

## BIO

Lisa Birke is an award winning Canadian experimental short film maker who situates between the traditions of painting, digital video and performance art. She has had solo exhibitions across Canada and her short films have been screened at film/video festivals and media centres internationally, including amongst others: *Vancouver International Film Festival* (Canada), *European Film Festival* (touring), *Athens International Film + Video Festival* (USA), *InShadow International Festival of Video, Performance and Technologies* (Portugal), *Cologne OFF X* (USA, Israel, India), *Cold Cuts Video Festival* (Canada), *International Short Film Week Regensburg* (Germany), *SESIFF (Seoul international Extreme-Short Image & Film Festival)*, *POW Fest* (USA), and *AVIFF (Art Film Festival, Cannes)*. *red carpet* was awarded the “Lakehead Juror's Prize” and the “Audience Choice Award” at the *Orillia Museum of Art & History* in Orillia (Canada) in 2014. The short film *Calendar Girls* was awarded a “Jury Award for Creative Achievement” at the *Arizona International Film Festival* (USA), the Jury Award at *ForadCamp* (Barcelona) and was recently installed at *Manif d'Art* (Quebec City Biennale 2017). Birke created projects for *CAFKA (Contemporary Art Forum Kitchener and Area)*, the *Kitchener Waterloo Art Gallery* in 2016 and has just completed “The Knits” with the support of an *Ontario Arts Council Media Artists Project Creation Grant*.

Lisa Birke examines notions of ‘self’ through the lens of gender, bringing the cultural tropes of woman into focus and into question. Filmed unaccompanied in the Canadian landscape, absurd yet insightful performative acts become entangled in nuanced and complex narratives in single and multi-channel video works that make reference to art history, mythology and popular culture. Revealing what lies beneath the surface of femininity, her work toys with a conclusion that is problematic, comi-tragic, and most essentially, human.