

REMOTE: A Film **by Mika Rottenberg** **& Mahyad Tousi**



September 24, 4pm
MOCA Grand Avenue

Wonmi's WAREHOUSE Programs

Co-created by Mika Rottenberg & Mahyad Tousi during the Covid-19 pandemic, *REMOTE* is set in a post-pandemic near future. Unoaku (Okwui Okpokwasili) and four other women living in different parts of the world—all of them fans of a popular South Korean dog-groomer-performer (Joony Kim)—discover a mysterious portal hidden in each of their homes with universe-altering consequences.

ABOUT THE DIRECTORS

Argentina-born, New York-based artist **Mika Rottenberg** is devoted to a rigorous practice that combines film, architectural installation, and sculpture to explore ideas of labor and the production of value in our contemporary hyper-capitalist world.

Using traditions of both cinema and sculpture, she seeks out locations around the world where specific systems of production and commerce are in place, such as a pearl factory in China, and a Calexico border town. Through the editing process, and with footage from sets built in her studio, Rottenberg connects seemingly disparate places and things to create elaborate and subversive visual narratives. By weaving fact and fiction together, she highlights the inherent beauty and absurdity of our contemporary existence.

Each of Rottenberg's video works is situated within a theatrical installation, made up of objects from the lush and bizarre parallel worlds in her videos. Sacks of pearls, deflated pool toys, plastic flowers and sizzling frying pans seem to open a portal into the realm of the work. Her multi-dimensional film projects are often accompanied by standalone sculptural works, connected by allegory.

Born in Buenos Aires in 1976, Rottenberg spent her formative years in Israel then moved to the US where she earned her BA from the School of Visual Arts in New York and followed this with an MFA at Columbia in 2004.

A solo exhibition of Rottenberg's work is currently on view at the Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal (21 May – 9 October 2022). Recent presentations include the Louisiana Museum in Humlebæk, Denmark (2021); and *Easy Pieces*, presented at the New Museum in New York, the

Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, and Museum of Contemporary Art in Toronto (2019–2020). Rottenberg was the recipient of the 2019 Kurt Schwitters Prize, which recognizes artists who have made a significant contribution to the field of contemporary art. In 2018, she was the winner of the Smithsonian American Art Museum’s James Dicke Contemporary Artist Prize, which recognizes an artist younger than 50 who has produced a significant body of work and consistently demonstrates exceptional creativity.

Mahyad Tousi is a multidisciplinary writer, producer, cinematographer, and director working across story formats, genres, and platforms; his projects span network television to the modern art world. He was the executive producer of CBS primetime comedy *UNITED STATES OF AL*. He is currently writing and producing 1001, a sci-fi adaptation of *THE TALES FROM A THOUSAND AND ONE NIGHTS*, and co-directing *REMOTE*, a film created with his long-time collaborator and renowned video artist Mika Rottenberg.

Tousi is also the co-founder of BoomGen Studios, a creative IP incubator working across storytelling traditions and formats for the last sixteen years. He also founded Starfish Accelerator and is a General Partner of Starfish Fund—a 10-year vision for a self-sustaining cultural ecosystem for underrepresented artist-entrepreneurs. The Accelerator, which grants artists of color funding and mentorship to scale big pop culture ideas, will re-open for applications in Spring 2022.

Tousi sits on the advisory board of MIT’s CENTER FOR ADVANCED VIRTUALITY and speaks on the “critical impact of popular culture” in shaping our shared future.



PRODUCTION DETAILS

REMOTE was produced, cast, and crewed primarily in New York City and in the Hudson Valley during the Spring of 2021. The film was shot on sets built on Mika Rottenberg's Studio in Tivoli, NY; at Saugerties Performing Arts Factory in Saugerties, NY; and on locations in Kingston, NY and Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

Production was commissioned by Artangel, United Kingdom; the Louisiana Museum, Humlebaek; and Moderna Museet, Stockholm. The film was completed with support by MOCA's Environmental Council, Los Angeles; Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal (MAC); X Museum, Beijing; and the Busan Biennale.

