

MUD

Nataša Prosenč Stearns video *Mud* (2009), shot at Salton See Mud Volcanoes is an experiential and philosophical engagement with the image as creative *material*. It is the materiality of the image as such and its processing on the technological as well as visceral level, that gives shape to Prosenč's *Mud*. Nevertheless, its visuals, imbued with the qualities of the elements of Earth, Water and Air, are not solely a metaphorical support for the idea of creativity, but *a story* of coming to life of a Creative Being.

The slow moving, thick primordial mud-soup gives birth to *a life* exploring its newfound form, still amorphously viscous and imbued with the full creative potential of the element Earth. Playing with its potentialities, this new life crystallizes into a *singularity*: first cleansed under the powerful stream of Water and then enveloped with the swift clarity of Air, this *life-form* sprouts into a delicate embodiment. Although this Being's form is lit up by unmistakably feminine beauty, its story isn't one of an individual, but a pre-personal singularity and its existence within and along the Elements, rather than as a separate entity.

By exploring the process of creativity from the point of view of a Creative Being breathing in an alchemical interrelatedness with the elemental forces, *Mud* displays an ethically engaged aesthetics gently unveiling an alternative to the prevailing Western anthropocentric rationality. This alternative revitalizes the notion of the creative process as a potentiality and discovery instead of fitting it into ideologically colored, pre-made conventions. Prosenč's *Mud* thus creates an original experience of the emergence of life, as well as affirms the power of the Image as an Element of creation.

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