

EDUCATION

2012-14 Master of Arts and Design at the Sandberg Instituut Amsterdam
 2013 MFA at OTIS College of Art and Design, Los Angeles, exchange programme
 2008-12 Bachelor Graphic Design at the Utrecht University of the Arts
 2002-08 A-levels at Veenlanden College Mijdrecht

GRANTS/ AWARDS/ SELECTIONS

2020 Selection Nederlands Film Festiva Gouden Kalf best interactive for the transmedia documentary #VerlorenJongensZullenWinnen (#Gamechangers)
 2020 Awarded a grant for the presentation of The Informals II by Creative Industries Fund NL
 2019 Awarded a grant for development of The Informals II by the Mondriaan fonds
 2019 Awarded a grant for the presentation of The Informals/Неформалы live documentary performance and Q&A during Inversia Festival by Performing Arts Fund NL, in collaboration with Andreas Kühne
 2018 Awarded a grant for the research phase of The Informals/Неформалы live documentary performance by Creative Industries Fund NL, collaboration with Andreas Kühne
 2018 Awarded a grant for the production phase of #VerlorenJongensZullenWinnen transmedia documentary by The Dutch Film Fund and Creative Industries Fund NL, in collaboration with Isaura Sanwirjatmo
 2017 Awarded a grant for the research phase of #VerlorenJongensZullenWinnen transmedia documentary by The Dutch Film Fund and Creative Industries Fund NL, in collaboration with Isaura Sanwirjatmo
 2015 Awarded a grant for personal practice development by Creative Industries Fund NL

RESIDENCIES

2020-22 Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam
 2019 Re-Imagined Residency at Lighthouse Brighton, as part of Re-Imagine Europe, co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union, in collaboration with Andreas Kühne
 2018 Research residency at Fridaymilk, Murmansk, Russia
 2016-21 Artist-in Residence cultural artist space Ramses Shaffy Huis, Amsterdam
 2015 Research residency at Al-Ma'mal Foundation for Contemporary Art, Jerusalem

WORKS

2019-21 Audiovisual live performance and installation The Informals II, collaboration with Andreas Kühne, commissioned by Lighthouse, Brighton. Part of Re-Imagine Europe, co-funded by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union.
 2018-19 Audiovisual live-documentary performance The Informals/Неформалы, collaboration with Andreas Kühne commissioned by Sonic Acts and Inversia Festival, Murmansk. Part of Re-Imagine Europe, co-funded by the Creative Europe programme of the European Union.
 2018-20 Transmedia documentary #VerlorenJongensZullenWinnen (#Gamechangers), collaboration with Isaura Sanwirjatmo
 2015-18 Feature documentary 'The Champagne Drinkers: Russia's Informal Economy from the back seat of a Taxi', Russia, 53 min and four-channel video installation with smartphones and car seats
 2017 Feature documentary 'Area C, System D: Dealings along the Jerusalem-Ramallah Road', West Bank, 84 min
 2016 Video 'Spoonful', commission by Centre for Fine Arts Groningen for the exhibition 'Made of Sugar and Salt'
 2016 Video 'Export' commission by the Rotterdam City Theatre, part of the Informal Ecologies Programme of Club Imagine 2020
 2016 Video 'Surely God is in this Property', commission by De Nieuwe Vide gallery, Haarlem for Notes from The Underground exhibition as part of Haarlemse Lente '16
 2015 Video 'Palestine' included in the series After the Arab Spring of The One Minutes Foundation
 2013 Video "La-la-land of Survival" developed as part of exchange program at OTIS College of Art and Design
 2013 Sandberg Instituut Design Department yearbook interactive video installation, in collaboration with Mark Jan van Tellingen
 2012 Self-printed book 'Rhyme lessons in a phone shop: the new knowledge economy of Amsterdam-West'

