

# Electronic Press Kit

**sr**

**a film by LEA HARTLAUB**

**narrated by DOROTHEE ELMIGER**



**Blinker Filmproduktion**

## fact sheet

Title	sr
Duration	103 minutes
Format	DCP, DCI 2k full frame, 1.90:1, colour
Sound	5.1 surround, stereo
Language	OV German, English subtitles
Spoken languages	German, Swahili, English, Hebrew, Chinese, Farsi, Tamasheq
Country of production	Germany
Year of production	2024
Production company	Blinker Filmproduktion GmbH Mülheimer Freiheit 126, 51063 Cologne, <a href="mailto:info@blinkerfilm.de">info@blinkerfilm.de</a>
Press contact	<a href="mailto:contactsrfilm@gmail.com">contactsrfilm@gmail.com</a>
Festival Distribution	Pascale Ramonda <a href="https://www.pascaleramonda.com">https://www.pascaleramonda.com</a>
Website	<a href="https://srfilm.de">https://srfilm.de</a>
Trailer	<a href="https://srfilm.de/trailer/">https://srfilm.de/trailer/</a>
Stills gallery	<a href="https://srfilm.de/gallery/">https://srfilm.de/gallery/</a>
World premiere	International Film Festival Rotterdam 2024, <b>Tiger Competition</b>
Awards	<b>Best Film, International Competition,</b> Human Rights Film Festival Lugano 2024
Festivals	Göteborg Film Festival 2024 True/False Film Fest 2024, Columbia, Missouri Ambulante - Gira de documentales 2024, Mexiko Stadt et al. MDAG Millennium Docs Against Gravity 2024, Warschau et al. <b>International Main Competition</b> Docaviv 2024, Tel Aviv, <b>Depth of Field Competition</b> Costa Rica Festival Internacional de Cine 2024 Dokufest International Documentary and Short Film Festival 2024, Prizren <b>International Feature Dox Competition</b> Espoo Ciné International Film Festival 2024 Human Rights Film Festival Lugano 2024, <b>International Competition</b> SAFF Seoul Animal Film Festival 2024 MAMI Mumbai Film Festival 2024 MOSTRA São Paulo International Film Festival 2024 <b>New Directors Competition</b> Duisburger Filmwoche 2024, <b>Main Competition</b>
With	Evan Kipyegon Roy Carr-Hartley Dr. Ari Zivotovski Prof. Zhu & Prof. Zhou Jianqui Dr. Golamiye David Coulson Kola Angaraka Hamaté Tanko Ghabdoulla Ighlal
Writer, Director, DOP, Editor	Lea Hartlaub
Narrators	Dorothee Elmiger (GER), Verena Hahn (ENG)
Sound	Pascal Capitolin, Filipp Forberg
Sound Mix	Karl Atteln
Colour Grading	Felix Trolldenier
Compositing	Filipp Forberg, Felix Trolldenier
Consulting	Pauline John, Urte Alfs, Werner Dütsch
Production Management	Lea Hartlaub
Production Assistants	Kate Hattley, Elena Friedrich
Commissioning Editors	Sabine Rollberg, Jutta Krug, WDR/arte
Producer	Meike Martens
Production funded by	Film-und Medienstiftung NRW
Distribution supported by	Kuratorium junger deutscher Film german films

## about the film

### logline

*sr* draws a panorama of human activity in which the giraffe emerges as a recurring motif. 91 narrative tableaux lead to 30 sites such as an island in the Western Pacific, a reading room in New York, a runway in central Niger. In 16 fragmentary episodes *sr* reports of political and societal conditions, of theoretical discourses, human creations and realities of everyday life. Traces of exoticism, colonial relics, relations of power, cultural artifacts and the relativity of knowledge appear. *sr* is an invitation to contemplate on what the film depicts.

### synopsis

Recorded in the first dictionary of the Egyptian language is the hieroglyph of the giraffe: *sr*. In Lea Hartlaub's film *sr* the animal emerges as a recurring motif, appearing sometimes directly, sometimes on the margins, across 16 fragmentary episodes that depict a panorama of human activity.

The film's 91 narrative tableaux lead to 30 sites, such as the banks of the Nile, a ceramic factory near Beijing, an island in the Western Pacific, a storage space of Anthropology, a reading room in New York, the Sahara desert and a runway in central Niger. Long shots permit viewers the time necessary to observe carefully. Intertwining themes gradually evolve between past and present times. These include the trajectories of exoticism, cultural artifacts, colonial relics, relations of power and the relativity of knowledge. But rather than take up a didactic position, *sr* is a film of implied meanings, of images and stories that invite independent contemplation.





