

Wrik Mead

<https://www.wrikmead.com/>

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Bio

Wrik Mead has been making experimental queer animated films for over 35 years, building a deeply personal and defiantly imaginative body of work that spans more than 50 films. Rooted in the psychodramatic, his films explore queer fantasy, desire, dreams, and the unstable terrain between the personal and the political. Through frame-by-frame manipulations and fractured narratives, he explores queer embodiment, loss, eroticism, and the unconscious, offering viewers an invitation into a world where nothing is fixed and everything is in motion. His work defies easy categorization, instead carving out space for queer longing in all its complexity and contradiction.

Education

Wrik Mead's academic and professional journey has been shaped by his studies in both fine art and experimental film.

- **Ontario College of Art, 1984-1988: AOCA (Honours)** – Mead earned his undergraduate degree from one of Canada's premier art institutions, where he developed his foundational skills in fine art.
- **Goldsmiths, University of London, 2004-2005: MFA in Fine Art** – At Goldsmiths, a globally renowned institution for experimental and contemporary art, Mead honed his unique artistic voice, immersing himself in the intersection of visual art and film.

Affiliations

Wrik Mead's professional and educational background is rooted in significant participation in the experimental film and art communities. Key affiliations include the **Canadian Filmmakers Distribution Centre (CFMDC)** in Toronto, **Light Cone** in Paris, and **Vidéographe** in Montréal—three pivotal distribution platforms that promote independent and avant-garde media. These organizations have helped elevate Mead's presence within the international arts scene.

Selected Gallery Exhibitions

Mead's works have been featured in numerous galleries worldwide. Some key exhibitions include:

- **2023:** *Public Sweat*, Art Spin (Toronto)
- **2022:** *Light Matter*, Harland Snodgrass Gallery (New York), *Material Synthesis*, White Page Gallery (New York)
- **2018:** *Futile*, Aggregate Space Gallery (Oakland),

- **2015:** *No Tears for the Creatures of the Night*, The Center for Sex and Culture (San Francisco), Filmideo, Index Arts Center (U.S.A.), *Le Silo*, Galerie Colbert à L'Inha (Paris)
- **2014-2007:** Multiple solo and group shows in Canada, the UK, Mexico, and the U.S., including *Draw the Line* (solo), Payne/Shurvell Gallery (London) and *Rebels Rule*, Art Gallery of Ontario (Toronto)
- **2006-1990:** Key exhibitions include *Flow*, Truck Gallery (Calgary), *Haven*, Optica Gallery (Montréal), *Queer Takes Film Series*, Walker Art Center (Minneapolis), *Stag Party* (solo), Niagara Artists' Centre (St. Catherines) and *Homogenius*, Mercer Union (Toronto)

Mead's work often explores themes of sexuality, identity, and transformation through visual storytelling, contributing to a rich body of conceptual and experimental art.

Selected Festival Screenings

Mead's films have been showcased at major international film festivals, including:

- **2024:** *43rd Uppsala Short Film Festival* (Sweden), *62nd Ann Arbor Film Festival* (U.S.A.), *42nd Festival International du Film sur l'Art* (Montreal), *BangkokThai International Film Festival* (Thailand), *Chicago Underground Film Festival* (U.S.A.)
- **2023:** *Deviatons: A Retrospective* (Toronto), *Fantoche 21st International Festival for Animation Film* (Switzerland) *Scarborough Film Festival* (UK)
- **2022:** *20th Sommets du Cinéma d'Animation* (Montreal), *Vinilonga - Int. Short Film & Music Video Festival* (Argentina), *West Virginia Mountaineer Film Festival* (U.S.A.), *Athens Animfest* (Greece), *The Victoria Film Festival* (Canada)
- **2021-1990:** Multiple screenings at prestigious events such as the *Berlin International Film Festival* (Germany), *Ann Arbor Film Festival* (U.S.A.), *Toronto International Film Festival* (Canada), *Sydney International Film Festival* (Australia) and *Homo Eroticus: Films of Wrik Mead* (Retrospective) (Vancouver, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, Canada and Buffalo, U.S.A.)

Mead's films, often experimental in nature, focus on challenging conventional norms and exploring identity, sexuality, and the boundaries of personal expression.

Broadcast

Mead's work has reached wider audiences through TV broadcasts in both Canada and internationally:

- **2015:** *DeleteTV* (Los Angeles), *Propeller TV* (UK), *Pride Vision TV* (Canada)
- **2000-2006:** Broadcasts on *Moviola* (Canada), *Bravo!* (Canada), and *Zed TV* (Canada).

These broadcasts helped spread Mead's challenging and introspective work to mainstream and niche audiences.

Selected Awards

Wrik Mead's work has garnered numerous accolades over the years, including:

- **2024:** Best LGBTQ Film, *Sleeping Owl Festival* (India)
- **2024:** Juror's Award, *Ann Arbor Film Festival* (U.S.A.)
- **2021:** Director's Choice Award, *Black Maria Film Festival* (U.S.A.)
- **2021:** Juror's Award, *Ann Arbor Film Festival* (U.S.A.)
- **2016:** Director's Choice Award, *Black Maria Film Festival* (U.S.A.)
- **2014:** Honorable Mention, *Toronto Urban Film Festival* (Canada)

Mead has been recognized for his unique voice in experimental film, with particular praise for his ability to engage with LGBTQ themes and queer identity.

Art Fairs & Other Contributions

Mead has participated in significant art fairs, such as the **London Art Fair** and **art:gwangju** in South Korea, further solidifying his place within the global art market.

In addition to his exhibitions and screenings, Mead has contributed to various artistic and scholarly publications, including DVD compilations and online streaming platforms like **VUCAVU** (Canada) and **MediaQueer.ca**. He has also been part of the **SUFF 2008 Films DVD** produced by the Sydney Underground Film Festival.

Selected Bibliography

Wrik Mead's work has been extensively covered in both scholarly and art publications, affirming his influence in contemporary experimental film. Key publications include:

- **2024:** *"Homo Humour: Metamodernist Acts of Secrecy"*, *Conceptual Writing, Experimental Poetry and Humour* (Lee Campbell)
- **2021:** *Moments of Perception, Experimental Film in Canada* (Broomer & Zryd)
- **2019:** *Introduction to Wrik Mead* (Christine Lucy Latimer)
- **2013:** *Wrik Mead: Queer Fantasies and Pervert Pixilations* (Thomas Waugh)
- **2005:** *The Sharpest Point: animation at the end of cinema* (Chris Gehman & Steve Reinke)
- **2005:** *Routledge International Encyclopedia of Queer Culture* (David A. Gerstner)
- **1997:** *Inside the pleasure dome: Fringe Film In Canada* (Mike Hoolboom)

These contributions position Mead as a critical figure in the conversation around queer theory, experimental film, and media art.