

# THE LAMPS

a film by shelly silver

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# Synopsis

The Baroness Elsa von Freytag-Loringhoven né Plotz, was an unsung member of the New York Dada Movement. She was a poet, artist, vaudeville performer, runaway, rabble rouser, crossdresser, and all around public provocateur. She actively did not fit into her historical moment, and like most misfits, suffered for it. As with many women artists throughout history, her cultural legacy has been obscured and in some instances appropriated into the oeuvres of better-known male peers. Some researchers believe that the Baroness was the artist behind *Fountain*, the ready-made urinal attributed to Duchamp.

THE LAMPS details her trip to the Naples Archeological Museum in the early 1900's where she breaks into 'Il Gabinetto Segretto,' a secret room filled with erotic objects from Pompeii.

*All who want me would like to eat me up, But I am too expansive and am open to all sides, desire this here and that there.* The Baroness Elsa Von Freytag Loringhoven

*The Baroness was a citizen of terror, a contemporary without a country.* Djuna Barnes

*The Baroness is not a futurist. She is the future.*<sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub> Marcel Duchamp

# Technical Data

Length: 4:14 min./aspect ratio 16:9/color  
Available Screening Formats: Digital File/BluRay/DCP  
Shooting Format: HDCAM

# Credits

a film by Shelly Silver  
Music: Die Schitzelbank, Thomas A. Edison Recording

# Biography - Shelly Silver

Shelly Silver is a New York based artist working with the still and moving image. Her work explores contested territories between public and private, narrative and documentary, and--increasingly in recent years--the watcher and the watched.

She has exhibited worldwide, including the Museum of Modern, Tate Modern, Centre Georges Pompidou, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, the Yokohama Museum, the London ICA, and the London, the Singapore, New York, Moscow, and Berlin Film Festivals. Silver has received numerous fellowships and grants from organizations such as the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, the NEA, NYSCA, NYFA, the Jerome Foundation, the Japan Foundation and Anonymous was a Woman. Her films have been broadcast by BBC/England, PBS/USA, Arte/Germany, France, Planete/Europe, RTE/Ireland, SWR/Germany, and Atenor/Spain, among others, and she has been a fellow at the DAAD Artists Program in Berlin, the Japan/US Artist Program in Tokyo, Cité des Arts in Paris, Yaddo, The Macdowell Colony and at the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. A retrospective of her work was presented at Cinéma du Réel, Pompidou Center in Paris in spring 2015, as well as at DokLeipzig, Germany in November, 2014. Silver is Associate Professor of the Visual Arts Program, Columbia University.

## Film/Videography

The Lamps, 4:14, 2015  
觸摸 TOUCH, 68:00/2013  
5 lessons & 9 questions about Chinatown, 10:00/2009  
in complete world, 53:00/2008  
What I'm Looking For 15:00/2004;  
suicide, 70:00/2003  
I. 3:15/2001  
small lies, Big Truth; 18:48, 1999  
37 Stories About Leaving Home, 52:00/1996  
Former East/Former West, 62:00/1994  
April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00/1994  
The Houses That Are Left, 51 :00/1991  
We, 4:00/1990  
getting in. 3:00/1989  
Things I Forget to Tell Myself, 2:00/1989  
Meet the People, 17:00/1987  
Are We All Here? 50:00/1984

# Screenings

OUTFEST/Los Angeles (World American Premiere)

NewFest, New York

Forum Expanded, Berlin International Film Festival (European Premiere), Germany

IndieLisboa, Portugal

Onion City Film Festival, Chicago

European Media Arts Festival, Osnabrueck, Germany

IndieLisboa, Portugal

VideoFormes, Clermont-Ferrand, France

# Awards

Best Experimental Short Film, OUTFEST/Los Angeles

*For its confounding and provocative reflection, we award the Jury Prize for Experimental Short film to "The Lamps," by Shelly Silver.*

\aut\FILM Award for Best LGBT Film, Ann Arbor Film Festival, Michigan