TEACHING

2019 Member of the international jury European Competition Go Short Film Festival, Nijmegen
 2019 Guest tutor VAV/Moving Image at the Rietveld Academy of the Arts
 2019 Tutor Fina Art at the Utrecht University of the Arts
 2019 Workshop (Re)configuring Territories Spring School at Narva Art Residency, Estonia
 2018 Workshop RoomJam during ArtEZ Finals, Zwolle for students and professionals with Isaura Sanwirjatmo
 2018 External examiner during Winterlab project presentations ArtEZ University of the Arts, Zwolle
 2017-20 Visiting Artist lecture at Utrecht University of the Arts
 2017-19 Coordinator Shadow Channel, MA Film, Design and Propaganda at the Sandberg Instituut Amsterdam
 2017 Feedback session 'Haarlemse Nieuwe Filmdag', Galerie De Nieuwe Vide, Haarlem
 2017-14 Trainer for The One Minutes Jr. & UNICEF video workshops in the Ukraine, Afghanistan, Philippines, Albania
 2016 Trainer for IDFA & One Minutes Jr. Awards masterclass
 2016 Trainer for The One Minutes video workshops at het Masters St.Joost Academie Breda
 2016 Masterclass 'Suiker en Zout' Center for Fina Arts, Groningen
 2016 Guest class Public School of Architecture Brussels during Art Brussels, Brussel
 2016-17 Feedback session Sandberg Instituut Graduation projects at De Punt, Amsterdam
 2015 Trainer for The One Minutes video workshops at the Sandberg Instituut, departments Design and Dirty Art

2014 Guest class as part of the Tools & Societies programme at Willem de Kooning Academie, Rotterdam
2014 Trainer The One Minutes video workshop at the Sandberg Instituut
2014 Participating artist in the Disarming Design workshop in Ramallah, Palestina

