

**PAMELA JOSEPH'S SIDESHOW OF THE ABSURD**

a documentary short by  
Tina DiFelicianantonio + Jane C. Wagner

**– WORLD PREMIERE –**

Having won the Grand Jury Prize in 1997 for their film, TWO OR THREE THINGS BUT NOTHING FOR SURE, PAMELA JOSEPH'S SIDESHOW OF THE ABSURD marks the return of filmmakers Tina DiFelicianantonio + Jane C. Wagner to Aspen Shortsfest. (Please see attached bio.)

**Logline:** Inspired by nostalgia for early 20th-century freak shows, PAMELA JOSEPH'S SIDESHOW OF THE ABSURD is a cinematic exploration of a fantastical exhibition by this internationally recognized artist, who embraces 'difference' with irreverence, humor, and respect for the dignity of 'the other'.

**Description:** Inspired by nostalgia for early 20th-century carnivals and freak shows, PAMELA JOSEPH'S SIDESHOW OF THE ABSURD is a cinematic exploration of a whimsical and fantastical exhibition by this internationally recognized artist. While the notion of spectacle-driven sideshows typically invoke a repugnant rejection of 'the other', Joseph celebrates 'difference' as a source of strength.

The female, in particular, is provocatively presented as multi-faceted curiosity: idolized mother/lover, vilified sexual predator/prey, and giver/recipient of pleasure and pain. These seemingly incongruous roles are embraced with irreverence, humor and respect for the dignity of 'the other', regardless of gender.

With Joseph's countenance and alter ego enigmatically woven into many of the pieces, audiences are invited to challenge convention, (re)define our role in the world and question our investment in the perception of identity.

SIDESHOW was shot entirely in Colorado (Colorado Springs, Aspen and Carbondale).

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**SPECIAL THANKS**

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center

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**PAM JOSEPH BIO:**

Pamela Joseph is a multi-media artist who has exhibited internationally in locations such as Paris, Barcelona, and Beijing. Her work has been described as "well-executed, powerful and edgy" by the Colorado Council on the Arts, who awarded her a Visual Arts Fellowship in 2001. Joseph was subsequently selected as a Visiting Artist at the American Academy in Rome.

In 2009 she had her first solo show, Wunderlust, at the Francis M. Naumann Fine Art Gallery in New York. Her upcoming solo show, Censored, opens there on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 and will be shown through May 22, 2015. This series of Joseph's new paintings was inspired by Iranian art books, in which depictions of nudity rendered by artists such as Picasso, Hockney and Matisse, have been blacked-out by hand or pixilated during the printing process. A book on Joseph's censored series will be published by DoppelHouse Press, and a catalogue for the show will include an essay by Eleanor Heartney, who further explores the topic of censorship.

Joseph is currently in a group show at Yale University, where she took part in a panel discussion and presented a talk about her work. Entitled Sideshow, the exhibit features a selection of wood-burned kitchen cutting boards that provocatively depict smiling women who appear to be in peril. These pieces are but a small fraction of her prodigious multi-media installation, Sideshow of the Absurd, which premiered in 2001 at the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art and was most recently

exhibited October 2013-January 2014 at the Fine Arts Center in Colorado Springs. The installation is a contemporary representation of a carnival, which celebrates the power of women while simultaneously exploring the violence behind facades, and the element of fate and chance in our lives. The show has been exhibited, all or in part, at ten museums and galleries throughout the U.S., garnering outstanding reviews and record-breaking crowds at each location. A film about the exhibition by Tina DiFeliciano and Jane C. Wagner of Naked Eye Productions will premiere in April 2015 at the Aspen Shortsfest, one of the world's premiere festivals that showcases short films from around the world.

Joseph's work was selected to be shown as part of two group shows in Beijing, China. The exhibition, *Insatiable Streams*, celebrated the ten year anniversary of The Institute for Electronic Arts at Alfred University and opened in 2007 at Zero Field Art Center in the 798 Art Zone. The second exhibition, *Duiying-Yingdui, Corresponding & Responding*, was shown at The National Art Museum of China, and involved a dialogue between Chinese and American artists. A 2011 reciprocal exhibition at the University of Colorado Art Museum, in Boulder included Chinese artists.

Joseph is represented by:

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