

Skin Pleasure

Artist Statement

MARIUS PACKBIER AND AÏLIEN REYNS

The pleasure of touch is the first part of a three-part video essay, produced and created by Brussels-based artist collective/production platform TRIPOT as a collaboration between audiovisual artists Marius Packbier and Aïlien Reyns.

The work investigates the different functions of the skin—as a protective barrier, a sensory organ, a producer of meaning, and as a surface that wants to (be) touch(ed)—and situates these functions in relation to the reception of amateur internet porn.

The work originates from a transdisciplinary research project that explores the use and experience of online pornography. Drawing from interviews with porn consumers, textual analysis of amateur porn videos, and from his own experience, Marius Packbier wrote an essay that is used as a voice-over for the work. The text alternates between analytical reflection and personal accounts based on the lived experience of the artist. The pervasive ambivalence of the voice-over informs the image and sound composition of the video essay. At times illustrating and explanatory, image and text approach each other, only to subsequently detach themselves from one another through abstraction and deconstruction.

The work consists of two kinds of images: pornographic amateur videos found on the internet and (extreme) closeups of the (male) artist's body. Both kinds of images are manipulated through analog and digital methods, resulting in a “tactile” aesthetic that emphasizes the materiality and texture of the video image and the human skin. Combining temporal and spatial montage techniques, the images are placed next to, over, and in each other, as a way of reflecting on the simultaneity, (inter)active reception, and sensory excess of the online-porn experience.

Sitting at the intersection between art and science, *Skin Pleasure* is fundamentally characterized by tensions between supposedly binary oppositions like body and mind, objectivity and subjectivity, proximity and distance. By questioning their boundaries, the work obliges the spectator to take up a (self-) critical position.

Below you'll find a source list of all the video material used in this work. All the material that is not produced by ourselves are amateur porn videos sourced from different pornographic video sharing websites. This sort of material is inherently characterized by ambiguity, particularly ambiguity about its authenticity with regards to its “amateur” character and ambiguity about the videos’

producers and participants and their intentions. As almost every amateur porn video on the internet is uploaded to different sites from (supposedly) different users, sometimes circulating for years, it is often challenging to find out more about the producers and participants. Did they intend that the video was widely distributed on the internet, and if yes, to what end? And did they even know that they were filmed?

This raises several ethical and legal issues about intellectual property, privacy, and consent. By addressing these issues we want to initiate a more extensive discussion about them while admitting that we are not able to completely resolve them.

Skin Pleasure is an artistic research project that sets out to investigate and represent a perceptual experience that is essentially a sensory encounter with multiple images. We therefore believe it to be indispensable to include records of these images.

As we consider this project falling under fair use we didn't feel obliged to obtain permission from the copyright holders to use their material. We did, however, try to find and contact the producers and protagonists of the videos to obtain clarification if they had consented to being filmed and their images placed online. In cases where we found proof or indication of non-consent we excluded the images or obfuscated the recognisable features of the protagonist who hadn't consented.

Source List

00:01:53:20–00:04:36:15
Self-produced material

00:04:42:08 - 00:05:19:18
unknown, “Wij samen!” xHamster, video deleted

00:04:19:22–00:04:24:16
Kenandshanpall, “s. Ebony Teen Ass,” XVideos. https://www.xvideos.com/video40238431/s_ebony_teen_ass

00:05:19:19–00:06:16:19
London2010, “young boy in socks jerking off,” xHamster, <https://de.xhamster.com/videos/young-boy-in-socks-jerking-off-1973042>

00:04:24:03–00:04:27:01
ocmachado, “foda,” xHamster. <https://de.xhamster.com/videos/foda-7984839>

00:06:30:18–00:07:00:01
sexsuechtig, “watching porn on pc,” xHamster, <https://de.xhamster.com/videos/watching-porn-on-pc-277512>

00:04:27:02–00:04:31:15
Titles: Voyeur MILF
Uploader: qqqwwe11223, “Voyeur MILF,” xHamster. video deleted

00:07:00:02–00:07:28:16
banduga, “Tempting bae caressing her body sensually in amateur video,” MyLust, <https://mylust.com/videos/244558/tempting-bae-caressing-her-body-sensually-in-amateur-video/>

00:04:31:16 – 00:05:19:12
rirwin, “bound dude gets handjob,” xHamster, <https://de.xhamster.com/videos/bound-dude-gets-handjob-4360095>

00:07:39:04–00:08:17:14
adridoc9, “looking my wife through the window with her bull,” xHamster, <https://de.xhamster.com/videos/looking-my-wife-through-the-window-with-her-bull-6565646>

00:08:19:20–00:08:47:14
Bigzo, “Big boy stroking,” XVideos, Link: https://www.xvideos.com/video40057873/big_boy_stroking

00:08:25:18–00:08:55:15
hungguy, “hot big cock young guy cums a heavy load,” xHamster, <https://de.xhamster.com/videos/hot-big-cock-young-guy-cums-a-heavy-load-4120140>

00:08:28:13–00:08:55:15
ahmed198, “young turkish 19yr old wankin,” xHamster, <https://de.xhamster.com/videos/young-turkish-19yr-old-wankin-2034021>

00:08:30:04–00:08:55:15
Title: Daddy wanking in the dark
Uploader: fmaster3
Website: xhamster.com
Link: <https://de.xhamster.com/videos/daddy-wanking-in-the-dark-7338770>

00:08:33:04–00:08:55:15
Irian Rod, “Cute Black Guy Jerk off on Chair and Cum Shot,” Pornhub, https://de.pornhub.com/view_video.php?viewkey=ph56d00563580b3

00:08:36:05–00:08:55:15
ricardes1948, Title: Wank & Spunk - 11th September.2017,” xHamster, <https://de.xhamster.com/videos/wank-spunk-11th-september-2017-8258597>

00:08:38:10–00:08:55:15
leglover45, “Jacking off to Rachel Roxxx with Giant Cumshot,” xHamster, <https://de.xhamster.com/videos/jacking-off-to-rachel-roxxx-with-giant-cumshot-1421306>

00:08:40:09–00:08:55:15
pnice1993, “Jacking off watching porn on ipad2,” xHamster, <https://de.xhamster.com/videos/jacking-off-watching-porn-on-ipad2-2075386>

00:08:43:02–00:08:55:15
Lazzplay, “Sexy twink wanks and cums hard watching porn,” xHamster, <https://de.xhamster.com/videos/sexy-twink-wanks-and-cums-hard-watching-porn-11210847>

00:08:47:15–00:09:02:22
ilikeitverymuch, “Watching porn,” xHamster, <https://de.xhamster.com/videos/watching-porn-5673636>

00:09:05:04–00:09:39:16
Popanut45, “Jacking Off to Porn 04,” xHamster, <https://de.xhamster.com/videos/jacking-off-to-porn-04-1249669>

00:09:40:24 - 00:10:00:18
kudoslong, “Kudoslong is naked on the bed watching porn,” xHamster, <https://de.xhamster.com/videos/kudoslong-is-naked-on-the-bed-watching-porn-9436875>

00:09:53:02 – 00:11:34:10
Self-produced material