



**EXPERIMENTA**

# Haunted Engines: UNICA and Other Films from Computer Generated Worlds

+ Q&A with Blaise Kirschner

*UNICA* is the new, eagerly anticipated film by Blaise Kirschner, a personally absorbing exploration of post-apocalyptic game worlds that merges current forms of digital production such as motion capture with drawing and quasi-archaeological procedures, calling attention to the artificial naturalisation of historical and ongoing violence, and the conditions of possibility for its decoding and disruption. Shot in Berlin, as an eerie fiction, *UNICA* follows a motion-capture performer and an artist, her mother, as their interstitial machine world is built and born from a landscapes on the city's edge that has grown over war ruins. The programme includes other examples of artist films that draw on computer generated worlds and we look forward to welcoming Jarman Award winner Kirschner for a conversation about their new film and research.

## **UNICA**

*UNICA* is named after the writer and artist Unica Zürn (1916 – 1970), whose illustrated text *The House of Illnesses* (1958) figures her body and her institutionalisation as one formation. Rethinking contemporary forms of immersion in simulated worlds through Zürn's body-building, *UNICA* attends to the syncretic lifeforms that emerge from the intra-actions between the organismic, technological and phantasmal today. The latent presence of an unnamed catastrophe is repeatedly evoked by the protagonists, an artist and a motion-capture performer, via overlapping references to post-apocalyptic computer games, drawings, and dreams. This deliberate indeterminacy is extended to Teufelsberg, a forested hill on the outskirts of Berlin made from the debris of Second World War ruins, where parts of the work were filmed. By merging motion capture with quasi-archaeological procedures, *UNICA* calls attention to the artificial naturalisation of historical and ongoing violence, and the conditions of possibility for its decoding and disruption.

## **Hudson Valley Ruins**

Depicting various domestic spheres of a suburban north American context, *Hudson Valley Ruins* is a machinima video that relies on *The Sims 3* computer graphics engine to depict the absurd, alienated, and often uncanny lives of several characters, focusing on two young girls and their visions, experiences, and fantasies.

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## UNICA

*Written and Directed by:* Blaise Kirschner  
*Production:* Blaise Kirschner  
*Commissioned and Co-produced by:* Fluentum  
*Curators:* Junia Thiede, Dennis Brzek  
*Production Assistant:* Lena Weißmüller  
*Cinematography:* Julian Moser  
*Camera Assistant:* Luisa Knight  
*Editing:* Katharina Voß  
*Dramaturgy & Choreography:* Zee Hartmann  
*Motion Capture:* OnPoint Studios  
*Animation:* Diana Gradinaru  
*Production Design:* Cleo Niemeyer-Nasser  
*Hair & Make-up:* Kathrin Hieselmayer  
*Colour Grading:* Julian Moser  
*Sound:* Katharina Voß

*Sound Design & Soundtrack:* Wibke Tiarks  
*Sound Mix:* Kostas Flylaktidis

### With

Gabrielle Scharnitzky (*UNICA A*)  
Grete Gehrke (*UNICA B*)

Germany 2022  
36 mins

## HUDSON VALLEY RUINS

*Director:* Jacky Connolly  
USA 2016  
30 mins

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## REGULAR PROGRAMME

**Member Picks: The War of the Roses** Thu 2 Mar 18:15  
**Course: Filmmaking for Artists: Intermediate Filmmaking Workshop**  
Sun 5 Mar 10:30-16:30 (1 session)  
**Silent Cinema: The Passion of Joan of Arc**  
(*La Passion de Jeanne d'Arc*) Sun 5 Mar 14:00  
**Member Salon: Close** Mon 6 Mar 20:15  
**Seniors: The Teckman Mystery (+ intro) + The Stranger Left No Card**  
Wed 8 Mar 14:00  
**African Odysseys: On Her Shoulders:**  
**Black Women in Broadcast Journalism** Wed 8 Mar 18:10  
**Woman with a Movie Camera: Fashion Reimagined + Q&A with director Becky Hutner and designer Amy Powney**  
Wed 8 Mar 20:40  
**Member Exclusive: BFI Southbank and BFI IMAX Tour**  
Mon 13 Mar 10:00  
**Art in the Making: Art We Deserve? (+ intro by Ken Worpole) + Marketing the Arts: Foundation for Success** Mon 13 Mar 18:15  
**Projecting the Archive: The Clairvoyant**  
**+ intro by Dr Lucie Bea Dutton, historian** Tue 14 Mar 18:10

## IVOR CUTLER AND THE ECCENTRIC MISCELLANY

**Ivor Cutler and Friends + panel discussion**  
Sat 4 Mar 16:10  
**Vivian Stanshall + intro by Lucian Randall, Vivian Stanshall biographer**  
Tue 7 Mar 18:15  
**Bruce Lacey, The Alberts and more + intro by William Fowler, BFI Archive Curator**  
Thu 9 Mar 20:45  
**Margaret Rutherford and Friends + intro by Claire Mortimer, author of *Spinsters, Widows and Chars***  
Wed 15 Mar 18:15

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