

# The Loving ones

Memorial to a life spent together.



## XR Experience

By Biljana Garvanlieva, Manuel Zimmer,  
Tim Deussen

## The Loving ones.

Memorial to a life spent together

When the documentary film makers Biljana Garvanlieva and Manuel Zimmer found out that Biljana was diagnosed with lethal cancer, she decided not to be overwhelmed by her fears of her approaching death. Instead she faced those fears and reflected together with her husband Manuel what this would mean for their live and the lives of their children. These reflections are engraved as virtual reality content in a series of 12 portraits of Biljana and Manuel. They are a testament to their love in the time of death

As part of their reflections they, asked Berlin-based media artist Tim Deussen to take a series of portraits of them. These portraits were based on a series of photos taken by the artist Jovan Balov when Biljana and Manuel, as a young couple, moved to Berlin.

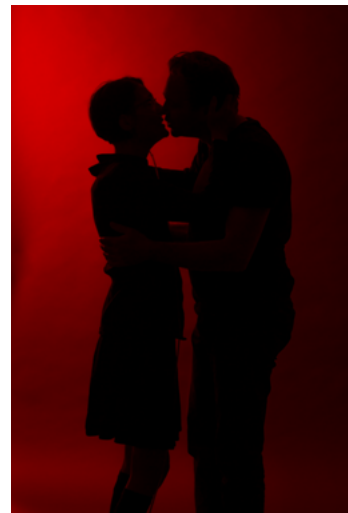
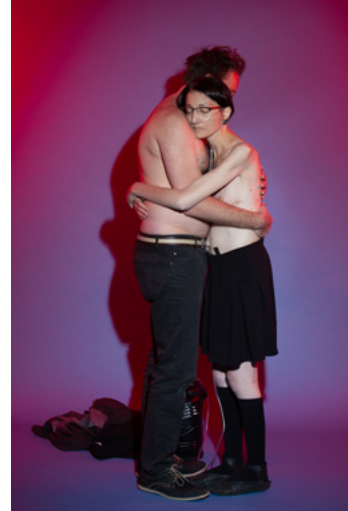
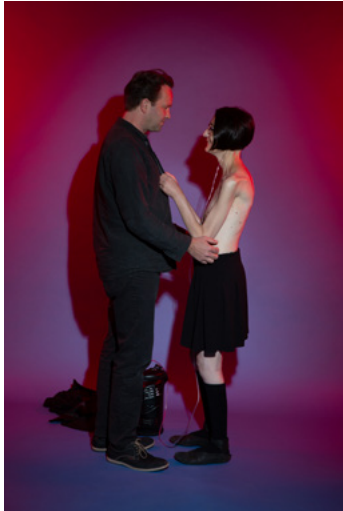
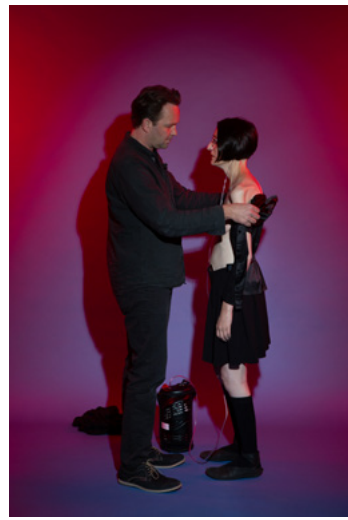
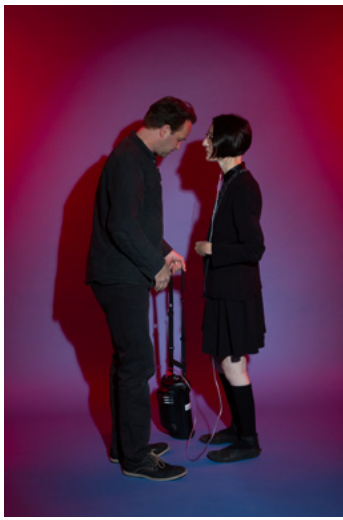
As their ordeal continued Biljana and Manuel documented moments of their live in the form of sound, video, texts or photos. Biljana passed away, but her artistic spirit to face even the most fragile and sensitive time we as humans eventually all must live through, lead to this exhibition.

