

FLOATING FLIES



AN EXPERIMENTAL FILM ABOUT BLOCKED VISION
BY VICTORIA HALPER

PRESS KIT

FLOATING FLIES

An experimental film about blocked vision

By Victoria Halper

AT 2023 | DCP | Colour | Stereo | 8 Minutes



WORLD PREMIERE

March 22nd 2023 in Graz, Austria at the Diagonale, Festival of Austrian Film

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

May 14th 2023 in Seattle, USA at the Seattle International Film Festival

NEW YORK PREMIERE

at the Brooklyn Film Festival

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

Year of Production	2023
Language	English
Runtime	8 Min.
Form/Genre	Experimental
Country	Austria
Projection Format	DCP 2K Flat
Aspect Ratio	4:3
Sound Format	Stereo
Frame Rate	25
Shooting Format	Digital HD, Super 8
Filming Locations	Vienna & Graz (Austria), Dresden & Düsseldorf (Germany) Pula (Croatia)

SYNOPSIS:

Streaks and stains, known as mouches volantes, float through the field of vision, interfering with sight and fraying nerves. Victoria Halper creates these fleeting image interferences using Super-8 film, digital material, and a dirty camera lens in an autobiographical experiment that challenges viewers' clear-sightedness.

FLOATING FLIES, Halper's debut experimental short film, explores the subject of visual perception and aging, examining the delicate balance between clarity and distortion. Through the personal experience of a young woman, viewers contemplate the enigmatic phenomena of mouches volantes, the specks and floaters that drift across our field of vision, signaling the inexorable passage of time. Using Super8 film, digital material, and the haunting shadows of dust and mould captured within the camera lens, the film meditates on the fragility of sight, the elusive nature of memory, and the profound mysteries of human consciousness.

CAST & CREATIVES

Directed, edited, filmed, written and performed by:	Victoria Halper
Dramaturgy (concept) & additional sound design by:	Kai Krösche
Dramaturgy (development):	Tamara Raunjak
Special thanks:	James Stanson, Muffin

Produced by DARUM (Victoria Halper & Kai Krösche)

Funded by the Cultural Department of the City of Vienna and the Federal Ministry for Art, Culture, Public Service and Sport.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

A shadowy dot appears out of nowhere. I blink to get it away and when it doesn't, I think to myself that perhaps something is stuck to the contact lens. I take it out and clean it; it's gone - for now. Day after day, it pops into sight: a little fleck that looks like a comet. I assume, like a hangover, it'll go away by itself. Denial. It doesn't go away. Google says it could be something bad, the spot could be permanent. A visit to the doctor confirms that the speck is a mouche volante and it is there to stay and could be joined by more sometime in the future. Walking back home after the appointment, I looked at the people passing me: do they have a translucent black spot floating in their line of vision? When they look at me, is their eyesight clean and clear like mine used to be? Or is it full of black static? Static, grain, scratches are also found in videos, pictures and film - why do we accept the look of texture in film (sometimes even embracing it as vintage and authentic) but not in our eye sight? All of these questions set off a chain of thoughts that inspired me to research the topic of mouches volantes and the desire to explore my thoughts in a short experimental film.

Mouches volantes (French literary flying flies, German fliegende Mücken / Synonym 'Glaskörperflocken', latin: muscae volitantes) are known as 'floaters' or 'eye floaters' in english. The common type of floater, present in most people's eyes, is due to these degenerative changes of the vitreous. Floaters are visible either because of the shadows imperfections cast on the retina, or because of the refraction of light that passes through them, and can appear alone or together with several others as a clump in one's visual field. They may appear as spots, threads, or fragments of "cobwebs", which float slowly before the observer's eyes, and move especially in the direction the eyes move. It is not often treated, except in severe cases, where vitrectomy (surgery), laser vitreolysis, and medication may be effective. (Wikipedia: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Floater>)

During the initial development phase of "Floating Flies", I looked for inspiration regarding holes in works of art. I revisited the works of Yayoi Kusama, a Japanese artist, who is world-renowned for her polka dots, which have a similarity to holes. I noticed parallels in some of her lesser known works to what I was thinking about at the time and looking for: her collages from the 1980. Made during a time of mourning and psychological trauma, the works reminded me of the beauty and pain of aging - around this time she is quoted saying: "If it were not for art, I would have killed myself a long time ago". Just like my mouches volantes casting shadows in my vision, the red dots in Yayoi's "Bird" (1980) are adding to the aesthetic composition, creating a new view, a new vision. The dots are not taking over the image of the bird in a hostile way by blocking out the main focus, but rather the dots create a new visual experience embracing imperfection. The idea of embracing the imperfection and a "new" vision including dots is something that I further explored while developing "Floating Flies".



DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Victoria Halper (*1988, Toronto, Canada) a director, video artist, trained actor, writer and producer. After completing her studies at the University of Toronto, she immigrated to Vienna, Austria. Along with Kai Krösche she heads the multidisciplinary artist label DARUM. Her research-based work oscillates between film, installation, digital art and immersive contemporary performance - receiving two nominations for the renowned NESTROY Theatre Award (AUT). Her past works on film have premiered at the Flickers' Rhode Island Film Festival ("Gegenschein") and the Hof International Film Festival ("Exit: Open"). "Floating Flies" is her first experimental film.

www.victoriahalper.com

www.darum.at

LINKS

SOCIAL MEDIA: DARUM

Hashtags: #FloatingFliesFilm #DARUMkollektiv #VictoriaHalper #KaiKroesche

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/darumkollektiv/>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/darumkollektiv>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/darumkollektiv>

Newsletter - <http://eepurl.com/hvn7ED>

SOCIAL MEDIA: VICTORIA HALPER

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/victoriahalper/>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/VictoriaMHalper>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/VictoriaHalper>

CONTACT

DARUM. Darstellende Kunst und Musik

Victoria Halper

Tel: +43 664 318 6191

Email: darumkollektiv@gmail.com

Address: Löblichgasse 6/16, A-1090 Vienna, Austria