

## FILM AT REDCAT PRESENTS

**Mon Nov 30 | 8:30 pm |**

Jack H. Skirball Series

\$11 [members \$8]

### ***Nicola Costantino - La Artefacta***

Directed by Natalie Cristiani

*Los Angeles Premiere*

Using her own image/body, the texture of organic material, and almost sacred icons (such as images of Eva Perón), Nicola Costantino is one of Argentina's most provocative and fascinating artists. For ***Nicola Costantino - La Artefacta***, she uses imagery of her persona at work: slaughtering cattle in a backless evening gown and white shoes (an allusion to a famous Argentine novel), or molding a double of herself during her pregnancy. Together with director/co-writer and über-editor Natalie Cristiani, she creates an unusual portrait of an artist and a woman. Eschewing explanation and psychologization, the film, rooted in a form of Argentine baroque, addresses the country's troubled history while articulating issues pertaining to self (re)presentation, performance and artistic originality. (2015, 75 min)

#### **In person: Nicola Costantino**

"A gorgeously crafted exploration of the oeuvre and inner workings of one of Argentina's most thought-provoking artists. More than a film about an artist, this is an expressive, painterly and beautifully cinematic look into the inner musings of an enigmatic and intellectual creative soul. The only voice heard is that of the artist whose poetic, thought-provoking narration becomes a work of art in itself"

– *POV Magazine*

"Although Costantino's ominous, staged and highly artificial photographs seem at first glance to confirm celebrated psychoanalytic clichés, they simultaneously subvert them. Filled with dramatic suspense and ambiguity, these pictures also frequently advert, albeit with an ironic wink of the eye, to images plundered from the abundant storehouse of art and film history. Costantino's confrontation with the animal kingdom, meanwhile, is distinguished by both a sense of the

grotesque and a fondness for her subjects, whose bodies she assembles anew to create absurdly hybrid sculptures marked by subtle irony and delicate subterfuge.” – *e-flux*

### Film Description

Nicola Costantino is one of Latin America’s most controversial and admired visual artists. With often macabre imagery rooted in a violence that pervades the history of Argentina, she is known for provocative works, such as lifelike casts of animals, soap constructed out of fat liposuctioned from her own body and clothes and accessories made of male nipple casts. Filmmaker Natalie Cristiani makes her directorial debut with this gorgeous cinematic tribute to Costantino, drawing audiences into her dark and mysterious work and the rigorous process of preparing to exhibit her latest work at the 55th International Art Exhibition of the Venice Biennale. As much as this film is a portrait of Costantino, it also uniquely pulls us into her art, making viewers into participants. – Heather Haynes, Hot Docs

### Bios

**Nicola Costantino** was born in 1964 in Rosario, Argentina, where she studied Fine Arts with a major in Sculpture. *Cochon sur canapé* (1992), her first solo show, is considered a forerunner of contemporary Latin American art. In 1994 she was admitted into Antorchas Foundation’s Barracas Workshop, coordinated by Suárez and Bénédict, and moved to Buenos Aires. In 1998 she represented Argentina in the San Pablo Biennial and then began to take part in several exhibits in museums around the world, such as Liverpool (1999), Tel Aviv (2002) and Zurich (2011). In 2000, she had a solo show at Deitch Projects (New York); her *Corset of Human Furriery* became part of the MOMA collection.

In 2004 she presented *Animal Motion Planet*, a series of orthopedic machines for stillborn animals, and *Savon de Corps*, a work that was widely covered in mass media. In 2006, her collaboration with Gabriel Valansi marked the beginning of her photographic work. She has since completed more than 30 photographic pieces, in which she uses her own image to embody different characters. Her interest in video performance led her to the creation of the self-referential work *Trailer* (2010), her first cinematographic-like production. More recent video performances involve the embodiment of historical and emblematic female characters such as Eva Perón in *Rapsodia Inconclusa* [*Unconcluded Rhapsody*] (55th Venice Biennial, 2013).

**Natalie Cristiani** was born in Italy in 1975. She graduated as an editor from the Centro Sperimentale Di Cinematografia in Rome in 2002. She is currently dividing her time between Buenos Aires and Rome. She has worked as a film editor with various talented young directors, including Giada Colagrande, Elisa Fuksas, Hernán Belon, Iván Gergolet, whose films have been premiered in international festivals such as Venice, Tokyo, Tribeca, Guadalajara, Pusan, and Sundance Film Festival among others. She was selected for the Berlinale Talents in 2014. *Nicola Costantino, The Artefacta* is her first feature documentary.

Partial filmography as an editor <highlights>

2014 Iván Gergolet: *Dancing With Maria* (Venice Film Festival)  
2013 Giada Colagrande: *The Abramovic Method* (Venice Film Festival)  
2012 Elsa Fuksas: *Nina* (Tokyo Film Festival)  
2012 Giada Colagrande: *Bob Wilson: The Life and Death of Marina Abramović* (Venice Film Festival)  
2011 Hernán Belon: *El campo* (Venice Film Festival, Critics Week)  
2010 Giada Colagrande: *A Woman* (Venice Film Festival)  
2008 Guendalina Zampagni: *Quell'estate* (Rome Film Festival)  
2007 Abel Ferrara: *Go Go Tales* (first assistant editor) (Cannes Film Festival)  
2006 Zhang Yuan: *Little Red Flowers* (first assistant editor) (Sundance Film Festival)  
2005 Roberto De Francesco: *Patrizia Cavalli, stanze e versi* (Torino Film Festival)  
2005 Roberto Paci Dalò: *Petróleo México* (Locarno Film Festival)  
2005 Giada Colagrande: *Before it Had a Name* (Venice Film Festival)  
2003 Mario Martone: *L'odore del sangue* (first assistant editor) (Cannes Film Festival)  
2002 Bernardo Bertolucci: *Ten minutes older* (first assistant editor)  
2001 Roberto Paci Dalò: *Camera obscura* (Locarno Film Festival)