



## HENNA-RIIKKA HALONEN:

### *The Vessel, It's All Gone Mushroom Shaped and Then to Dust (2014)*

25.9. – 22.11.2015 / STAIR

Length: 08:38 min

*The Vessel, It's All Gone Mushroom Shaped and Then to Dust* is a film that invites us to consider the changing nature of our relationship to objects and words in a world which is characterized by an ongoing transformation of the material and physical into the virtual, of body into image, and where the mantra *there is no alternative* is being continuously repeated.

This film arises from the desire to examine present conditions through events and objects executed previously by others, thus highlighting the problem of illustrating chains of events through isolated images.

*The Vessel* was filmed in the Lauttasaari water tower in Helsinki. Built in 1958, the tower is a typical example of the modernist concrete architecture of that period. This prominent landmark has been slated for demolition by a pulverizing technique during 2014-2015. The building is currently empty, water that used to fill its large tanks has been drained and all that remains are empty concrete structures and dim lights.

Couched in the idiom of science fiction cinema, the film depicts the journey and eventual transformation, in the Lauttasaari water tower, of an androgynous character (played by a transgender model VJ Ruuska). As the character gets many faces, the notion of time assumes a new meaning inside the building. The physical, bodily being of the character and the architectural features are deconstructed simultaneously. In addition to footage filmed in the Lauttasaari water tower, the film makes use of material sourced from the internet, such as stock photos, Russian Nuclear footage from the 1950s, biological documentaries and social media selfies.

Henna-Riikka Halonen (b.1975) graduated with an MFA in Fine Art from Goldsmiths College in 2006. She lives and works in Helsinki. She has worked on and produced many collaborative large-scale video projects and commissioned works in the UK, Israel, Ireland, France and Finland. She has shown her work widely in international exhibitions and festivals including Research Pavilion, Venice Biennale 2015, and You Imagine What you Desire, Biennale of Sydney 2014.

#### Enquiries:

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