

## Let the real world in

Kirsten Leenaars, Yaimel López Zaldívar, Yoshua Okón,  
Wapikoni Mobile

“I take stuff from real life to make something I call a film,”—filmmaker Jean-Luc Godard thus encapsulated his approach. For Godard, the intersection of film and life was an absolute imperative; he insisted that “film should bear witness to the period.” This ardent sometimes polemical appeal to “take stuff from real life” and to “bear witness” to the present day resonates especially with the practices of artists inspired by aspects of documentary traditions. This is the case with *Let the real world in*, where a documentary impulse runs through a varied selection of videos. Created by Kirsten Leenaars, Yoshua Okón, Wapikoni Mobile, and their subject-collaborators, these videos also share a centring on children and youth responding to the here and now.

Young people have long been associated with such qualities as spontaneity and simplicity, authenticity and unpretentiousness, innocence and ingenuity. Indeed, in North American society, it is common (for those who have the privilege) to attempt to prolong these qualities by endeavouring to shelter young people from difficult realities. In the same vein, children and youth are not always consulted on relevant topics considered beyond the limits of their understanding. In contrast, the videos featured in *Let the real world in* take seriously young people’s perspectives and experiences of the world around them, vividly foregrounding their agency.

*Let the real world in* also features a commissioned series of screenprints by local artist and graphic designer Yaimel López Zaldívar, created in response to the videos in this exhibition. Educated in Habana, López Zaldívar draws from Cuba’s rich tradition of cultural, social, and political posters from the 1960s to the 1980s. Experimenting with text and image, López Zaldívar brings his vibrant artisanal aesthetic to the exhibition.



Listen to an audio recording of this label.

## 《讓真實世界進入》

Kirsten Leenaars, Yaimel López Zaldívar, Yoshua Okón, Wapikoni Mobile

“我從現實生活中取材來創作我稱之為電影的作品，” 電影製作人Jean-Luc Godard如此概括他的創作方式。對Godard來說，電影與生活的交集是絕對必要的，他堅持“電影應該見證時代”。這種“從現實生活中汲取素材”和“見證”當下的呼籲充滿熱忱的同時也帶有一定爭議性；然而，那些受紀錄片傳統啟發的藝術家則常常對這種創作方式頗有共鳴。《讓真實世界進入》正是如此，整個展覽由紀錄片的元素貫穿始終。由Kirsten Leenaars, Yoshua Okón, Wapikoni Mobile和他們的主題合作者創作的影像作品在此基礎上的另一個重心是關注兒童和青少年對他們當下境況的回應。

長期以來，年輕人常常與隨性簡單、真實質樸、天真且具創造力等特質連繫在一起。事實上，在北美社會，（特別是擁有特權的人）通過庇護年輕人免受現實中的困難來延長這些品質的存在是很常見的。同樣地，因為預先設想兒童和青少年的理解範圍有限，哪怕是與他們息息相關的事項，他們的意見也並不總是被徵詢。相較之下，《讓真實世界進入》中的影像作品認真地對待年輕人的聲音、觀點和經驗，生動地突出了他們的能動性。

《讓真實世界進入》還邀請了當地藝術家、平面設計師Yaimel López Zaldívar回應本次展覽中的影像作品，他由此創作的一系列絲網印刷作品也被包含在展覽中。在哈瓦那接受教育的López Zaldívar從1960到1980年代古巴豐富的文化、社會和政治海報傳統中汲取靈感，他通過文本和圖像的實驗，將他充滿活力的手工美學帶到了展覽中。



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