The last series of portraits of Biljana and Manuel forms the base for showing a second layer of virtual reality contend. It's a glimpse into their subjective and personal view. This view spawns an arch starting from the moment when they fell in love, through the ordeal of the illness, to the time of her passing away. Two layers of time: intimate hours of being together, and spending a live time with each other. Their personal experience reflected in the images and XR content is embraced by the universal themes of love, live and death that they experienced together.

Their story is a reflection of the meaning of live in the presence of death. This XR journey leads you inside their live. "The Loving Ones" is not about death, but the live and time spent together. Each moment lived through is special. Each moment spent together is eternal.

Tim Deussen, 31th of May 2020







XR Content: In an audio message from the past, Biljana talks about her motivation to not be drowned by the fear of her illness, but to reflect upon what her diagnosis of cancer meant for her life and art work.





XR Content: When Biljana and Manuel first moved to Berlin the artist Jovan Balov engraved in a series of photos the moments in which the journey of their life started.



XR content: As Biljana carried the wonder of life in her womb, their relationship matured from being a couple to being a family.



XR Content: Due to the chemotherapy, Biljana was to loose her hair. Instead of hiding what was inescapable, she had her hair cut at a barber shop while reflecting that only the wounds that are shown can heal in one's personal live, and in society.





XR Content: Biljana, Manuel and their daughter Nina don't let the illness overshadow all of their life. Everyday moments, like roller scating in the park together, is what counts.





XR Content: Being admitted to the hospital while listening to the soft voice of a hospital aide. Entrusting her life to the hands of others hoping that they will be caring hands.



XR Content: To strenghten her mind and spirit Biljana joins in with other women to dance against cancer



XR Content: A momentary lapse of reason occurs when the frozen time of the photo is washed away by the flow of time from a film clip that reawakens the time of the portrait shooting





XR Contend: Biljana uses cancer as an impuls to reflect on the power play between man and woman that can be found in our societies.



XR Content: A series of photos. Witnesses of moments lived through.





XR Content: The last drive to the hospital





XR Contend: Biljana sings a song to her daughter that she used to sing to her when she was small. She concludes with the song that the most beautiful girls are from Macedonia, the place Biljana grew up at.

## AR Exhibition views: National Gallery Skopje.



[Click to see an clip of the AR Exhibition](#)



## AR Exhibition views: National Gallery Skopje.





„Loving One VR“:

