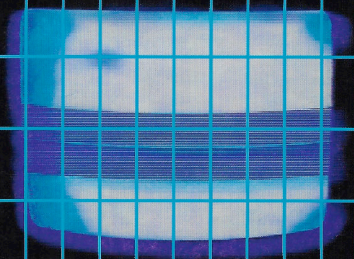


**Artists**

**without**

**Frontiers**

**Via Video**



Open Society Institute Budapest

Program through Partnership Project Artists without frontiers

Project authors Nino Gujabidze Alexandra Gabunia

Graphic Design George Shotadze Translation Tamta Berishvili

CAC 2004

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OSGF - Open Society Georgia Foundation

Program Improvisation and Figurative Thinking in Contemporary Art

Project The style and Charm of the Epoch Exco Gallery of Modern Art

1998 Catalogue Charm video film Modest Charm of Six Artists 54 min.

1998 First show Cinema House Film Director Ketevan Gujabidze

Producers Alexandra Gabunia Nino Gujabidze

Camera man David Gujabidze Artists Participants Koto Sulaberidze

Irakli Varvardze Murtaz Shvelidze Iliko Zautashvili Koka Ramishvili

Keti Kapanadze

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OSGF-Open Society Georgia Foundation

Program Georgia - Multicultural Country Project Actual Dreams

Expo Tbilisi History Museum 2002 Catalogue Actual Dreams

Video Film Nationality - from Tbilisi, Profession - Artist 57 min. 2002

There was no first show Director Ketevan Gujabidze Producers

Alexandra Gabunia Nino Gujabidze Iliko Zautashvili Camera man

George Beridze Artists Participants Oleg Timchenko Zuleika

Bazhbek Melkova Gar Daphtian's puppets&Zhana Daphtian

Ira Kurmaeva Sophia Cherkezishvili Temo Japharidze

Erna Dolantazova

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The IRIS Center at the University of Maryland and the United States

Agency for International Development (USAID)

Program Human Rights Are the Part of Georgian Culture

Project Society and Art Images

Video art&artists A Human has right to be free 1 min. Thea Telia

Planning war 1.50 min Kote Sulaberidze.

Defundamentalisation 1.30 min. Niko Lomashvili

Protect me 1min Sophia Cherkezishvili.

Bread and Butter 1.30 min. Mamuka Japharidze

Freedom is your right 3 min. Oleg Timchenko

A new one is created and a net is prepared for already existed video

arts. The first show TV Rustavi 2

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www.acualart.ge

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On the cover - shots from the videofilm "Modest Charm of Six Artists"

and "Nationality - from Tbilisi, Profession-Artist

Number of new issues arises and most of them need to be perceived in a new fashion. In this process the dominants that will promote peaceful dialogue between these countries. Georgia is a multinational country. Our people have long since developed a special manner of coexistence with different ethnics that excludes any kind of discrimination and depression. The history of Caucasian people the culture and intellect of which has been developed in Caucasian mountains and wide valleys is closely related by the mutual past. Our objective is to develop this historical heritage and define new concepts.

The project "Artists without frontiers" offered by us is aimed at supporting new contacts, revealing ideas that will promote peaceful dialogue between these countries. Georgia is a multinational country. Our people have long since developed a special manner of coexistence with different ethnics that excludes any kind of discrimination and depression. The history of Caucasian people the culture and intellect of which has been developed in Caucasian mountains and wide valleys is closely related by the mutual past. Our objective is to develop this historical heritage and define new concepts.

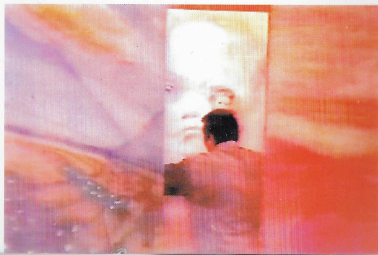
The concept offered by us gives us possibility to mobilize political, artistic and intellectual aspects. This idea will be harmoniously adjusted with principles of democracy and power of the law, where the society will be oriented on fundamental human rights and democratic achievements.

## Kote Sulaberidze **Mirage**

Shots from the videofilm "Modest Charm of Six Artists"

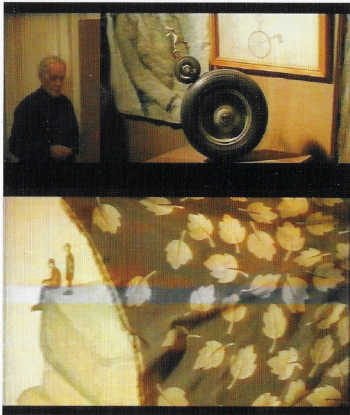


They ask me is this leaf red or green? Actually I still don't understand it. I call it green, but in fact I see it as red. But for my world it's green, not the colour we call red. Well, it turns out to be a kind of pun, in words and as well as in fact too.?