## director's statement

Work on *sr* began with intensive research over several years. The result was a collection of stories, each of them included a giraffe. For me, this project was never about the animal itself, but about the contexts in which it appeared. Diverse as they were essentially they all reported of human activity: of political and societal conditions, of theoretical discourses, of everyday realities and of human creations. Regardless of where and when these stories took place, again and again, their contents echoed each other. An assemblage of references emerged across the geographical space. Pasts and presents of supposedly unrelated episodes began to interact. In the process *sr* became an exploration of ways of passing on history, of handling sources and documents and of the limitations of translation and understanding. *sr* is an attempt to approach the parallelism of a multitude of realities; an attempt to create a narrative that concerns itself primarily with the observation of what is there. It is about using the fragmentary as a means of allowing intermediary spaces and subtexts to develop.



## **about Lea Hartlaub**

### **biography**

Lea was born in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. In 2002, after some years taking and printing analogue photographs, she started making films on a mostly self-taught basis during a four year stay in the UK. After returning to Germany she received a diploma in photography and media and a postgraduate diploma at the Academy of Media Arts Cologne. Aside from her film projects, Lea has created video installations and collaborated with other artists and filmmakers. She works as a director, cinematographer, editor and researcher. Her formats span from direct cinema to a rather essayistic and conceptual approach.

### **filmography (selection)**

Sunny Night, 2017, 107 mins  
co-directed with Soso Dumbadze; editor; festivals a.o. Dok Leipzig, CinéDOC Tbilisi

Rare Birds in These Lands, 2013, 12 mins  
co-directed with Céline Berger, DOP, art exhibitions

Bensberg September 2009, 2010, 11 mins  
director, DOP, editor; festivals a.o. Internationale Kurzfilmtage Oberhausen, FID Marseilles, Jihlava, Union Docs NY

Uhlenflug, 2008, 65 mins  
director, DOP, editor; TV Acquisition 3sat

## **about Dorothee Elmiger**

### **biography**

Dorothee Elmiger is a writer, born 1985 in Wetzikon, Switzerland. She studied history, philosophy and political sciences at the University of Luzern and literature at the Swiss Institute for Literature in Biel/Bienne and at the German Institute for Literature in Leipzig. Elmiger publishes novels, essays, montages and pieces on art and has won a number of literature awards. Most recently, her third novel "Out of the sugar factory" (Hanser) was shortlisted for both the German and the Swiss Book Award. In her work, Elmiger takes up socio-political topics in an experimental form and reflects on movements of thought and writing with linguistic precision. Currently, Dorothee Elmiger is Max Kade Writer-in-Residence at the University of Michigan.

## voices on sr

„An astonishing film whose scope is gradually becoming clear and finally touches us very deeply; starting from an unexpected and seemingly odd premise it turns the spectator experience- in a kind of hypnotic fairy tale- in a fascinating journey through the history of humanity and its arrogance, with aesthetic rigorous and caustic political awareness.“

*Jury Motivation, International Competition, Award for the best film 2024, ffdul.ch*

„A plethora of narrative-driven tableaux, across thirty locations, spirit us through a sweeping history of the world, a genuinely epic story traversing millennia and continents, all anchored to this one creature. (...) Meditative, immersive, sometimes mischievously witty and often breathtaking in its visual and narrative sweep, sr is as contemplative as it is informed and as captivating as the animal that inspired it.“

*Vanja Kaludjercic, iffr.com*

„With sr, Lea Hartlaub creates an endlessly fascinating essay that, with many digressions and detours, ostensibly ventures off to write a short historiography of the giraffe, but above all draws a panorama of modernity shaped by imperialism and colonialism“

*Patrick Fey, moviebreak.de*

„Spanning a vast period of human history, Hartlaub's work transcends a single definition, as it constantly places the viewer in the dual position of explorer and historian. The purpose here goes beyond merely observing or watching; it's about interacting more closely with the evolution of what it means to be human.“

*Vitor Miranda, vhscut.com*

## voices on sr

„What sr has to say about imperialism and megalomania from these (pre)images, viewers can, for the most part, pick out for themselves. The slow but thoughtful editing of the various tableaux leaves room for the flow of information to sink in, and avoids the impression of a dramatic factual account.“

*Tim Bouwhuis, indebioskoop.com*

„More than a starting point, the giraffe is the creature that guides us, from alpha to omega, throughout Sr. Through it a multitude of latitudes, epochs, tales and fables, some more true than others, but all constitutive of human knowledge and experience are chapterized. The viewer can perceive that the set of planes gravitates around an invisible centre: an idea that slowly permeates what we see and hear, but above all outlines its own form between the lines. It is a sensation rather than a certainty, and before defining what this idea is, it is very pleasant to ruminate on the evanescent tone, almost a floating world, that German filmmaker Lea Hartlaub offers us. The distance between what is said and what is shown is evident, although they are intertwined by a fine thread that runs from shore to shore with great tension. This is what I mean when I say that at the centre of the film lies an idea that is nevertheless outside the field: all the shots allude to it and shape it, but they never finish saying it. [...]“

