

CV

Yanka Smetanina is a Berlin-based multidisciplinary artist, independent filmmaker and researcher. Since 2004 she has had an ongoing artistic practice with a focus on exhibitions, art projects and teaching. The work includes video installations, experimental films, texts, performances, images. Artistic research focuses on decolonial methods, feminist and gender theories, identity and privilege politics, memory studies, the representation of trauma and vulnerability, politics of resistance and self-organization, and educational systems. The main method is autoethnography. Social interaction and empowerment are at the center of the situated participatory art practice, which often takes place in public spaces. The initiation and implementation of extensive community art projects often involve socially disadvantaged groups from different countries. In 2013, she was nominated for the Kandinsky Prize (equivalent to the British Turner Prize) in the Project of the Year category, and in 2014 she won the Simply Prize in Moscow. In 2020, her video installation was honored by the BMI Germany on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of German unity and shown in the Gallery of Unity in Potsdam. Her visual works and films have been presented at exhibitions, festivals, biennials and triennials in Moscow, Tashkent, Berlin, Mannheim, Vienna, Oslo, Seoul and London, among others. The works are in private and public collections, in the RAAN network of Russian art archives of the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art.

Main areas of work and interest: Human, body, corporeality of experience, holistic aesthetic perception, trauma, identity in politics, absence, laminar spaces, nature space theory, sociology of art, art in public space, art in architecture, film, autoethnography, research, action, participation, Artistic practice as a research process and epistemological instrument, artistic research, aesthetics of performance, participatory art, inclusion / exclusion, art in the social sphere, performative objects and spaces, writing / text as an artistic medium, erasing materials and processes, fluidity, decolonial aesthetics.

ACADEMIC EDUCATION

- 2024 The NYI Global Institute of Critical Cultural Studies, winter course.
- 2021 – 2023 Institute for Art in Context, Berlin University of the Arts; M.A., specialisation: Artistic work in/with cultural institutions; final thesis: Identity Crisis. The representation of fluid identity. The curatorial research exhibition project.
- 2015 – 2017 Baza, Institute for Contemporary Art, Moscow. Scholarship. Artistic work in the context of media and scientific image production, philosophy of art.
- 2004 – 2005 Institute for Problems of Contemporary Arts, Moscow. Specialisation: strategies of contemporary art, project management.
- 1999 – 2004 State University of Print Media, Moscow. University diploma. Specialisation: free graphics, media design; minor: painting, printing techniques.

STIPENDIES AND PROJECT FUNDING | Selection

- 2024 The NYI Global Institute of Critical Cultural Studies, scholarship for the winter course.
- 2022 *This is not a love song – spaces for activation*. Winning funding from the UdK Commission for artistic and academic projects; further support comes from the housing company degewo.
- 2019 – 2020 *Where does the Homeland begin?* Project on cultural identity and diversity with ethnic German resettlers. Funded by the Berlin Senate Department for Integration and Social Affairs.
- 2018 Survive. Award for artistic project spaces and initiatives. Bar Babette, Berlin Art Week.
- 2015 – 2017 Scholarship. Baza, Institute for Contemporary Art, as well as *Pyrfir* Performance University, Moscow.
- 2014 – 2016 *The Kitchen* | Art Workshops for Women. Funded by the R.Luxemburg Foundation. Moscow. Preview
- 2016 *Graphic novel*. Workshops. Supported by the R.Luxemburg Foundation. Kazan.

ART PRIZES AND AWARDS | Selection

- 2022 *XPRMNTL anti-festival. White flag*. Official Selections. London. (UK) | *K-Music and Arts Film Festival (KMAFF). White flag*. Official Selections. Seoul. (KR) | *Mannheim Arts and Film Festival. White flag*. Best Human Rights Film. (D) | *Lift-Off Filmmaker Sessions @ PinewoodStudios. White flag*. Official Selections. Buckinghamshire. (UK) | *The Thilsri*, International Film Festival. *White flag*. Best music video. Alampattu. (IN)
- 2020 Prize from *Jury der Kommission „30 Jahre Friedliche Revolution und Deutsche Einheit“*, Berlin. (D)
- 2017/2018 Art Russia, Top 100 artists. InArt Analytics. (R)
- 2015 Scholarship. Institute of Contemporary Arts, Baza, Moscow. (R)
- 2014 Just Award 2014, prize winner, Moscow. (R)
- 2013 *Kandinsky Prize 2013, Nominees, Category Project of year*, Moscow. (R)
- 2011 *Scotch 2010*, special prize winner, Moscow. (R)

