

Honorary Degree Citation for Ulrike Ottinger,

Mr. President, it is my honour to present to you Ulrike Ottinger, filmmaker and multimedia art visionary.

Ulrike Ottinger developed her diverse artistic interests while living in Paris in the '60s, where she exhibited her paintings, studied etching technique, and attended lectures at the Sorbonne with luminaries of the caliber of Claude Lévi-Strauss, Louis Althusser, and Pierre Bourdieu. In 1968 she returned to her native Konstanz, in Germany, where she founded a cine club and art gallery.

After completing her debut film LAOCOON & SONS (1972) in collaboration with Tabea Blumenschein, in 1973 she moved to Berlin, where she has lived since.

Over the next five decades, she has appropriated ever-changing media and styles to deconstruct normative views of gender, the body, and cultural identity. During the 70s and 80s, she expanded feminist and queer aesthetics through irony, visual metaphor, and masquerade. She has brought sensibility and innovation to ethnographic cinema, developing projects after years of theoretical preparation and explored the interweaving of narrative, documentary, and experimental forms.

From Toronto to London, Moscow to Rio, she has screened her work at the world's most important film festivals. Her masterpieces include 1989's Johanna d'Arc of Mongolia, the Berlin trilogy Ticket of No Return (1979), Freak Orlando (1981), and Dorian Gray in the Mirror of the Yellow Press (1984), her numerous documentaries, many set in Asia and South East Europe, among which we'll mention CHINA. THE ARTS – THE PEOPLE (1985), EXILE SHANGHAI (1997), SOUTHEAST PASSAGE (2002) and PRATER (2008).

She has won prizes at festivals in Berlin, Scéaux, Nyon, Montreal, and as one of the world's most thought-provoking and respected filmmakers, she has had retrospectives at the Paris Cinemathèque the Museum of Modern Art in New York, at the Museo Vostell, Malpartida (Spain).

A master of many media, Ottinger has presented her paintings, art installations and photographic exhibitions in major galleries and museums

around the world. Her photos, which echo her films in subject matter and context, have featured, among others, at the Biennales in Venice and Berlin.

In 2011, the City of Berlin awarded her the Hannah Höch Prize for lifetime achievement in the visual arts. Yet Ottinger is now more active than ever. In 2016 she completed the monumental “Chamisso’s Shadow, ” which premiered at the Berlinale in 2016, was named Best Documentary film by the German Film Critics Association and will soon have the US première in New York, before being distributed in the US. More than 50 years after writing her first screenplay, Ottinger is completing a film about her formative years in Paris.

Mr. President, on behalf of the Senate and the Board of Governors, it is my privilege and honour to present to you Ulrike Ottinger, so that you may confer upon her the degree of Doctor of Fine Arts, honoris causa.