

PORTFOLIO

Julie Chaffort

Biography Julie Chaffort

Graduate of the Fine Arts School of Bordeaux - France - in 2006, I devoted to the film practice at the end of my studies. I wrote, directed, produced edited and distributed "Some Sunny Days" and "Wild is the Wind", two feature films, before following and get in 2010, the 'Werner Herzog's Rogue Film School Diploma' in New York. I then worked with the director Roy Andersson in Stockholm and I was selected as a director at the International Center of Art and Landscape of Vassivière (France) where I directed "Hot Dog", a narrative - experimental half length movie. In 2014, I've done my first solo exhibition in the Centre Clark in Montreal and then, I directed the film "The silent boat" when I was in artist-residency programm POLLEN in the village of Monflanquin - France.

I am particularly interested in the vastness and vacuity of the territories, their desert appearance and helpless but also their relationship to contemplation and meditation.

My films are composed of strange, surrealism and absurd scenes that reflect a jubilant and decadent world. Also, to imagine, to write, to make a film, I choose places that give no indication of time, temporality, geographical anchor as civilization.

Then I use a "natural" set outside (field, forest, plain, desert, etc..) which give power to the situations and characters.

While my practice is primarily based in cinema, it also incorporates the visual arts, including installation and performance. One of my most recent work, BANG !, is a monumental installation composed of approximately thirty pianos piled on top of each other in a spectacular, almost burlesque scene.

My artistic approach could be defined as a reflection on the fiction, the infinite possibilities of cinema as to play freely narrative components, temporalities and spaces, and disrupt the conventional perception.

EXCERPTS FROM FILMS, VIDEOS, INSTALLATIONS

<https://vimeo.com/86929948>

SHOWREEL

<https://vimeo.com/120066006>

JULIE CHAFFORT WEBSITE

<http://www.julie-chaffort.com>

LA BARQUE SILENCIEUSE - *THE SILENT BOAT* - short movie -

Film directed during the artist-in-residence-programm Pollen, artistes en résidence.

Production: Pollen, artistes en résidence.

Pal - 16/9 - 32 min – 2015

TRAILER: <https://vimeo.com/131558838>





*Everything is there, spread out on the surface right from the start
Between two shots, two sequences, two figures /.../
an abruptness, this is what happens.*

In "The Silent Boat" by Julie Chaffort, there is a story and there is a narrator.
So there is silence and a voice. A reader's voice.

The soundless reader hears a voice, reading. The voice in his skull.

Then there's another story. There where we move, *between* things: images, objects (props), landscapes (sets), mirror effects (representations), projections (shadows), voices, words, songs, sounds, animals and humans.

The images rise up in your head, producing a kind of delirium.

Delirium through proximity, frictions, disjunctions.

Burlesque is a vengeance, a savagery, a pagan dance, a way to take off.

And what about the poetic in all of this? "Our kingdom is the in-between," says Freud.

J'AI UNE PASSION AU PAYS DE LA CHÂTAIGNERAIE

"I have a passion in the land of la Châtaigneraie" - artistic photographic report - 2015

ORDER & PRODUCED by la Communauté des communes de la Châtaigneraie, Vendée - France.

Serie of 12 photographs



LE BOUT DU MONDE – *THE END OF THE WORLD*

– documentary / performance –

Film directed during the artist-in-residence-program in the agricultural high school of Bourges – France.
Pal - 16/9 - 36 min – 2014

TRAILER: <https://vimeo.com/131531532>



THE END OF THE WORLD or how to survive in rural areas, is a walking exploration project on the territory of the Subdray directed the 1, 2 and 3 December 2014 by a dozen students of the agricultural high school in Bourges - LEGTA - accompanied by artists Alice Fahrenkrug, Bénédicte Chevallereau and Julie Chaffort and a high school teacher, Clara Wang.

"When you can go around the world in eight days or fifteen days, why do it? In the journey, there is the time of the trip. This is not seen quickly. It is to see and live together. (...)"
Marguerite Duras, interview, Paris, September 1985

THE END OF THE WORLD is a performance.

Walking for three days in the middle of December against time.

It is a physical performance. Journeying to the human pace, physically appropriating the land than each day we crowd without taking the time to feel it.

Discover its territory by asking the question "What is it to be a farmer today"?

Go to the location called "The End of the world" and then return to the starting point.

What's going to happen ? What is it at « the end of the world »?

What are we going meet and discover on the way?

FORMIDABLE - *WONDERFUL* – video installation -

63 mn & 24 mn - PAL - HD - 2015 - 16/9 – France

Trailer vidéo 2 : <https://vimeo.com/118829445>



WONDERFUL is an video installation.

The first is a serie of portraits : sixty faces of students, teachers and technicians from the agricultural school of Bourges are looking silently and fixedly the objective for a minute.

The second video is a portrait of the agricultural school as a documentary staging the animals from the farm of the institution and the students and teachers in ordinary situations but also incongruous in the winter landscape of the North of France.

