



BIRDONAWIRE

a five city symphony

by elle flanders music by marilyn lerner edited by cynthia madansky



BIRD ON A WIRE

by elle flanders

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Elle Flanders is a photographer and filmmaker. Her award-winning feature documentary, *Zero Degrees of Separation* about the conflict in Israel and Palestine as experienced by Israeli-Palestinian mixed gay couples, premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival in 2005. In 1989 she photographed women's resistance to the occupation during the first Intifada exhibited in North America as *Crossing Borders: Israel Palestine, A Photographer's Peace Initiative*. In 1995 as a fellow at the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program, she began making film and installation work. Her short film *Once*, a look at Yiddish and the utopian desire for home, premiered at the 2002 Berlin International Film Festival. She is currently working on a new feature documentary.

Bird on a Wire is a two-channel film projection accompanied by a live music performance that will be performed in five cities over the period of one year.

Using a mobile phone, a still camera, a video recorder and sometimes Super 8 and 16mm, Flanders has recorded the everyday in the extraordinary. Combining music, improvisation and projection sutured together with content that probes the current anxiety and condition of people in relation to space, notions of home, displacement, exile and war, *Bird on a Wire* is a work that explores the heart-breaking fragility of the world as we currently experience it without the trope of sentimentality but rather through the language of the quotidian.

Finding solace in the patterning of birds and the unusual marriage of birds in an urban landscape, on wires, in train stations and airports, moments that are recorded as both reminders and escapes of the everyday. Wanting to then mimic the language of these seemingly incongruous interventions, Flanders decided to team up with acclaimed jazz and experimental Canadian musician Marilyn Lerner, whose work with improvisation was to become a perfect complement for these random yet patterned instances.

Completing the trio is artist and filmmaker Cynthia Madansky whose own work delves into the world of automatic drawing, patterning and repetition with acute political intent. In her collaboration with Flanders, Madansky weaves each frame as fabric.

Bird on a Wire is a work that speaks to the tensions that currently exist in an increasingly chaotic world. Despite this, the work attempts to represent the spaces we manage to eek-out from within this chaos which in turn create new and anachronistic forms and sounds.

RUN TIME: 25:14 MINUTES

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Marilyn Lerner is an acclaimed jazz and experimental musician. An exhilarating jazz pianist/improviser, she has performed to international acclaim. Composing for film, theatre, radio and television, her award-winning recordings include the solo experimental CD *Luminance*, *Special Angel* with legendary guitarist Sonny Greenwich and *Birds are Returning*, the first contemporary Canadian jazz recording in Cuba. She has also appeared with Tito Puente, Gerry Hemingway, Steve Lacy, Lori Freedman and Frank London. Marilyn won the Montreal International Jazz Festival award for best composition.

ABOUT THE EDITOR

Cynthia Madansky is an artist who works in film, video, painting and drawing. Her films have shown at the Museum of Modern Art and at international art spaces and festivals. Her most recent work includes the award winning short film *Still Life* which premiered at the Berlin International Film Festival in 2005, and *The PSA Project* (with Elle Flanders) a series of 15 public service announcements which speak out against the American occupation of Iraq, premiered at the Rotterdam film festival in 2005 and as an installation in 2006.