## Temo Japharidze **Odysseus from Tbilisi**

Shots from the videofilm "Nationality - from Tbilisi, Profession-Artist"

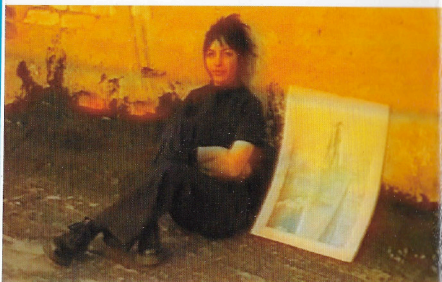


Here is a synthesis of objects. The wheels are objects. The small sculpt figure changes only its "objectiveness" and includes sense. The wheels are a symbol of twirling of the world. The figure is a seeker. It can't leave twirling and is engaged in twirling so that it can't help seeking. It is like artistic Odysseus that wanders among things and tries to get out from these things. It is search of exit and at the same time it is fun. These excessive contents maybe are not necessary. The main thing is what emotions it wakes up.

## Keti Kapanadze **Urban Phantoms**

Shots from the videofilm "Modest Charm of Six Artists"





The photo is taken in 1995, on the roof of my house, on the 16-th store the idea was "maintain balance". I was standing on a narrow rail, I can show the place if you like.

Well, I was standing here and nobody held me. Guram Tsbakhashvili didn't want to shoot me: what am I to tell your mother, if you fall down? I had no husband then. At last his professionalism prevailed and he told me then I'll shoot you to the last. Well, here is an installation as you see, New York is behind me...

## Zuleika Bajbeuk-Melikova Pointelism or Zuleikizm?

It is **not** pointelism at all, no points, I work with a brush. I do not spare colours. I put colour on colour, than there are much colours and when I run over with the brush I want to create impression of light vibration, shades. That is why there is the effect of points...

They say it is impressionistic style. I work according to my heart. I hate "izms". They are invented by art critics. This is not right. Should there necessarily be a stamp? This is "Zuleikizm" as one person called it. I liked it. Zuleika it means me. I work very hard and the more I work the works become more mine. I put energetics (a fashionable word, but I can't think of another word) in a concrete canvas. The more I work the more odd it becomes for others. I get in my world, and my world becomes difficult to understand, incomprehensible for the spectators. It does not mean that they are good or bad. It is my individual world... and the more I put in the work it becomes more mine.



## Irakli Varvaridze The Light in our Windows

Shot from the videofilm "Modest Charm of Six Artists"



### Action "No 999" Description in Words

At 5.30 the artist together with a director, a cameraman, two curators and several people holding the same views went to Didube by two cars. ( Tsereteli avenue, the first election sign-board). Before the artist's arrival, the cameraman got to work and with great "enthusiasm" started asking passers-by about "Koko Varvaridze" - a deputy. Among the citizens there was one who knew him and it was possible to vote for him. (It is shot on the video). Witnessing this fact, the artist began to stick the posters on the false-election sign-boards and walls. (the posters say: - "vote for me", Koko Varvaridze No 999).

The action was accompanied by us - viewer-witnesses. We were interested in what was happening beyond the demonstration area "beyond borders". Participation of passers-by with their comments and arrogant denial. The "playing ground" was gradually expanding. The action was minimal, but the presence of camera and the director's instructions required the artist's movements to be repeated several times. It was very rhythmical itself and created "obscure" absurd sentiments. At 7.10 the action finished on Didube exhibition territory.

## Oleg Timchenko A little pathetics in the sea of images

Shots from the videofilm "Nationality - from Tbilisi. Profession - Artist"

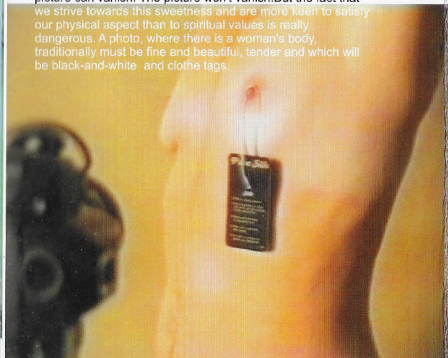


I am still subject to dualism. In Tbilisi I am considered Russian, in Russia I am considered Georgian. My first language is Russian. But when I am in Russia they tell me I have Georgian pronunciation. It is a great advantage for me. Generally the synthesis is good for people who are related to the Art. You can think on a large scale, and not be fastened to small things, let's say ethnic, ethnography or national roots. It is very good, fantastic and necessary in itself but it gives me amplitude of thinking, I have a great choice. This synthesis is very interesting. I think Georgia is such a place, it is a frontier between west and east, where everything is bound to each other like colors on a carpet, and the cultures are mixed. I think it is an excellent place for an artist.