JOUR BLANC – *WHITE DAY* _ installation of 3 videoprojections for the exhibition in Centre Clark, Montréal – Canada - 16/9 - 3 x 7mn - PAL - HD - 2014 – Canada



« CLARK presents the first solo exhibition by Bordeaux artist and filmmaker Julie Chaffort. Jour Blanc is the result of a residency created in partnership with the Zebra3/Buysellff organization in Bordeaux. This research period allowed the artist to reflect on the installation of her work within a gallery context, whereas previously, her work has been primarily shown in film festivals. At the heart of her practice is a continued interest in childhood and the memories that surface bit by bit, lose their accuracy, or disappear with time. For the artist, a “jour blanc” (a white day) – referencing a poem of the same name by Arseni Tarkovski – is a time when one is allowed to start over from scratch, to erase everything and return to a blank page.

Everything takes shape through the landscape. Within a natural décor, the artist stages her surrealist paintings. The 2014 fictional short, titled *Pas un bruit*, is a piece that oscillates between reality and fantasy. Presented on a monitor, the film allows the viewer to discover the artist’s previous work, which in this case, is richly nostalgic. At the centre of the installation, other images by Chaffort, filmed during her residency, echo the other works. One of these projections shows a landscape disappearing beneath a dark and dense fog. The effects of light on the landscape transform it, and the movement of the fog acts as a kind of breath. Another piece shows a turntable shot in different locations. The turntable emits the sound of howling wolves, adding humour to the incongruous scene, as if the music was being played for the landscape. Finally, the artist displays the wind in all of its power, blowing against the subjects who struggle mightily against this invisible force.

Finally, a sound installation will strongly engage viewers aurally, as well as visually. Chaffort employs a drone whose repetitive but unpredictable noise produces a physical effect on the audience. The viewer’s endurance is tested, much like the subjects in her films, whose actions she directs for the camera. Here, the viewer becomes an actor within the installation. Chaffort constructs scenarios that become transformed during the shooting process, based on the actors’ poses or by unforeseen actions that occur. Here, she plays with the notion of expectation and action within works that encourage contemplation and dreaming.”

Manon Tourigny / translation : Jo-Anne Balcaen

CHIENS - LOUPS - DOGS - WOLVES - video

16/9 - 1'30" - PAL - HD - 2014 - Canada

video on: <https://vimeo.com/110231349>



Three dogs hear wolves howling.

PAS UN BRUIT – NOT A SOUND - experimental short film

16/9 - 22 mn - PAL - HD - 2014 -

TRAILER: <https://vimeo.com/95282439>

I had to conquer my fear of the dark.

Isn't this just a strange dream?

I was going toward something unknown and exciting.

Why this fascination?

What's going to happen? It just pierced us through.

We understood that it was time now.

Time for what?

I stood there amongst new things never before seen and I had to understand.

Understand, understand. This message didn't reach me and Asalk was lying on the ground and shining.

No, not shining, was a field of light.



“A beautiful pantheistic poem! The Dhotel’s remark in his book, “the flowers have a supernatural existence” finds in me a nice echo in this movie.”

- Jean-François Dumont

BANG ! - installation for the exhibition « Art et Paysage, les rencontres d'Artigues-près-Bordeaux » 2013 – France

*A strange sound as if a whole regiment has sneezed.
- « Le miroir de l'âme », Lichtenberg*



Monumental installation of thirty pianos arranged in line, collapsed on each other like dominoes, as victims of a loss of balance, a jolt, a shock which caused a loud bang. Placed there as after the fall, the set of instruments seems straight out of a disaster movie scenario, projected in a spectacular scene of desolation, almost burlesque.

HOT DOG – experimental short fiction

16/9 - 47 min - PAL - HD - 2013 -

COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION *AGIR DANS CE PAYSAGE* in the INTERNATIONAL CENTER OF ART AND LANDSCAPE OF VASSIVIÈRE - 2013 – FRANCE

SCREENING: CARRÉ BAUDOIN - *LA NUIT BLANCHE* - PARIS - 2013 – FRANCE

SCREENING: *FESTIVAL DESTINATION AILLEURS* - 2013 – FRANCE

SCREENING: LA GAITE LYRIQUE - *LES RENCONTRES INTERNATIONALES* - PARIS – 2014 – FRANCE

TRAILER on <http://vimeo.com/69536922>

...The immensity of the territory...if we seek not what is impossible but what it makes possible, open to wandering, adventure and to encounter of each other (...)
- Philippe Macaire



Against a backdrop of thick fog and snow, on the island of Vassivière, *HOT-DOG* follows the wanderings of Ignatius, pushing his hot dog cart along the lake shore, meeting other uncanny characters along his path.

As outlandish situations unfold, the characters in *HOT-DOG* find themselves confronted with both nature and artifice. In the winter landscape, on lunar shores, strange, surreal and absurd scenes reflect a jubilant and decadent world.

In the melancholy and mysterious atmosphere, we lose our bearings and the landscape becomes a source of contemplation and danger, the natural setting becoming transfigured. Hallucinatory odyssey, theater of dreams.



