

CYLAND VIDEO ARCHIVE
International digital online archive

The CYLAND Video Archive has been based in St-Petersburg since 2008. This is the first online video archive of its kind in Russia: most of the works gathered here are accessible for view in the internet. The collection includes video art, experimental films, computer graphics, 3D animation, stop-motion animation, poetic video, video documentation of art and education projects on cutting-edge technologies. Currently, the collection comprises over 400 videos by approximately 100 artists and art groups from Russia, as well as 30 artists from other countries. Exhibitions and screenings of programs from the CYLAND Video Archive have been held in Great Britain, France, Brazil, Turkey, America, Germany, Italy, Sweden and Eastern Europe. The Video Archive is run by CYLAND Media Art Lab, Russia's most active nonprofit organization in media art operated by independent artists and curators since 2007, and dedicated to expanding the intersection of Art::Tech. In the first years of collecting, the archive started out with video works by artists who participated in the international media art festival CYFEST held by CYLAND Media Art Lab.

The first extensive exhibition of the archive collection was organized in collaboration with the National Centre for Contemporary Arts (NCCA) in 2009 in Moscow.

Naturally, the bulk of our collection came from St. Petersburg artists, since it is based in this city. The content of the archive collection can be divided into 2 periods: analog-to digital (VHS, MiniDV, DVD) in 1986-2011 and works in HD video format from 2011. Historically, the first period can be linked with influences of the post-Perestroika spirit. The phenomena of the St. Petersburg underground culture of the time such as Parallel cinema, New Artists, Rave, Pirate TV (PTV), Pop-Mechanics, Necrorealism and Neoacademism had a huge impact on the development of Russian video art. Masterpieces by media art pioneers from the archive collection illustrate the transition from analog to digital art and computer editing. Some masterpieces of Parallel Cinema were originally shot on 35,16, or 8 mm film and then stored in the archive collection in digital from the artists. The database contains many works by renowned artists that reflect the living spirit of this time.

The other part of the CYLAND Video Archive collection is dedicated to artists of the next generation and reveals the lines of development of digital video art in the 2000s-2010s. It is a great amount of media artworks and installations produced by the CYLAND team. Many artists whose experimental works (sound, 3-D animation, generative art and computer games) presented in the archive are graduates of the PRO ARTE School for Young Artists and the Rodchenko School of Photography and Multimedia..

CYLAND archive is a great information and educational resource. One of the tasks of the archive is to build open and accessible collection, to protect works of art from being locked in private collections, and to prevent their technical basis from becoming outdated. The archive is structured in two parts: videos on the website with open access, and the offline collection for professionals accessible at the archive office.

From the very beginning the CYLAND video archive was conceived as a platform for networking and interaction between artists, curators and art institutions. It is an exceptional international project which promotes Russian media art abroad, and international art in Russia, and make possible for broad audience to track new trends in digital visual art. The CYLAND Archive is the only systematic online archive of digital video art in Russia today.

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