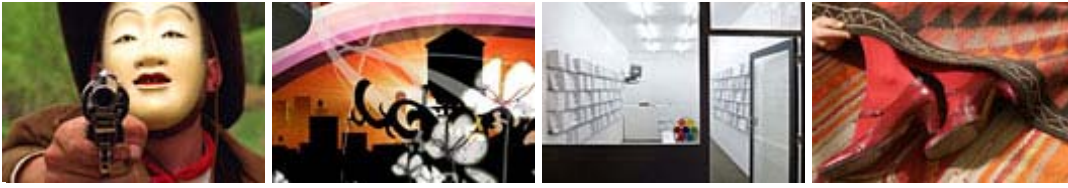


## FEATURE [ Video Art ]



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Télez / Alexander Reyna / e-flux / Jemima Burrill

[Video art](#) burst onto the international art scene in the mid-'60s and since then its presence has only intensified. Inexpensive and highly versatile, video's flexibility renders it an ideal artistic medium, capable of bringing the impossible (or images of the impossible) within reach. Mobile and reproducible by design, video became even more accessible with the advent of digitalization; media can now be shown and shared in festivals and galleries both real and virtual. This summer promises video to the max, online *and* in the flesh.

[LOOP](#), Barcelona's annual video art [festival](#) founded in 2003, runs through early June. Throughout the city's center, screens flicker as museums, shops, and schools transform into uniquely localized exhibition spaces. This year's event features more than 800 artists and numerous special programs. Highlights include the first Barcelona screening of [Matthew Barney](#)'s five-part [Cremaster Cycle](#), an allegorical series exploring processes of creation; the debut of a brand-new piece by Beckett-esque UK artist [Ceal Floyer](#); and [LOOP Maghreb/Pakistan](#), an initiative encouraging small migrant-owned businesses to host artworks from their home countries.

LOOP presents a three-day video art [fair](#) at the tail end of the festival, with participation from 45 international galleries. Among them, New York's [Luxe Gallery](#) offers a solo show about facial distortion and masking by Finnish artist [Pia Lindman](#), and Frankfurt's [Galerie Anita Beckers](#) screens Irish artist [Clare Langan](#)'s prizewinning [Metamorphosis](#), an experimental piece centered on landscape.

[e-flux video rental](#) (EVR) is a traveling rental shop and public screening room as well as a rapidly expanding film and video archive, operated under the auspices of New York's [electronic flux corporation](#) since 2004. Installed as a stylishly minimalist, glass-faced boutique, EVR's globetrotting shop boasts a formidable inventory of videos, any of which can be borrowed, or sampled on the premises, at no cost. The collection includes works from the late '50s to the present day, with contemporary titles ranging from [RE: The Operation](#), a [Paul Chan](#) piece about prewar life in Baghdad, to [Laleh Khorramian](#)'s [Sophie and Goya](#), a colorful animation that follows its wistful protagonist through a succession of striking environmental shifts. With previous appearances in Antwerp, Budapest, Miami, Seoul, Istanbul, and the Canary Islands — to name only a handful of geographical locales — EVR is currently moored in Paris through mid-July.

[Perpetual Art Machine](#) (PAM), founded in 2005, bills itself as "the video art portal" and

supports an online video art community, gallery, and database as well as a related traveling video installation. Artist videos submitted to PAM's website are categorized according to a list of keywords, which can be used to "auto-curate" the group's exhibitions. Installations comprise a grid of up to 16 videos from the database playing simultaneously, and viewers may manipulate the theme or enlarge a single image if they so desire. Cacophonous juxtapositions give way to calming abstractions as video works, and reworks, its magic. (SK)

*LOOP Video Art Festival runs through June 3 in Barcelona, and the related [LOOP Video Art Fair](#) takes place from May 31 through June 2. e-flux video rental is currently in Paris through July 15, and Perpetual Art Machine has a project on view at [House of Campari](#) in West Hollywood through May 31.*