« (...) after the third viewing, I thought that is the most elegant anti-war film that I have ever seen. »
- Istvan Borbas

HYBRIDE - video

16/9 - 1min 30' - PAL - HD - 2012

<https://vimeo.com/87408340>



The meeting between a mare and a horse shaped balloon.

WILD IS THE WIND – experimental fiction feature

16/9 - 72 mn - PAL - HDV – 2011 -

SÉLECTION OFFICIELLE AU SOUTH TEXAS UNDERGROUND FILM FESTIVAL 2012 – U.S.A

SÉLECTION OFFICIELLE AU FESTIVAL CLAIR OBSCUR 2012 - SWITZERLAND

DIFFUSION AU CINÉMA UTOPIA BORDEAUX - FRANCE

TRAILER on <http://vimeo.com/45495993>

FILM: <https://vimeo.com/135645037>

« Life is hard but entertaining »
- Aki Kaurismäki, *les Cahiers du Cinéma*.

Synopsis

Johannes, a cursed undertaker, lost in a vast and strange land, is looking for a place to bury his lover. During this journey, Johannes will face his destiny, fighting against his curse and find the way of redemption face up to mute, fearful, mad and fallen characters...



WILD IS THE WIND shows with absurdity our destiny; the death, this ensured insignificance. What can we do about this nothingness otherwise, like the dead, note it ritually, weigh the weight... and go on living ?

Death is the silence and the silence is the interruption of speech.
In Poetic Edda, it says "A dead person is usefull to nobody".
So, what do the living?



WILD IS THE WIND is a musical (science)-fiction movie.

This is not a conventional film.

Each sequence of the film has its autonomy and its identity. These sequences related to each other immerse us in a surreal and enigmatic world, following the main character's quest through the arid, pregnant and strange landscapes where peoples are wild and dying.

WILD IS THE WIND is an epic, dramatic and grotesque movie. The repetition of scenes gives amnesia, a loss of spatio-temporal marks and takes us into an absurd and a very special atmosphere.

It's an enigmatic and strange cinema dealing with burlesque and baroque.

This movie is in a way, excessive: actors are over-playing with meaningful accessories in beautiful uninhabited lands.

This film is not naturalistic at all ; everything is visible (as a theater stage), nothing is hidden, the costumes are overrated, the acting is exaggerated. Everything is shifted.

The characters express their feelings by singing and find their way in carrying a coffin.

This film is full of amnesia (the characters and in the editing), the real and the fake, illusions and absurd.



TO BECOME A PROFESSIONNAL – performance video

10 min - 16/9 - PAL - DV – 2011-

VIDEO in streaming : <https://vimeo.com/29185319>



To become a professionnal is a serie of 3 performance videos made in response to a questionnaire hiring.

The questions are :

- How do you see your career?
- How do you imagine your future career?
- What are your motivations to be an artist?

I SAW THE LAST SUPERMAN – serie of 16 pictures - 2011 -



L'ABCdaire DE LA GROSSE SITUATION

- documentary & photographs - ORDER by the Compagny "the Grosse Situation" -
14 min - 4/3 - PAL - DV - 2010 –

SCREENING : FESTIVAL *DES SOURIS ET DES HOMMES 2.1* in ST MÉDARD-EN-JALLES -FRANCE - 2011

FILM: <https://vimeo.com/19432325>



Documentary about « the extraordinary journey n°6 » of the *Grosse Situation*.

The *Grosse Situation* is Alice Fahrenkrug, Bénédicte Chevallereau & Cécile Delhommeau.

This extraordinary journey n°6 is a road movie from 5 to 10 december 2010.

Between asphalt and wilderness, a trip on the highway 65 from Langon to Pau (France) by walk with backpack.

SOME SUNNY DAYS - experimental fiction feature

98 min - 16/9 - PAL - DV - 2008 -

SCREENING : CINÉMA UTOPIA in BORDEAUX & CINÉMA DU CARRÉ DES JALLES in ST MÉDARD EN JALLES – FRANCE - 2009 -

BLOG of the FILM <http://somesunnydaysenglish.blogspot.fr>

TRAILER <http://youtu.be/SZiiZYNJrS8>

« A flightless angel is a kind of chicken, isn't it? »

- Philippe Mayaux



Synopsis :

Robert, a thirty years old man, lives alone with his snail Eustache, in a small dilapidated house in Landes (countryside of South West in France).

One morning, his refrigerator doesn't work any more.

So, Robert takes his bike and goes in search of a fridge...



Some Sunny Days is an absurd movie.
We enter in an "extra" ordinary and odd world.
The characters have no particular social identity.
They all meet by accident and have to bear each other until they can finally escape.
Everyone wants to stay in his own world. In a way, they are narrow-minded, lonely and anti social.
Men speak little, women like hens and no one is able to understand, nor really appreciate each other...



Some Sunny Days is a silent movie.
The characters speak a little: just as much to try to understand each others, and also to be polite.
The sounds of crickets, flies, woods, forest and water is more present than their voices.