

## **“Dead Satellites”**

Part two of the trilogy “Dead Satellites” 2007  
by Shahram Entekhabi

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## Film data

**Year:**  
2007

**Original format:**  
HD Video 16/9

**Screening format:**  
DVD PAL 16/9

**Duration:**  
26:32 min.

**Language:**  
English

**Shooting location:**  
Berlin, Germany

## Synopsis

Dead Satellites is an expression defined by Shahram Entekhabi for a certain culture within the migrant scene. In an astro-scientific context, the term 'dead satellites' stands for satellites that are out of service, but still circling around the earth without destination. The title refers to those people, who left their home countries and practice certain cultural traditions in an exaggerated way. By this, the traditions lose their origins and are unveiled in a way of total hypertrophy. This exaggeration mixes up with a deep feeling of discomfort and mistrust against the 'host country'. As result there are 'dead satellites', rootless, in two ways: they are without any context to their home countries and live in a partly self-decided, partly forced isolation additionally to their situation in the new country. Further interracial tensions are stoking between the groups of migrants since the European enlargement. The three parted video performance 'dead satellites' tells the story of a Muslim couple, dressed up in western clothes, who are filled with hate against the 'white' race in their environment. During the three chapters, 'bint 'amm' (inbreed\*), 'Jungle Fever' (after a film by Spike Lee, that deals of the love and compassion between the races) and 'Familycide' (an expression for a committed murder on relatives), the conflict potential between the partners gets worse as result of the Dead Satellites-situation. It evaluates into a bitter battle.

\*a wide spread practice in the orient  
[Martina Schoene-Radunski]

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## Cast & credits

### Cast:

Sarah Bennani & Shahram Entekhabi

### Crew:

Camera & Editing: Kristina Paustian - Assistant Director &  
Photo Story: Martina Schöne-Radunski – Costumes: Herr  
von Eden

### Co-production:

Shahram Entekhabi & Fine Arts Unternehmen video+film  
AG (Switzerland)

**Thanks to:** Kathrin Becker, Berlin - entertainment 3000,  
Berlin - Herr von Eden, Berlin, Hamburg, Cologne - High  
Art, Berlin, London - Franco Marinotti, Lugano - Ali Zaidi,  
London - Melanie Jeske, Hamburg

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### Artists' info

Shahram Entekhabi is an Iranian born artist and architect whose work has been the subject of many exhibitions all over the world, currently living and working across London, Berlin and Tehran. Shahram's practice is framed within an urban setting and diffuses the idea of the urban space being a reserve for the practice and performance of the white, middle class, heterosexual male. He explores these ideas via a variety of performative practices using architecture, installation and digital media.

He chooses to highlight individuals who are ordinarily marginalized and made invisible or forced into self-ghettoization from the urban domain, such as migrant communities and their cultures, particularly the communities from the Middle East and its diaspora. The question of visibility and invisibility therefore is a theme he recurrently explores within his practice.

Born 1963 in Boroujerd, Iran.

- studied graphic-design at the University of Teheran, Iran; studied architecture, urbanism, and Italian language in Perugia and Reggio Calabria, Italy
- works as independent architect on residential projects and competitions
- 2001 (current) active in the fields of video art, photography, painting, drawings, installation, performance and community art
- 2004 exhibition architecture and exhibition designer of “Entfernte Nähe. Neue Positionen Iranischer Kunst”, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin (catalogue)
- 2004 fellowship at the Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland/OH, USA
- 2006 Vasl Lahore 2006 (residency), Lahore, Pakistan.
- 2007 Live Art UK Touring Commission R&D grant
- 2007 “HIGH ART” London & Berlin

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### Selected Exhibitions 2007

- Krieg der Knöpfe (War of the Buttons. Children and the World of War) — Landesmuseums, Linz, Austria
- Abwehr Performance Festival — Performances at the last watchtowers of the former GDR in Berlin, Germany
- LED-Wall, Zeithaus, VW Autostadt, Wolfsburg, Germany
- HAZARD: Performance Festival— Manchester City Centre, UK
- Commè amaro stu ppiane — Centre d'art Nei Liicht, Dudelange, Luxembourg
- Sin cobertura. Independent Video from the Middle East— Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, Spain
- War of the Buttons. Children and the World of War — Århus Kunstbygning Center for Contemporary Art, Århus, Denmark
- IDEAL.LOOP — Espace Croisé, Roubaix Cedex 1, France

### Selected video presentation, festival and artist talk:

- ART RADIO LIVE, PAN | Palazzo delle Arti Napoli, Italy
- “e-flux Video Rental”, Centre culturel suisse, Paris
- EVR BOSTON (e-flux video rental) — Boston, USA
- Vidéoclub d'artistes proposés par les critiques/artistes — Centre culturel Suisse, Paris, France

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video+film