SCREENINGS/ EXHIBITIONS/ LECTURES/ PUBLICATIONS

2020 Premiere event and installation of the #VerlorenJongensZullenWinnen #gamechangers transmedia documentary at BAK Basis voor Actuele Kunst, as part of NFF Gouden Kalf selection for best interactive
2020 #TakeOver exhibition of #VerlorenJongensZullenWinnen at WORM Rotterdam in the form of an exhibition, a screening and a public programme, in coll. with Isaura Sanwirjatmo supported by Dutch Film Fund and Creative Industries Fund NL
2019 Audiovisual live-documentary performance The Informals/Неформалы during Lofoten International Art Festival (LIAF 19) in Svolvær
2019 Audiovisual live-documentary performance The Informals/Неформалы at A4 Space for Contemporary Culture, Bratislava
2019 Audiovisual live-documentary performance The Informals/Неформалы at Muziekgebouw Amsterdam
2019 Guest curator of The Hmm lecture programme on contemporary image culture
2019 Lecture and panel during Sunday Seminar at The Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam dedicated to the Freedom of Movement Municipal Art Acquisitions exhibition
2019 Contribution 'The Informals: On escapist spatial narratives and improvisation as a mode of production' in the 25 year anniversary edition of the Sonic Acts publication Hereafter, written together with Andreas Kühne.
2019 Moderation during Sonic Acts Festival '19
2019 Audiovisual live-documentary performance The Informals/Неформалы during Sonic Acts Festival, Amsterdam
2019 Audiovisual live-documentary performance The Informals/Неформалы and artist talk during Inversia Festival '19 in Murmansk
2018 'Freedom of Movement' Municipal Art Acquisitions group exhibition, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam
2018 Artist talk #VerlorenJongensZullenWinnen transmedia documentary process during Pecha Kucha, Melkweg
2018 Artist talk #VerlorenJongensZullenWinnen transmedia documentary process during Progress Bar, Paradiso-Noord
2018 Participation in the professionals panel 'The End of Transmedia' during Nederlands Film Festival
2018 Participation in Sociale Top '18 congress in Utrecht as an expert in the field of film
2016-17 Moderator Q&A's and school screenings during International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam
2014 Participating artist in the Disarming Design workshop in Ramallah, Palestina
2017 Presentation 'Area C, System D' during IDFA '17 Docs for Sale
2017 Artist talk for Shadow Channel, MA Film, Design and Propaganda of the Sandberg Instituut Amsterdam
2016 Group exhibition 'In No Particular order' of Creative Industries Fund NL during Dutch Design Week
2016 Screening and Q&A of 'Area C, System D' during the 'In No Particular Order' exhibition during DDW
2016 Lecture and artist talk during Film&Design Night at De Punt, Amsterdam
2016 Three films from the Ukraine workshop nominated for The One Minutes Jr. Awards, screened during IDFA
2016 Screening and Q&A 'Area C, System D' during Eye on Palestine festival 2016, Antwerp
2016 Lecture and screening of 'Area C, System D' at Public School of Architecture Brussels, Brussels
2016 Screening and Q&A 'Area C, System D' during Black Market program by Aleppo.eu at Art Brussels, Brussels
2016 Participant and member of Club Imagine 2020, an interdisciplinary programme by the Rotterdam City Theatre
2016 Screening 'Area C, System D' at WIELS Centre d'Art Contemporain, Brussels
2015 Screening and Q&A 'Area C, System D' at Al-Ma'mal Foundation for Contemporary Art in Jerusalem
2015 Group exhibition and screening of 'The Champagne Drinkers' at Hotel Droog, Amsterdam
2015 Q&A during the opening of After the Arab Spring series, curated by Yassine El Idrissi in Huis de Pinto
2015 Video 'Palestine' included in the series After the Arab Spring of The One Minutes Foundation
2015 'The Champagne Drinkers' selected by film critic Hans Beerekamp as NPO documentary of the week in NRC
2015 Article 'Een avondje spijbelen levert veel fraais op' on 'The Champagne Drinkers' by Hans Beerekamp in NRC
2015 Spread 'Russisch geritsel' by Maarten van Bracht in the VPRO Gids about 'The Champagne Drinkers'
2015 Spread 'Russische snorders' in 360 Magazine about 'The Champagne Drinkers'
2015 'The Champagne Drinkers' broadcast on NPO Doc (VPRO) en on npodoc.nl as part of 'Makers van morgen'
2015 Interview about 'The Champagne Drinkers' for npodoc.nl by Julia Kramer
2014 Two films from the Afghanistan workshop nominated for The One Minutes Jr. Awards, screened during IDFA
2014 Guest lecture and film screening of 'The Champagne Drinkers' at Willem de Kooning Academie, Rotterdam
2014 Round table discussion at museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam
2014 Sandberg Instituut group exhibition 'Dialetheia' at Tolhuistuin Amsterdam
2014 Group exhibition 'Amsterdam-Athens' in Kunsthalle Athena, Athens, screening of 'La-la-land of survival'
2013 Lecture at De Pont museum, Tilburg as part of 'Cultuurnacht Tilburg'
2013 Spread in NRC.Next about the book 'Rhyme lessons in a phone shop' by Carola Houtekamer
2013 'Rhyme lessons in a phone shop' selected video of the week, screening by The One Minutes Foundation
2013 Publication in 2+3D Magazine, Dutch design issue about 'Rhyme lessons in a phone shop'
2012 Open Holland workshop with Belle Promchanya en Aiwen Yin for Vote Back! festival in De Appel Arts Centre

BIOGRAPHY

Polina Medvedeva is a Russian-Dutch filmmaker and artist based in Amsterdam. Her work researches the notion of informality, focusing on informal economies and non-conformist communal structures, their principles influencing the aesthetics of her videos. Medvedeva's works have been exhibited at Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam; Sonic Acts Festival, Amsterdam; WIELS Contemporary Art Centre, Brussels; Al-Ma'mal Foundation for Contemporary Art, Jerusalem; Inversia Festival, Murmansk; Rotterdam City Theatre; Art Brussels; Centre of Fine Arts Groningen; De Nieuwe Vide gallery, Haarlem and screened during IDFA Docs for Sale and on VPRO among others. She was a guest lecturer at the public school for architecture brussels, Sandberg Instituut Amsterdam, Gerrit Rietveld Academie, ArEZ Zwolle, is a tutor and lecturer at the Utrecht School of the Arts and a resident at Rijksakademie Amsterdam for the period 2020-2022.

