*In Loving Memory*, The Old Operating Theatre Museum, London

**2001**

*Big Sensuality*, Sesto Senso Art Gallery, Bologna, Italy

### **SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

**2015**

*Post Mortem*, University of Ghent, Rommelare, Ghent, Belgium

*Fabrica Vitae* (touring exhibition), Stradins Museum, Riga

*Fabrica Vitae* (touring exhibition) Pius XII Library Saint Louis University, USA  
*Fabrica Vitae* (touring exhibition) Emory Health Sciences Library, Atlanta USA

**2014**

*Fabrica Vitae* (touring exhibition), Andreas Syggros Museum, Athens  
*Fabrica Vitae* (touring exhibition), Library Art Gallery, Zakynthos, Greece  
*The Body is the Instrument of the Soul*, Old Operating Theatre, London  
*Over the Hill*, Create Gallery, Photography Biennale Brighton, UK

**2013**

*ArtWorks Open*, Artworks, Barbican Arts Trust, London  
*Histories of Thought*, Saint Bavo's Abbey, Ghent, Belgium

**2012**

*Electric*, Electric Pictures House, Cheshire, UK  
*In Paradisum*, Rich Mix Studios, London  
*Panic III*, Apiary Studios, London,

**2011**

*Letting Go*, Campo Santo, Ghent, Belgium  
*Panic II*, Old Abbattoir, London

**2008**

*12 Steps Down: JG Ballard's Drowned Giant*, Shoreditch Town Hall, London

**2004**

*Illustration 67*, ArtGallery67, London

**1998**

*Middle East Festival Photographic Show*, Cineteca di Bologna, Bologna, Italy  
*Children in the City*, Archiginnasio Library, Bologna, Italy

## **SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY**

*Liminality* HD, colour, 14', France 2014

*Dido's Lament: Victorian Rituals of Death and Mourning*, HD, b&w, 18' 03'', UK 2014

*The Deformity of Beauty. A Last Dance With The Mütter Maidens*, HD, B&W, 20'  
USA/UK, 2011 (Best Experimental World Cinema shortfilm, Amsterdam Film  
Festival 2012 & Merit Award, Lucerne Film Festival 2012)

*Post Mortem Souvenir*, Super8mm & Minidv, Colour, 10', UK 2008

*In Loving Memory*, super8mm, 16mm, photographs, B&W, UK 11', UK 2005

*Giochi D'Ottobre* (October Games) 16mm, B&W, 12' Italy 2001  
(Best Short Film at MAP VIDEO Visioni Italiane Film Festival in Bologna, Italy)

*Scheinruhe*, HI8, minidv B&W/Color, 11' Italy 1998  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Best short film at the Horror Film Festival, Turin. Italy & Special mention at  
the VIDEO DONNA FESTIVAL, Bologna, Italy)

## **SELECTED FILM SCREENINGS, CONFERENCES, LECTURES**

**Nov 2016** (forthcoming)

*Remains To Be Seen* screening of *Liminality* and *The Deformity of Beauty*, Barts  
Pathology Museum, London UK

**2015**

*Post Mortem Conference*, guest speaker artist, University of Ghent, Rommelare, Ghent, Belgium

**2014**

*Brighton Film Festival*, Cinecity, screening, Brighton UK

*Nuit du Patrimoine ENVT*, guest speaker artist, Toulouse, France

*Dido's Lament: Victorian Rituals of Death and Mourning*, guest speaker artist, Preston Manor, Brighton UK

*Stillness and Whispers*, guest speaker artist, Death Salon UK. Barths Museum, Queen University, London

*Creepy Victorians? Victorian and Contemporary Post Mortem Photography*, lecturer The Old Operating Theatre Museum. London UK

**2013**

*Kino Der Kunst Art Film Festival*, guest speaker and screening, Munich, Germany

*Arte Quantistica e Realtà Aumentata* (Quantistic Art and Augmented Reality Conference, guest speaker and screening, Casciano Terme Town Hall, Pistoia, Italy

**2012**

*Valentina Lari and The Mutter Museum*, lecturer and screening, The Last Tuesday Society, London

*Memento Macabre: Sketches from the Mutter Museum. Films by Valentina Lari and The Quay Brothers*, guest speaker and screening, King's College London UK

*Celebrating 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mutter Museum*, screening, Philadelphia USA

## REVIEWS

*'Rarely we discover artists that so closely work with the macabre and with the terminal phase of our life (...) Her films, often characterised by the use of a gloomy atmospheric black and white, remind of some of the work by Maia Deren (...) Valentina Lari is more unique than simply unusual.'*

Domenico Monetti, film critic, Segnocinema March 2016

*'It's amazing how much our two films ("Through the Weeping Glass") actually do overlap [almost uncannily] with themes and images and objects (...) the actress eminently and very beautifully carried her fiction as did the very handsome photography in black and white... A skilful achievement'*

The Quay Brothers on "The Deformity of Beauty"

*'Lari's video, 'In Loving Memory,' is placed only a few feet away (from the operating table)- as though acknowledging the inevitable. Over fluid black and white, moonlit shots of Victorian grave statuary a voice reads poems emanating from the beyond. Beautifully eerie...'*

Sarah Kent, art critic, Time Out London 2005

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

**2002-2003** MA in Film Studies (scriptwriting/directing) MA Film Directing and Scriptwriting, Goldsmiths College London

**1995-2001** BA (Hons)/MA Film Studies DAMS (Art, Film, Performance) University of Bologna, Italy

**1989-1994** Degree in Foreign Languages, G.Pascoli College, Florence Italy

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

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