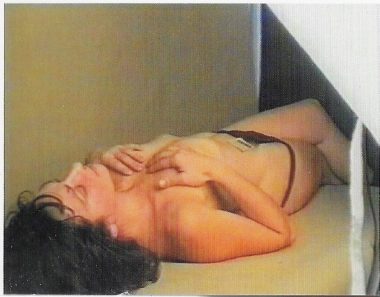


## Iliko Zautashvili 100% Silk

The name of this work is Sweet Life. Of course it could be decided in different ways, but I've chosen 12 kitchen knives, which were taken from their context and put into space and art context. This sweetness has its other side, just the thing, our present life brings about what the contemporary men is striving for. There is less danger that the picture can vanish. The picture won't vanish. But the fact that we strive towards this sweetness and are more keen to satisfy our physical aspect than to spiritual values is really dangerous. A photo, where there is a woman's body, traditionally must be fine and beautiful, tender and which will be black-and-white and clothe tags.



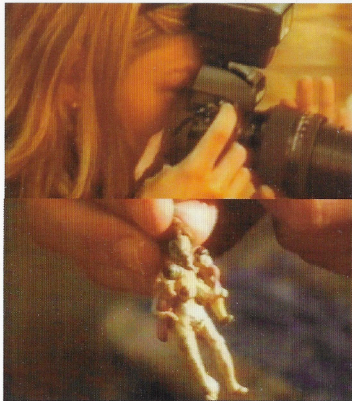
Shots from the videofilm "Modest Charm of Six Artists"



## Ira Kurmaeva

### Twenty five years of solitude

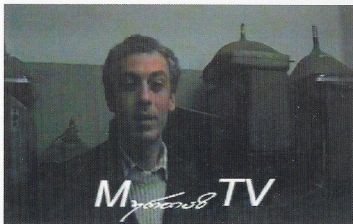
Shots from the videofilm "Nationality - from Tbilisi, Profession - Artist"



At first only plasticine animals lived in this town. Then they became human. That means they had wings, tails and over time they lost them. In childhood I performed plastic operations. Ears and wings disturbed them. I have been making this town from 6 years. In childhood I played with it all the time and never showed it to anybody. When I was 14-15 years old I showed it to one person and he liked it, then other one liked it. Then Guram Tsbakhashvili saw it and advised me to make an exhibition. We thought out how to exhibit it, made photos. There were photos along with texts and the plasticine figures.

## Murtaz Shvelidze Murtaz TV

It was an old workshop of broken Tv-s. I had a job there a year ago and sometimes I had a free time. These old TVs were in such a poor condition that I got an idea to paint football. But it was paradoxical that I painted a shot from a film first and made this work afterwards.

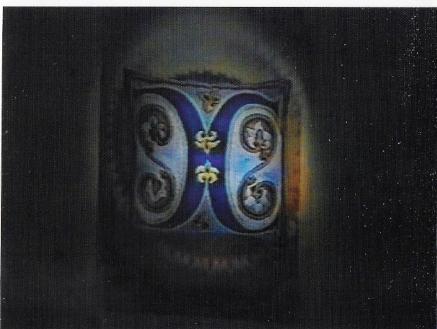


Shot from the videofilm "Modest Charm of Six Artists"

## Koka Ramishvili Ready Made

This idea was initiated 6 years ago and was connected with the changes that took place in the post soviet period. What was happening in Tbilisi in 93-94 it was the stream from the west quite aggressive and also the aggressive echo from the east. I wanted to take deep national layer, fundamental layer, we may say so, such as church embroidery. It is a kind of metaphor of eastern echo of 94, and on the other hand the words which were very popular among mass media: sex, criminal, corruption, ego, morfiun, heroin and etc. It is a handmade thing, quite complex, it was made by Dodo Baramidze, who actually paints icons, and as to me I've made design and watercolours. When I proposed this work to Mrs. Dodo Baramidze, she had such a reaction fundamental embroidery and words like corruption, criminal. She was thinking for a while and finally there was an answer from her that it is like Bosch's works. There is a camouflage camouflage of beauty- very beautiful from outside and the content absolutely opposite. I wanted to connect these two paradoxical systems in this work.

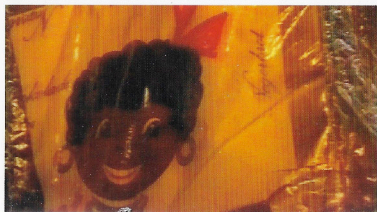
Shot from the videofilm "Modest Charm of Six Artists"



## Erna Dolmazova Secret

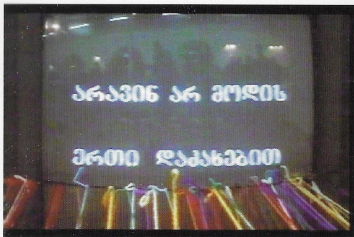
I made this installation on the subject of secret. I have been collecting these things for ten years in my childhood. This box was kept at home, then it turned out to be in the street. It was very difficult for me to part with them. All of them were very dear to me and then an idea came to my mind. I have collected them in one form. Each of these things reminds me of a special period of time.

