

## STATEMENT

Elisabeth Smolarz

In my work I use photography and video to explore how my environment — the world I live in — affects both me and the people around me. The immediate documentary medias of photography and video help me look at reality against the backdrop of the elements operating within.

In my projects I often focus on digital manipulation in order to explore the borderline between reality and imagination. For example, in the two-channel video installation “You and Me” a woman slowly transforms into a man and vice versa. The morphing of the two people becomes a way to give visual form to their relationship and highlight how we interact and influence each other. In another work, “The Orange Iceland” photo series, I recorded surreal elements of the Icelandic land and city - scape. In these photos the color orange becomes a new element, a transparent language superimposed over the photographs.

My goal is to find and expose the origins and strategies of our own self-definition, and to isolate and give visual form to our changing patterns of behavior.