Production company: **Remote Motion Picture, LLC, Hauser & Wirth**

Directed by: **Mika Rottenberg & Mahyad Tousi**

Written by: **Mahyad Tousi (WGA)**

Based on story by: **Mika Rottenberg & Mahyad Tousi**

Cinematography by: **Nickolas Rossi**

Casting by: **Damian Bao**

Production Design by: **Mika Rottenberg, Katrin Altekamp**

Costumes by: **Laleh Khorramian**

Edited by: **Mika Rottenberg**

Executive Producers: **Okwui Okpokwasili, Mika Rottenberg,**

Madeline Warren

Producers: **Mika Rottenberg & Mahyad Tousi**

Line producer: **Jonathan Burkhart**

Co-producers: **James Lingwood, Anders Kold, Michael Goodin**

Image credits: Mika Rottenberg and Mahyad Tousi, *REMOTE* (film still), 2022. © Mika Rottenberg & Mahyad Tousi. Courtesy the artists and Hauser & Wirth

The presentation of *REMOTE* at MOCA is supported by MOCA's Environmental Council

This screening is carbon calculated. The museum reduced greenhouse gas emissions through planning efforts and balanced the remaining emissions through Strategic Climate Fund donations. Support provided by the MOCA Environmental Council.

Wonmi's WAREHOUSE Programs is organized by Alex Sloane, Associate Curator, with Amelia Charter, Producer of Performance and Programs, and Brian Dang, Programming Coordinator.

Wonmi's WAREHOUSE Programs is founded by Wonmi & Kihong Kwon and Family.

Upcoming Wonmi's WAREHOUSE Programs

KCRW Summer Nights at MOCA Geffen & JANM with DJs Anthony Valadez + SiLVA
Thursday, September 29, 2022
6pm–9pm

KCHUNG PUBLIC
Witches & Witch Hunts: A Salon
Saturday, October 8, 2022
4pm–7pm

Dance Reflections by Van Cleef & Arpels, with LA Dance Project and MOCA, Present Dimitri Chamblas, *Slow Show*
Tuesday, October 25, 2022
6pm and 7pm

Blacktronika: Now Is The Time Festival
Organized with King Britt
October 30, 2022
2pm–9pm
FREE with RSVP

Judith F. Baca: World Wall
Public Programming
Healing through Movement with Tatiana Zamir
Sunday, November 6, 2022
Sunday, December 4, 2022
11am

Judith F. Baca: World Wall
Public Programming
Envisioning a Safer Future: An Art Making Workshop with Compton G.IRLS Club
Saturday, November 12, 2022
12pm

An Only Child presents *Go to Your Room*
Saturday, November 19, 2022
4pm

The G•Spot
Organized with Rio Uribe of Gypsy Sport
Sunday, November 20, 2022
2pm

Visual AIDS, Being & Belonging
With contributions from Camila Arce, Davina “Dee” Conner and Karin Hayes, Jaewon Kim, Clifford Prince King, Santiago Lemus and Camilo Acosta HunterTexas, Mikiki, Jhoel Zempoalteca and La Jerry
Saturday, December 3, 2022
4pm

Judith F. Baca: World Wall
Public Programming
Better Balance: Imagining equity between humanity and the natural world
With Nina Simons, Jerry Tello, and Lyla June
Sunday, December 4, 2022
4pm

Art and Crimes by Crimes: Screening and Conversation
Friday, December 9, 2022
6pm

Judith F. Baca: World Wall Public Programming will be documented by **Las Fotos Project** as part of their **Creative Entrepreneurship Opportunities (CEO) program.**

Las Fotos Project's mission is to elevate the voices of female-identified and gender-expansive youth from communities of color through photography and mentoring, empowering them to channel their creativity for the benefit of themselves, their communities, and future careers. CEO teaches students how to leverage their photography skills while empowering them to pursue opportunities within the digital media industry.