



**MILJA VIITA Africa themed video works**  
**12.06. – 13.09.2015 Screening space STAIR**

**Milja Viita** had a scholarship in Finnish African culture centre Villa Karo during the years 2008 and 2011. Villa Karo is located in the village of Grand-Popo in Benin, West Africa. During the trip new video installations were born.

***Coriolis*** (duration: 13:48 min, 2013)

*Coriolis* is a poetic documentary about identical twins, Marthe and Martine, who are living in different parts of the world. A caregiver of the elderly, Martine currently lives in Helsinki, while Marthe, who works as a dressmaker, still lives in their native country, Togo. The two sisters come from a region where planetary winds, the great forces of the climate, arise. The video has been filmed in Guinea West Africa and Helsinki.

***Femme d'Afrique*** (duration 14:38 min, 2011)

*Femme d'Afrique* depicts the lives and daily routines of African women in a village near Grand-Popo. The women of the village start their day by carrying the daily water. After this they continue their work on the fields, domestic chores, childcare and cooking. Many of the women sell the plants that they produce, or the products that they produce from the plants. They use large aluminium vessels that they carry on their heads. The video also contains an interview of an old lady, who walks every day through Grand-Popo carrying a vessel with fresh bread. She has been given the nickname "Pain chaud", hot bread, by the villagers.

***Natural African Jazz Piece: Noël and Red-rumped Tinkerbird*** (duration: 02:00 min, 2010)

Red-rumped Tinkerbird (*Pogoniulus atroflavus*) is a small, lively bird living in Sub-Saharan West Africa. When a man and the bird met one morning, the man was meant to just imitate the bird, but something new was created instead.

***Monster Attack*** (duration: 02:10 min, 2010)

Kenyan children are playing under the canopy of bamboos when, suddenly, the harmonious atmosphere breaks down.

**Milja Viita** (b. 1974) lives and works in Porvoo, Finland. Viita has studied at the Academy of Fine Arts, Department of Time and Space based Art, Helsinki (MA degree 2005). She uses as her media video, sound, photography, and text. Her works are characterized by memories and small and familiar phenomenon which are made significant by visual narration. Milja Viita has participated in group shows at Kiasma – Museum of Contemporary Art (Helsinki), Kunsthalle Helsinki, Mänttä Art Festival and various video art and media art festivals in Finland and abroad.  
<http://miljaviita.org/>

**Additional information:**

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