01 THE INFORMALS/НЕФОРМАЛЫ, 2019, 33'
SONIC ACTS FESTIVAL '19, OORTREDENS '20, LIGHTHOUSE BRIGHTON,
LOFOTEN INTERNATIONAL ART FESTIVAL '19, A4 BRATISLAVA
SUPPRTED BY STIMULERINGSFONDS CREATIEVE INDUSTRIE AND SONIC ACTS

The Informals/Неформалы is partly an autobiographical work, as well as a universal statement on the notions of decentralization, collectivism and non-conformist ways of living among the youth in the digital age. The audiovisual collaboration between Polina Medvedeva and Andreas Kühne researches the improvisation technique in the medium documentary and in its methodology resembles the patterns of the digital natives of Murmansk, who in order to escape the norms and social constructs of the Northern Region of Russia navigate to deserted spaces in their area, and through their collective presence improvise with the space, adding a new layer to its genealogy. Medvedeva and Kühne travel back to the former military zone Medvedeva was born in and through documentation and field improvisation, much like the youths of Murmansk region, by resonating with this now abandoned area temporarily transfer it into the present. The collected data, divided into separate interchangeable contextual elements and prepared for live triggering and processing, resembles an audiovisual instrument which, when played by the artist duo, produces and exports new unscripted versions with each live performance, with narrations, connections and interpretations emerging through the presence of the audience.



[HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/342963079](https://vimeo.com/342963079)



02 THE CHAMPAGNE DRINKERS: RUSSIA'S INFORMAL ECONOMY FROM THE BACKSEAT OF A TAXI, 2015-18, 53'
STEDELIJK MUSEUM AMSTERDAM, 2DOC, AL-MA'MAL FOUNDATION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

Drawing on my childhood memories of growing up in Russia during the transition to capitalism in the 1990s, I analyze the informal economies that provide a livelihood for a significant portion of the population. The video installation The Champagne Drinkers focuses on the unlicensed taxi drivers in my hometown of Pskov, who proudly defend their work by citing a Russian proverb: "One who doesn't take risks doesn't drink champagne." Recording from the back seat, I document a population of resourceful, strong-willed individuals who refuse to give in to hopelessness, even when faced with widespread unemployment and financial hardship. For a 2018 exhibition at the Stedelijk Museum, the film has been set up as an installation, and is accompanied by smartphones placed between car seats reflecting on the film three years later, where feverish economic activity of this newly-formed precariat is contrasted by continuous waiting for the order.

[HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/299438684](https://vimeo.com/299438684)

03 ALIEN, 2019, VIDEO, 7', STILL FROM VIDEO
DECONSTRUCTING FIELD STUDIES WORKSHOP

Narva is a former industrial city in Eastern Estonia, only separated from Russia by the Narva river. The (pedestrian) border crossing looks like an unremarkable bridge connecting two sides of a city. This is, however, one of the most strategic and well guarded borders in the world, separating not only the two countries but also European Union and NATO states from Eurasian Economic Union and CSTO, and East from the West. The video was developed during an interdisciplinary workshop I was leading at the Narva Art Residency and follows Jaroslavna, a young woman from Narva visiting her grandmother over the bridge in Ivangorod. Born in Narva just before the fall of the Soviet Union Jaroslavna, as part of the Ethnic Russian population in Estonia didn't receive an Estonian citizenship, nor a Russian one, but carries a grey passport called 'Alien', often issued in Estonia at the beginning of the 90s. This enables her to travel freely within EU and also in Russia but prevents her from occupying state positions and voting in Estonia's general elections. In this work the notions of identity and non-belonging are addressed implicitly through a family gathering.



A complete alien everywhere.
 -You're an Earthling. You live on the Earth.