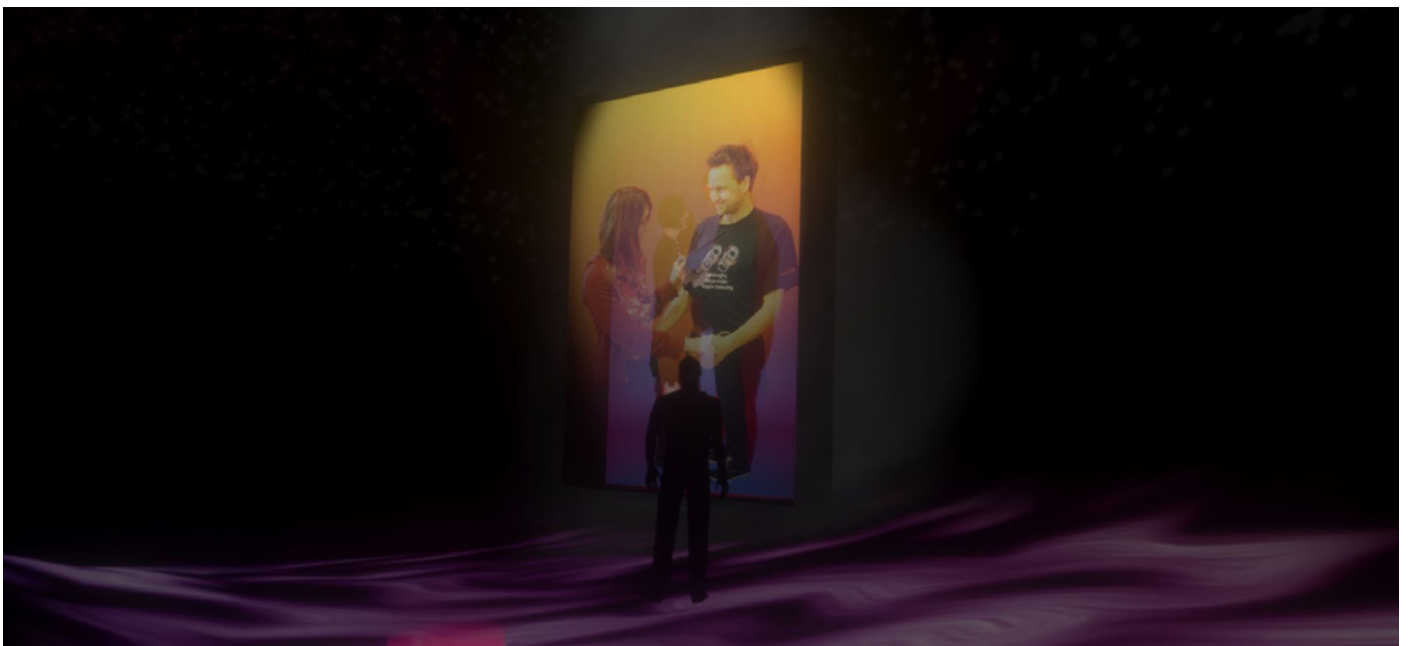


[Click to see an clip of the VR Exhibition](#)

Seeing the VR Exhibition in a VR Headset:



2) **Look At** Portraits to see VR Content.



3) After the last portait the „Loving Ones“ fades away and re-starts after aprx. 40 sec.

## Biljana Garvanlieva (\*20.07.1973 – †10.09.2016)

Was a freelance director of documentary films who lived and worked in Skopje and Berlin. Born in Skopje in 1973, she studied dramaturgy in Macedonia before receiving a grant in 1999 from the German Academic Exchange Service to study theatre and film at the Free University of Berlin (Freie Universität Berlin). In 2006 she directed her first documentary for the TV network 3sat, entitled “Macedonian Dream - A Girl and her Accordion”, which has won several awards, including the Golden Lola German Short Film Award. In 2009 she followed up her first success with “Tobacco Girl”, which has received numerous awards for its direction, including nominations for the Golden Lola and the Juliane Bartel German Media Award. In 2010, Garvanlieva was awarded the Heart of Sarajevo Prize for Best Documentary at the 16th Sarajevo Film Festival for her documentary film “The Seamstresses”.



## Manuel Zimmer

Manuel Zimmer, born on 3rd of November 1966, studied film at the Filmakademie in Potsdam-Babelsberg. After his studies he worked as a freelance cameraman, sound engineer and documentary film-maker on several film projects produced by major TV stations, directors or production companies. Among the films he realized were: “The Seamstresses” and “Polly on the Rocks”, with Biljana Garvanlieva; “24 hours Jerusalem” by Zero Film / Arte or “An Apartment in Berlin. by Alice Agneskirchner / 3sat. Currently Manuel is editing the last documentary film he was working on with Biljana.



## Short Bio:Tim Deussen

Tim Deussen was born on the 1st of May 1968, in Germany. He studied photography, psychology and film at New York University. Since his graduation with an MA Degree in 1996, he participated with his photo and video works in numerous exhibits, among them "Show your Wound" at Goethe Institute, Tel Aviv, "The means of Art" at Kunsthaus Dresden, "Easy Transport" at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Skopje, Macedonia, and several exhibits in Berlin where he has his studio. There he realizes media productions ranging from photography and animations to virtual and augmented reality experiences. Currently he works on a cross platform experience between animation, book, AR & 3D printing, telling the story of #Trompadu a small elephant who fights against greedy oil pumps in order to save the planet.



### Works of Artist shown in the AR Experience:

Jovan Balov; Portrait Series 2003

Aldo Gugolz: Camera, 2015

Jan Lehmann: Portraits, 2005

Samir Ljuma: Portraits, 2012

Nina Zimmer: Camera 2016

### How to install and run „Loving Ones VR“:

Platform of demo app: HTC Vive / PC

Note to the organizer: For the festival we could export a Oculus Version as well.

Experience Type: Stand Alone

Space needed: aprx. 2. x 2 Meter

Depending on the available Space and possibilities at Venice VR a black Velvet tent would surround the experience to give the viewer a deep and personal experience. After seeing „The loving Ones“ each visitor would be given a rose to take with them. At the end of the experience you can find out why we would like to give each visitor a rose when they return from the Loving Ones VR Journey to the festival space.

Download the HTC Vive / Windows Version from here:

<https://my.hidrive.com/share/rmxgyopnm5>

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