FILMOGRAPHY | Selection

- 2024 *Déjà-vu*. 16 min., 4K
- 2023 *Human*. 2 channel video installation, 2.5 min., experimental animation; in exchange with the Endangered Languages Archive (ELAR)
- 2022 *Berta*. Work in process. Experimental animation.
- 2022 *My way*. 5 min., HDV
- 2022 *White flag*. 2 min., HDV
- 2020 *Late resettlers*. The lost branches. 4 channel video installation, 7 min., Experimental Animation.
- 2018 *Escape from Troy*. Animated documentary film, 1 hr. 11 min., EFM Berlinale 2019
- 2017 *Little day in the asylum*. 4.50 min., HDV
- 2015 *The Stairs*. 9.45 min., HDV
- 2014 *Erasing*. 13.42 min., HDV
- 2012 *2 Stage*. 7.03 min., DV

PRESENTATIONS AND VIDEOCONFERENCES | Selection

- 2022 *Frauen im Krieg*. Focus Tour. KW Institute for Contemporary Art. | *New participatory art against injustice*. Author guided tours with lecture through the exhibition. Project space Galerie M, Berlin | *Memory studies & commemoration in film and videoart: searching for new forms of archive*. Lecture | film screening | discussion. Project space Art Matters.
- 2021 *The fifth wave speaks*. Roundtable. The absence of art of fifth wave emigration in russian representational structures. Garage Museum Lecture Hall. (R)
- 2018 *Why don't the flowers grow through the asphalt? Conference. Problematizing the stigmatization of the feminist movement in Russia*. The Institute for the Humanities and Information Technologies Moscow. (R)

ESSAYS | TEXTS | Publications | Selection

- 2024 *Live with class*. Criticism. Essay. | *The Bad Mother*. Criticism
- 2023 *It's hard to be a god, unless you're Anselm*. Criticism | *Identity Crisis*. Autoethnografische essay. | *Give peace a chance*. Literatur outdoors, Vienna.
- 2022 *Memory studies and commemoration in film and videoart: searching for new forms of archive*. | "Seven types of forgetting" by Paul Connerton on the example of memory erasure in Russian culture. syg.ma | *Endless chain of privileges. Memory moments by implicated subject*. syg.ma | *Context appropriation or three days in the life of documenta. 15.Criticism*. eat-art.biz | *Amnesia*. Messy Glossary. 12. Berlin Biennale | *The art of participation*. Exhibition text | *Dress of freedom*. Catalogue.
- 2021 *Where to go with feminism in the former USSR?* Gender Studies, Nr. 25 (1/2021): Kharkiv Centre for Gender Studies. – 215 c. ISSN 1682–3265 © Kharkiv Centre for Gender Studies, 2021

PERSONAL EXHIBITIONS AND PROJECTS | Selection

- 2024 *A moment of silence, eternal remorse*. Happening. Daumenlutscher. Berlin.
- 2022 *Dress of freedom. Participative performance*. Panda-Kulturplattform. Berlin. (D)
- 2021 *Internal intervention, The project rooms of Kolonie Wedding, bla-bla project*, Berlin. (D)
- 2020 *Exercises. Vinogradov Gallery*, Berlin. (D) | *The lost branches*. 'Gallery of Unity' of the Commission '30 Years of Peaceful Revolution and German Unity' at the Unity EXPO on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of German unity in Potsdam. | *We're sorry, Rosa Luxemburg*, Lauschengriff, Berlin. (D)
- 2019 *Refrain, The project space of Kolonie Wedding, bla-bla project*, Berlin. (D)
- 2017 *Hand swing*, Fine Art Galery, Moscow. (R)
- 2015 *Texts*, Russian–Austrian Cultural Forum, Moscow. (R)

GROUP EXHIBITIONS AND PROJECTS | Selection

- 2024 *The school of the future*. Daumenlutscher. Berlin.
- 2023 *Clarification 2.0*. Salon Sofie Charlotte, Berlin. (D) | Master exhibition of the Institute of Art in Context, CCA Berlin. (D) *Vorschau* | *Peace*. Pride art, Berlin. (D) | *Endangered languages*, Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities Berlin. (D) *You are out*. 48 Stunde NeueKöln. Artlibera. (D)
- 2022 *XPRMNTL anti-festival*. London. (UK) | *K-Music and Arts Film Festival (KMAFF)*. Seoul, (KR) | *Mannheim Arts and Film Festival*. (D) | *Lift-Off Filmmaker Sessions @ PinewoodStudios*. Buckinghamshire. (UK) | *The Thilsri*, International Film Festival. (IN) | *Women at war*. KW Institute for Contemporary Art *Vorschau* (D) | *Room 252*. UdK Berlin

| *Kunstkaufen – The exhibition for explorers*, Udk Berlin..(D) | *This is not a love song*, Project room Galery M, Berlin
| *Intersectional*, Pride art, Berlin. (D)

2021 *Fünfte Welle. 2. Triennial of contemporary art*. Museum Contemporary Art Garage. Moscow.

