



*And my heart is falling silently
Into the driving evening sound*

Solitude

a film by Nina Danino



Bottom image: *Les Femmes Solitaires* (1972) © Philippe Grand
Quotation: *Purple Lips* by Nico

Featuring film portraits and poetry readings by Nico. Vocals by Nina Danino. And the music of Ash Ra Tempel.
With original music and arrangements by James Creed and Graham Dowdall aka Gagarin.



SOLITUDE, a film by Nina Danino, UK, 2022, 72 mins

*..then on the shore of the wide world I stand alone, and think
Till love and fame to nothingness do sink." 1818 John Keats*

Readings from the Romantic poets and songs from the dark repertoire of the singer Nico with portraits from the films of Philippe Garrel circa 1975 and Andy Warhol's The Chelsea Girls and swirling electronic music from Ash Ra Tempel and electric guitar by James Creed and with original music and arrangements to Nico's songs by Graham Dowdall aka Gagarin, ex of The Faction, with new images of the River Thames put together in an elegy on iconicity, vocality, finitude and solitude.

SOLITUDE features the singer Nico as a poet and icon and as part of a tradition within which she saw herself, of bohemian artists traced back to the Romanticism of the early 19th century.

An experimental film which includes five other films (Le Berceau de Cristal, Un Ange Passe, Les Hautes Solitudes, The Chelsea Girls, The River Thames) it places emphasis on structure, camera, stasis and format, and all these elements create a reflexive relationship within the film and to the viewer. Each of these films - and their images - is treated with reverence, and resisting appropriation, it reflects on the image and cultural iconicity.

Solitude is a film about surface where we are led by the aural, carried by a woman's voice reading us poetry (Coleridge, Brontë, Byron, Tennyson, Keats), by the drones of Gagarin (Graham Dowdall), by the swirling electronic music of Ash Ra Tempel, by the same voice singing the haunting songs of Nico. We do not get to know Nico's life or who she is through this film but there is a connection to her person in the soundtrack through the singing, and you hear her spoken voice reciting her lyrics. There is a contrast with the silence of the image and how warm and emotional the voice is.

The images are durational and this creates a distance and space for reflection. A beautiful surface is created through layers of transformation of the original film materials into shimmering textures and layers. What are we seeing? Is it an icon? Is it an idol? A screen? The use of black intervals force us to listen. More of an experience than a film, Solitude is intended for cinemas or similar environment including live readings and music. It is a continuation of a long exploration for experimental filmmaker Nina Danino into 'the voice' iconicity, and 'the singer' as a privileged figure who can access and express both collective and individual profound emotion.

SOLITUDE

THE FILMS

LE BERCEAU DE CRISTAL

UN ANGE PASSE

LES HAUTES SOLITUDES

THE CHELSEA GIRLS

THE RIVER THAMES

THE MUSIC

GAGARIN (GRAHAM DOWDALL)

JAMES CREED

ASH RA TEMPEL

THE VOICES

NICO Spoken Word

NINA DANINO Poems and Songs

THE POETRY

PHANTOM, Coleridge

TO IMAGINATION, Brontë

HOW CLEAR SHE SHINES, Brontë

MY SOUL IS DARK, Byron

THE PALACE OF ART, Tennyson

TO SLEEP, Keats

WHEN I HAVE FEARS THAT I MAY CEASE TO BE, Keats

Country of Production: UK
Year: 2022
Running Time : 72 minutes
Screening Format: DCP, ProRes422HQ, H264 (mp4)
Sound: 5:1 or stereo 25fps
Aspect Ratio 16:9
Language: English
Colour and Black and White

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