**04. #VERLORENJONGENZULLENWINNEN, 2020, TRANSMEDIA DOCUMENTARY
IN COLLABORATION WITH ISaura SANWIRJATMO
SELECTION NFF GOUDEN KALF INTERACTIVE '20
SELECTION NFF FORUM VAN DE REGISSEURS '20
SUPPORTED BY FILMFONDS EN STIMULERINGSFONDS CREATIEVE INDUSTRIE**

#VerlorenJongesZullenWinnen (#Gamechangers) is a transmedia documentary researching the new media as a tool of implicit resistance in the hands of the new generation of Dutch youths. For us as independent makers operating outside of the traditional margins of disciplines, this project is an experiment on new forms of storytelling, with which we search for the borders of the medium documentary in the context of new media. The work is a film, an installation and a live event where the audience is immersed in a mix of the online world and live performances – from dance, film and theatre to spoken word and dialogue. The film follows young people who, armed with a phone, a camera or a microphone challenge existing power structures and mainstream imaging. In three parts we follow these gamechangers, together with a group of high school youths of Rotterdam-Zuid and two young artists who try to find success on stage without losing themselves in between two cultures. Next to the event, the installation shows the three parts of the work, which continue into an up-to-date playlist displaying the social media channels of the main characters and their #VJZW Instagram lives.

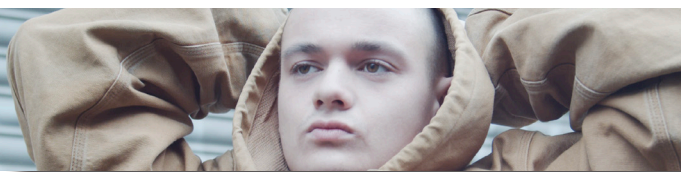


[HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/455942957](https://vimeo.com/455942957)



**05. THE INFORMALS II, 2021 LIVE A/V PERFORMANCE AND INSTALLATION
COMMISSIONED BU LIGHTHOUSE, BRIGHTON
PREMIERE: BRIGHTON FESTIVAL 2021
SUPPORTED BY MONDRIAAN FONDS, STIMULERINGSFONDS CREATIEVE
INDUSTRIE AND CREATIVE EUROPE PROGRAMME**

In this turbulent time for the UK we aim to portray this active generation of young talented thinkers, many of whom are not seen in this way by the institutions and authorities due to their socio-economic position on the fringes of the society or their (educational) background. In times when the political decisions taken are not representative of these youths, they use their (musical) culture to reclaim public spaces and to spread their progressive views challenging stigmas and stereotypes. With this audiovisual performance we strive to document their emancipatory practices which, no matter how subtle or implicit, sketch an inclusive and collective portrait of the generation of digital natives and provide a more accurate representation of Brighton.



[HTTPS://VIMEO.COM/221599556](https://vimeo.com/221599556)

**06 AREA C, SYSTEM D:
DEALINGS ALONG THE JERUSALEM-RAMALLAH ROAD 2017, 84'
WIELS CONTEMPORARY ART CENTRE BRUSSELS, ART BRISSELS,
AL-MA'MAL FOUNDATION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART, JERUSALEM
SUPPORTED BY STIMULERINGSFONDS CREATIEVE INDUSTRIE**

Area C, System D was filmed over the course of a year in Al-Ram and Kufr Aqab, and at the Qalandia, al-Am'ari and Kaddoura refugee camps in the West Bank. The documentary depicts the informal socio-political structures of these locations, which remain ungovernable by both Palestinian and Israeli authorities. Area C, System D portrays the thriving grey economy and self-governance along the main Jerusalem-Ramallah road, where shops and buildings are unlicensed, the cars often stolen and where the electricity and sewer lines are built on one's own initiative. Told from the perspectives of shopkeepers and a group of young musicians heading for their illegal concert in an unlicensed car, the film is a parallel narration of both daily struggle and resilience, desperation and the power of individuals, amid a constant bustle of vibrant enterprise and rap.



It's an area of uncertainty.
An area for business, for shops, for work.