*Rafael Guilhem, ambulante.org*





A PANORAMA OF HUMAN ACTIVITY SPANNING CENTURIES AND CONTINENTS  
16 EPISODES 30 SITES 91 IMAGES

WRITER, DIRECTOR, DOP & EDITOR: LEA HARTLAUB. NARRATORS: DOROTHEE ELMIGER (GER), VERENA HAHN (ENG).  
SOUND: PASCAL CAPITOLIN, FILIPP FORBERG. SOUND MIX: KARL ATTEIN. COLOUR GRADING: FELIX TROLLDENIER.  
COMPOSITING: FILIPP FORBERG, FELIX TROLLDENIER. CONSULTING: PAULINE JOHN, URTE ALFS, WERNER DÜTSCH.  
PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT: LEA HARTLAUB. PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS: KATE HATTLEY, ELENA FRIEDRICH.  
COMMISSIONING EDITORS: SABINE ROLLBERG, JUTTA KRUG. PRODUCED BY: MEIKE MARTENS - BLINKER FILMPRODUKTION.

WDR arte BLINKER TROLLFILM srfilm.de

A PANORAMA OF HUMAN ACTIVITY SPANNING CENTURIES AND CONTINENTS  
16 EPISODES 30 SITES 91 IMAGES

WRITER, DIRECTOR, DOP & EDITOR: LEA HARTLAUB. NARRATORS: DOROTHEE ELMIGER (GER), VERENA HAHN (ENG).  
SOUND: PASCAL CAPITOLIN, FILIPP FORBERG. SOUND MIX: KARL ATTEIN. COLOUR GRADING: FELIX TROLLDENIER.  
COMPOSITING: FILIPP FORBERG, FELIX TROLLDENIER. CONSULTING: PAULINE JOHN, URTE ALFS, WERNER DÜTSCH.  
PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT: LEA HARTLAUB. PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS: KATE HATTLEY, ELENA FRIEDRICH.  
COMMISSIONING EDITORS: SABINE ROLLBERG, JUTTA KRUG. PRODUCED BY: MEIKE MARTENS - BLINKER FILMPRODUKTION.

WDR arte BLINKER TROLLFILM srfilm.de



A PANORAMA OF HUMAN ACTIVITY SPANNING CENTURIES AND CONTINENTS  
16 EPISODES 30 SITES 91 IMAGES

WRITER, DIRECTOR, DOP & EDITOR: LEA HARTLAUB. NARRATORS: DOROTHEE ELMIGER (GER), VERENA HAHN (ENG).  
SOUND: PASCAL CAPITOLIN, FILIPP FORBERG. SOUND MIX: KARL ATTEIN. COLOUR GRADING: FELIX TROLLDENIER.  
COMPOSITING: FILIPP FORBERG, FELIX TROLLDENIER. CONSULTING: PAULINE JOHN, URTE ALFS, WERNER DÜTSCH.  
PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT: LEA HARTLAUB. PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS: KATE HATTLEY, ELENA FRIEDRICH.  
COMMISSIONING EDITORS: SABINE ROLLBERG, JUTTA KRUG. PRODUCED BY: MEIKE MARTENS - BLINKER FILMPRODUKTION.

WDR arte BLINKER TROLLFILM srfilm.de

A PANORAMA OF HUMAN ACTIVITY SPANNING CENTURIES AND CONTINENTS  
16 EPISODES 30 SITES 91 IMAGES

WRITER, DIRECTOR, DOP & EDITOR: LEA HARTLAUB. NARRATORS: DOROTHEE ELMIGER (GER), VERENA HAHN (ENG).  
SOUND: PASCAL CAPITOLIN, FILIPP FORBERG. SOUND MIX: KARL ATTEIN. COLOUR GRADING: FELIX TROLLDENIER.  
COMPOSITING: FILIPP FORBERG, FELIX TROLLDENIER. CONSULTING: PAULINE JOHN, URTE ALFS, WERNER DÜTSCH.  
PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT: LEA HARTLAUB. PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS: KATE HATTLEY, ELENA FRIEDRICH.  
COMMISSIONING EDITORS: SABINE ROLLBERG, JUTTA KRUG. PRODUCED BY: MEIKE MARTENS - BLINKER FILMPRODUKTION.

WDR arte BLINKER TROLLFILM srfilm.de