2020 *Body*, ORI Art Forum, Berlin. (D)

2019 *Unreal desires*. Somos, Berlin. (D) | *Berlin transit*. Omsk. (R) | *Interwinnen Bodies*, Somos, Berlin. (D)

2018 *Haare*, Moscow Museum Modern Art, Moscow. (R) | *Present continuous*, Zverev Center for Contemporary Art, Moscow. (R) | *Art and technology: for and against*, Usbekistan Biennale, Central exhibition hall. Taschcent. (UZ) | *There and now!*, Manege. Moscow. (R) | *Apology of delusions*, Moscow Museum Modern Art. Moscow. (R) | *The new signs of existence*, Quedlinburg. (D) | *Survive*, bar Babette, Berlin Art Week, Berlin. (D)

LECTURES | MEDIATION | Selection

2022 *Resistance. Here and now!* As part of Remember Resistance 33-45. German Resistance Memorial Centre, Berlin. www.gdw-berlin.de

2022 *When the flying elephant visited Berlin...* YML workshops and exhibition. Märkisches Museum, Berlin

2022 *Flight to freedom*. Art education research project. Workshop series. Exhibitions. Creative studio Zuckerwattens-krawatten | J-ArtEck Jugendbildungsstätte e.V. | Project room Art Matters | Projektpreview UdK, Berlin.

2019 – 2021 *Bears*. Feminist art collaboration, Berlin.

2014 – 2017 *DK 264*. Debating club. DAR Research Institute, Moscow.

2016 *Graphische Novelle*. Workshop. Kasan.

2016 *Different atmosphere*. Social and artistic project, workshop. Tuschino Children's Hospital, Moscow.

TEACHING | Selection

2023 Lecturer. Honorary employee as part of the DIGI-MEE(H)R project – Swimming safely on the Internet reloaded.

2022 Lecturer. Honorary employee as part of the DIGI-MEE(H)R project – Swimming safely on the Internet reloaded.

2018 – 2020 Lecturer. Art teacher. Everic e.V.

2016 Lecturer. Contemporary art project. Theoretical-practical seminar. Vnukovo Cultural Center, Moscow.

2015 – 2016 Lecturer in the media design course. School of Architecture and Design, Moscow.

2015 Lecturer. Graphic novell. Contemporary art in comix. Theoretical-practical seminar. DAR Research Institute, Moscow.

2014 – 2015 Lecturer in the Animation and Illustration course. Moscow Publishing and Printing College named Ivan Fedorov.

CURATORIAL PRACTICE | Selection

2023 *Identity Crisis. The representation of fluid identity*. The curatorial research exhibition project. Berlin.

Vorschau Passwort: crisis

2022 *This is not a love song – spaces for activation*. Exhibition. Project room gallery M, Berlin. [Preview](#) | *Fest in Time of Plague*. Exhibition. Project room Art Matters, Berlin. [Preview](#) | *YML Exhibition: Als der Flugelefant Berlin besuchte...* Workshops | Exhibition. Märkischen Museum, Berlin.

2021 – 2022 *Feministische Unterhaltungen – feminists converse* | Partizipative Aktion. Gesprächsrunden im öffentlichen Raum. Berlin. [Vorschau](#) | *Interner Eingriff*. Exhibition. bla-bla Project room, Kolonie Wedding, Berlin.

2019 – 2020 *Where does the Homeland begin?* Project on cultural identity and diversity with ethnic German resettlers. Funded by the Berlin Senate Department for Integration and Social Affairs. Workshops | Exhibition. Festival Offenes Neukölln. [Preview](#)

2016 *The phenomenon of inclusive theatre in the mirror of the Festival Proteatr*. Sixth All-Russian Festival of Inclusive Theatre Proteatr. Exhibition. Cultural Centre ZIL, Moscow.

FURTHER EDUCATION | SUMMER SCHOOLS | RESIDENCE

2019 PAS: Performance Art Studies, Berlin | UdK – Artist training PERFROMING ARTS III | 2018 – 2019 Project Mehrwert Kunst, SBKG, Berlin | 2016 – 2017 Performance University Pyrfir, Moscow | 2015 Summer school for engaged art collective Chto Delat, R.Luxemburg Foundation, Berlin | 2014 *Queerfemak/zia*, Vienna (AU)

Languages: German C2.1 | English B2 | Russian native

IT: MS Office | Mac OS | Adobe Creative Cloud | ther programs for video production and editing such as iMovie, DaVinci Resolve, CupCut, usw. | Blender | Studiobinder | Storyboarder | Stable Diffusion | Chat GPT | Wix

Media production, professional activity | most important projects | Selection

2015 Animation Specialist, TV Channel Culture | 2002 – 2010 Founder and project manager, Design Studio Takaja Giezn.

Member of BBK Berlin. VG Bild-Kunst, VG Film Bonn.