

WAS WIR NICHT SEHEN

WHAT WE
DON'T SEE

Ein Film von Anna Katharina Wohlgemant



WITM

PRESSEMAPPE

www.waswimichtsehen.com
www.facebook.com/whatwedonotsee

Page 1

SYNOPSIS SHORT

In the beginning there was the vision of a wireless, free flow of information which would connect all humanity. Today this idea has become reality; the wireless technology and seven billion cell phones sold worldwide make our modern metropolises literally pulse. It's a dream come true for many, but not for all. The wireless rays cause physical pain to some, and they have to escape it. metropolises literally pulse. It's a dream come true for many, but not for all.



What We Don't See, Filmstills, Copyright Plan C Film 2014

CREW

Directed and written by Anna Katharina Wohlgenannt

Cinematography Judith Benedikt

Editing Joana Scrinzi

Sound Andreas Hamza, Peter Kutin, Richard Fleming USA, Florian Kindlinger, Sebastian Kleinloh, Immo Trümpelmann, Fabian Begnert

Additional Sound on Location Christina Kubisch

Sound Editing Florian Kindlinger

Sounddesign Peter Kutin

Producer Claudia Wohlgenannt

Production Company Plan C Filmproduktion

TECHNICAL FACTS

English / German / French
English Subtitles
Length: 77min 50sec
Ratio: 1,78
Sound: Stereo, Dolby 5.1
Screening format: DCP, Blu Ray

Supported by

BUNDESKANZLERAMT  ÖSTERREICH



The Story

The Swedish painter Andreas, the German occupational therapist Clarissa, the Swiss engineer Sosthène, the architect Jennifer and scientist Diane from the US are all electrohypersensitive. For them, electromagnetic waves and fields (EMF) from mobile phones, WiFi and many other technologies are a burden to their health and they suffer from a variety of symptoms: from insomnia to headaches, dizziness, high blood pressure, etc.

That's why Andreas left the metropolis of Stockholm, moved to the countryside and converted the stall of an old farm into his studio. Since he cannot even drive his car anymore, his radius is extremely limited. He can only take his kids to school on his bike. However, the isolation has also opened up new artistic perspectives to him. He creates art from his immediate surroundings and his work is strongly based on the materiality and colours in the surrounding landscape. In the rural solitude, he has also begun to reflect on the contemporary relationship between humans and technology. He says: *“Mostly I think of how we are totally caught in the economic interests of this technology. That we risk our lives for this somehow...”*

Clarissa has neither the time nor energy for such thoughts; she is moving house because she can't take the electronic radiation in her city apartment anymore. She sews clothing made of protective fabric, but even that doesn't really help – every day she needs to rest for several hours under a canopy. For years she has been unable to pursue steady work and just manages to scrape by on her small pension. She has intentionally chosen a life without a family because she doesn't want to subject a partner or child to this kind of daily life. But she doesn't give up hope – she is waiting „for this time to pass. The technology just has to come, the alternative.“

Sosthène, on the other hand, was already married and had two children when he began to suffer from these initially unexplainable symptoms. First since he has started to dress completely in protective clothing before leaving the house has he started to feel better. He and his wife Catherine attentively follow the latest technological developments and look to the future with worry: "We can't move to Mars, can we? We want to live on this planet!" Their fears go so far that they make their daughters Lynne and Mary-Lou wear protective metallic shirts and hats to school.

Jennifer and Diane don't need any type of protection anymore, since they both live in the 34,000 square kilometre "National Radio Quiet Zone" in West Virginia. Mobile phones and WiFi are prohibited here so that the extremely sensitive radio telescopes in Green Bank and Sugar Grove can work smoothly – which is ideal for Jennifer and Diane. The only drawback is that they had to leave their families, for neither Jennifer's nor Diane's relatives were willing to follow them to this isolated region in the American Midwest. Jennifer says: *"The good part of it: I learned I don't wait for any other person outside of myself to ever take care of me and I am not waiting for some kind of fairy tale solution from the outside."*

The German sound artist Christina Kubisch isn't electrohypersensitive. So she's not running away from electromagnetic waves and fields, on the contrary – she hunts and gathers them. Kubisch is a pioneer in the field of the sonification of electromagnetic fields and developed special headphones to make the waves audible. She discovered that *"we aren't supposed to be aware of the electromagnetic world. Disinformation is being spread. People say that it's natural for everything to be wireless, that everything comes from the cloud. But that's absurd! I want to make the technology behind it audible."*

(4.000 Zeichen)



What We Don't See, Filmstills, Copyright Plan C Film 2014

FESTIVALS

48. Internationale Hofer Filmtage 2014

One World Int. Human Rights Documentary Film Festival Prague 2015

Internationales Frauenfilmfestival Dortmund | Köln 2015

Deauville Green Awards Official Selection 2015
Section "Health & Environment" - silver price

Director's Statement by Anna Katharina Wohlgenannt

It is undeniable that electromagnetic waves and fields (EMF) are of increasing importance in modern society. Without them we cannot use our mobile phones, we cannot wirelessly access the internet, we cannot watch TV or listen to the radio. They help us feel less lonely and get connected with the world. Still, we never give them a second thought.