Shot from the videofilm "Nationality - from Tbilisi, Profession - Artist"

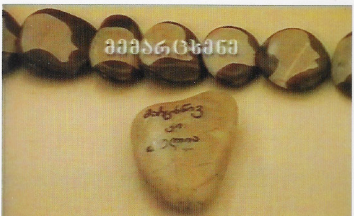


## Sophia Cherkezishvili Left wing

Shots from the videofilm "Nationality - from Tbilisi, Profession Artist"



Text appears itself. When I make something the text also emerges. It does not mean that I paint and then write text or vice versa. It happens by itself, harmoniously. I can't imagine this work without the text. I need this text, because it appeared here and remained with this work. I have never tried to write separately. I will never need this text separately. I never think why I create so much text, perhaps I need it. I have some works, where I do not need text.



## Gari Daphtian The tale-teller from Tbilisi



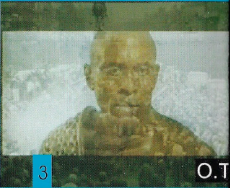
I live here and I am not alone. We all love each other. I live in all puppets, but most of all in this one. I don't know whether the puppet resembles me or vice versa. Over time we change similarly. Unkind puppets do not exist. We all know that. Separation is hard.

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O.T



"DEFUNDAMENTALIZATION"

9



Please protect me.

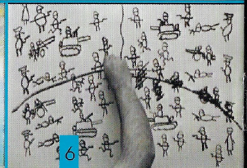
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ადამიანს აქვს უფლება იყოს თავისუფალი  
A human has a right to be free

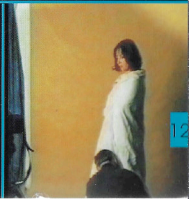
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**Video aesthetics**, screen technology has a great role in modern world. It is one of the main trends in modern visual arts that is not neutral by nature and, to say not straightforwardly, becomes a real source of influence on socio-cultural processes and public relations.

The **group of art critics and curators** (A.Gabunia, N.Gujabidze) has been working in this direction from 1999.

For this purpose they involved professional film director (K.Gujabidze) and cameramen (D.Gujabidze, G.Beridze) in the work in order to establish a precedent of recording development of modern Georgian art of recent decade in documentary and feature films. How was proceeding reconsideration and reinterpretation of artistic languages, situations, work processes, concepts, versatility of **visual art**. Within the bounds of this genre selfidentification of artists appeared to be on the border of documentary and video esthetics, where documentary film language, images, plots and types were gradually oppressed by experimental video intervention and within the bound of new genre it obtained new semantic and visual characteristics.

The **material collected during six years** is a very interesting **videolaboratory**, where artists of different generations and conceptual trends are assembled together. Such video structure does not include consistent line and has even the function of archival, educational filter. Nowadays when changes of paradigms are more frequent than biological change of generations we get phenomenon of "coexistence" of different cultural epochs. Therefore **cultural texture** becomes very sensitive and easy disintegrated to autonomous groups, which have their own assessment parameters, communication language, and their system of symbols. Therefore video films occur to be independent observer, which create common video communication space comprehensible and acceptable for all.

Except of mentioned **video almanacs five video arts are included** in the **video programme** which are initiated by the group of curators and which are placed in the concept net of common liberal freedoms.

**Video actionist** screen pictures contact with the society via messages and inform that the Art has no frontiers, even more so in the context of **Caucasian heritage**.

- 1 Shot from the videofilm "Modest Charm of Six Artists". Chapter "Ready Made". Koka Ramishvili
- 2 Shot from the videofilm "Modest Charm of Six Artists". Chapter "Mirage". Kote Sulaberidze
- 3 Oleg Timchenko. Shot from the video-art "Freedom is your right"
- 4 Sophia Cherkezishvili. Shot from the video-art "Protect me"
- 5 Shot from the videofilm "Modest Charm of Six Artists". Chapter "Murtaz TV". Murtaz Shvelidze
- 6 Kote Sulaberidze. Shot from the video-art "Planning war"
- 7 Oleg Timchenko. Shot from the video-art: "Freedom is your right"
- 8 Mamuka Japharidze. Shot from the video-art "Bread and Butter"
- 9 Niko Lomashvili. Shot from the video-art: "Defundamentalisation"
- 10 Shot from the videofilm "Modest Charm of Six Artists". Chapter "Ready Made". Koka Ramishvili
- 11 Thea Tella. Shot from the video-art A "Human has right to be free"
- 12 Shot from the videofilm "Modest Charm of Six Artists". Chapter "100% Silk". Ilko Zautashvili