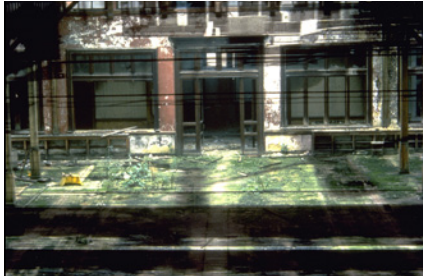


# THE WARS (DE OORLOGEN) an audiovisual by Oscar van Alphen

TEXT BASED ON: **Madame Edwarda** by **Georges Bataille** / ADAPTATION AND TRANSLATION INTO DUTCH: **Friso Haverkamp** / DIRECTORS OF VOICE & TRANSLATION TO ENGLISH: **Margot Knijn, Simon Pummell**  
VOICES: **Henk Reyn, Annelies van der Bie** (1984 DUTCH VERSION), **Yorick van Wageningen, Thekla Reuten** (2006 ENGLISH VERSION) / CINEMATOGRAPHERS: **Reinier van Brummelen, Floris van Manen**  
SOUND DESIGN: **Markus S. Hünd** (1984 DUTCH VERSION), **Wart Wamsteker** (2006 ENGLISH VERSION) / DIGITAL RECONSTRUCTION: **Peter Claassen** / PROJECT MANAGEMENT: **Rixt Bosma** / PRODUCER: **Bas Vroege**  
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In *The Wars*, photographer Oscar van Alphen combines an adapted version of Georges Bataille's text *Madame Edwarda* with images drawn from his archive. *Madame Edwarda* (published in 1941 under the pseudonym Pierre Angélique) is a story without beginning or end, in which a male first-person narrator and a prostitute encounter each other in Paris by night. *Madame Edwarda* is about lust, power, anxiety, desire and humiliation. Van Alphen uses Bataille's text as a metaphor for the perversity of social structures, for the uncontrollability of political and economic power, and the effects these

have on human dignity. He juxtaposes pictures from the decaying and almost deserted industrial regions in northern France and of the 1968 student rebellion in Paris, with the pornographic text that came into being during the first years of WW II.

*The Wars* is a restored version of the projection that was part of the 1984-1985 installation *De Oorlogen*. Combining still and moving images, set to a voice-over, it was originally projected (using 6 slide projectors and a 16mm film projector) in a space also displaying photographic prints. The 2006

restoration has digitally scanned and re-mastered the visuals, and created an English language version of the original Dutch soundtrack to create a single screen version of the piece.

Oscar van Alphen (b. 1923) is a photographer and writer. He published his first photobook in 1958 (*Kinderen in de grote stad/Children in The Big City*). He worked for newspapers during the sixties, mainly focusing on street events. From 1972-1979, a highly experimental period in the visual arts and the theatre scene, he provided a weekly theatre column for the

magazine *Vrij Nederland*. His 1978 publication *Het Rijke Onvermogen (Prosperous Impotence)* and his 1982 book on Palestine take a strong political position. After 1980 he starts to experiment with photographs and text, both on a formal as well as an intellectual level, leading to publications as *Het Moment Voorbij (Beyond The Moment, 1982)* and *De slak op het grasveld (The Snail in The Meadow, 1991)*. The 1984-1985 audiovisual production *De Oorlogen (The Wars, in 2006 complemented by an English soundtrack)* can be considered his chef d'oeuvre.



**THE WARS (DE OORLOGEN) - OSCAR VAN ALPHEN VIDEO: AUDIOVISUAL** with Dutch and English soundtrack **TECHNICAL DETAILS: 32 MINUTES, HIGH DEFINITION VIDEO, COLOUR**, available in 16:9 on HD-DVD or Blue-ray Disc or as data on hard disk (approx. 250 GB) 1080p full HD video encoded in a 10 bit uncompressed QuickTime YUV file format with Dutch and English audiotracks in 48 kHz PCM stereo and AAC Dolby surround **ALSO AVAILABLE:** on DigiBeta in HD or SD, Betacam SP in SD or as SD-DVD in PAL or NTSC (commercial release March 2007, including documentary on Oscar van Alphen) **ASSISTANCE:** with playback systems, beamer choice and connections **VIEWING FEE: € 250 PER DAY, € 950 PER WEEK** (depending on presentation format and environment: exhibition / festival / broadcast) **PURCHASE: € 7500** (including most viewing rights for purchasing institution)



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