However, once I realized that I started feeling uneasy when I was not "connected" – such as when my cell phone was off and I had no access to the internet – I began to wonder about these technologies which define and impact my life so strongly. I wanted to know more about them and understand how they really work.

Over the course of my research I came across electromagnetic hypersensitivity (EHS). Some people say that the continuous increase of cell phone towers, wireless LAN, smart meters etc. has a strong negative impact on their well-being. They report that exposure to electromagnetic frequencies causes various symptoms like dizziness, nausea, rashes, irregular heartbeat, weakness and chest pains, etc. and in the long run can even trigger cancer. Nevertheless, EHS is not recognized as a disease and is treated with deep skepticism by the scientific community. The general consensus is that while the symptoms of electrohypersensitive people may be real, radiation is not the cause. EHS is considered to be a mass psychogenic illness in which very real symptoms arise from a socially contagious belief in a nonexistent disease. Therefore, people who are suffering from EHS are not taken seriously.

But evidence suggests that there is more behind it than just the fear of the unknown. In May 2011 the WHO 's International Agency for Research on Cancer classified electromagnetic waves as "possibly carcinogenic." Furthermore, medical scientists around the world are expressly warning against excessive cell phone use, especially by children. As a consequence, the French government banned mobile phones in schools. And just recently the Italian Supreme Court recognized a causal link between heavy mobile phone use and brain tumor risk in

a worker's compensation case. But still – as it is with all controversial topics – every study concerning the health impact of EMF leads to a counter study proving their harmlessness. You can look at it whichever way you want.

Therefore, for me the issue is not about providing evidence based on the values of clinical studies. My focus is on the people who are affected, to whom we rarely listen, who we seldomly meet.

They are difficult to find because our lives are so thoroughly dominated by EMF. By the end of 2014 there will be 7.3 billion active cell phones. In other words, there will be more cell phones in use than there are people on the planet. Six billion people already have access to cell phones. Far fewer – only 4.5 billion people – have access to working toilets. This is how we set our priorities. Our world is indeed “electromagnetized”. In my view, people suffering from EHS are indicators for the dark side of this development.



What We Don't See, Filmstills, Copyright Plan C Film 2014

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Anna Katharina Wohlgenannt

Born 1982 in Vienna, Studies of Theatre, Film and Media in Vienna and Berlin.
Since 2007 jobs as assistant director, researcher and Casting-assistant for TV- und Cinema-Productions.

Furthermore activities as writer and director for fiction and documentary.

Filmography Direction (Selection):

2014 **what we don't see** (Documentary, 78 min)

Production: plan C Filmproduktion

2012 **at home** (Fictional Short Movie, 17 min)

Festivals: Motovun Film Festival 2012,
Uppsala International Short 2012

2010 **MORE THAN JUST WORDS** (Documentary, 72 min)

Production: NGF – Nikolaus Geyrhalter Filmproduktion

Festivals, Cinema: 2010 Diagonale Graz
2010 Zurich Film Festival
Release Austria: Oct. 2010

Assistant Director, Researcher, Casting

2013 **Cern** (Documentary, 75 Min, Direction: Nikolaus Geyrhalter,
Production: NGF – Nikolaus Geyrhalter Film) – **Assistant Director**

2012 **Population Boom** (Documentary, 93 Min, Direction: Werner Boote,
Production: NGF – Nikolaus Geyrhalter Film) – **Researcher**

2011 **Coming of age** (Fiction, 90 Min, Direction: Sabine Hiebler, Gerhard
Ertl, Production: NGF- Nikolaus Geyrhalter Film)- **Casting-Assistance**

2009 **Lourdes** (Fiction, 99 Min, Direction: Jessica Hausner, Production:
coop99 Filmproduktion) –**Researcher, Casting-Assistance**

2008 **Whose's afraid of Wilhelm Reich?** (Documentary, 95 min, Direction:
Antonin Svoboda, Production: coop99 Filmproduktion) – **Researcher**

DOWLOAD

All press material and pictures for download you can find at

www.waswirnichtsehen.com

PRESS CONTACT

Apollo28 Kommunikation
Mag. Bina Köppl

Gutenberggasse 7/1
1070 Wien

M + 43.699.128 28 128
E bk@apollo28.at
W <http://apollo28.at>

PRODUCTION AND SALES



Kriemhildplatz 10
1150 Vienna, Austria
T +43 990 6372
M office@plancfilm.com
W www.plancfilm.com