

# WORM PIRATE BAY

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## the WORM Pirate Bay Media Archive: a no fee lending offline archive

Everyone knows The Pirate Bay, a site that indexes so-called torrent files. It is a brand that is not accepted by the masses, and because of that, we thought it would be interesting to borrow the name for our own purposes. Our version of the Pirate Bay consists of WORM's collection of the most avant-garde books, records, CDs, movies and gadgets; one that has been built up over years. Now the whole thing has had the dust blown off it and is ready for you, free of charge. You can see what we have in store online, but the real deal has to be accessed by a visit to the physical lending location; operated from an old fashioned counter in the warm, pulsating heart of the WORM complex

and regularly revived through a wide program ranging from film screenings to concerts. Because honestly: downloads are slowly becoming boring and passé. Next to that it would also cost us far too much time and effort to digitize all these rarities one by one. So we actually believe that you can help us in making a selection of what needs to be turned into digital files for the future. Everything in our archives is accessible for everyone who is interested in further research (whatever that might be about), even though we do not begrudge anyone their crust. The deal is as follows. We lend you the item in the form of a copy and you don't even need to bring it back!



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This offline presence is both an answer and a credo. It is WORM's response to the growing need for tangibility, something that the digital revolution has paradoxically brought about. Moreover, it comes from acknowledging that format is organic to the aesthetics of certain artworks; something that calls for the preservation and distribution of the original. As film activist Pip Chodorov said, "Better watch avant-garde films on VHS than on DVD because digital compression technology has been optimized for mainstream film and kills off the aesthetics of the analog film originals!".



# THE COLLECTION



Our archive comprises of four modules:

1. In 2013 WORM inherited an extensive VHS collection from Re:voir in Paris featuring the very best of international avant-garde film from 1920 till today. It includes films from the Dadaist, Surrealist and Letterist movements, films from the American avant-garde, diary films, found footage films, structural films, films evoking body art or performance art, arthouse features, animated works, hand-painted films etc. This collection gives an idea of the extent of practices and approaches used by experimental filmmakers in the principal centres of film production, namely North America, Austria, France, and Germany. Moreover, a large part of this collection consists of unique, unpublished tapes that were personally given by the filmmakers to Chodorov.

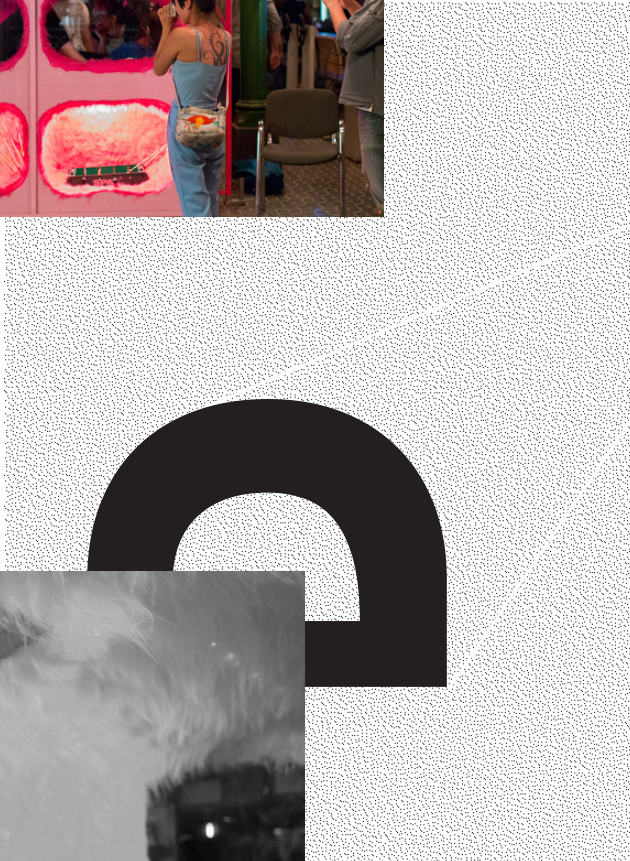
2. The WORM Pirate Bay archive also houses the CultVideotheek Next Page collection of underground, trash, horror and porn films on DVD and VHS. Next to these cult films there is a considerable and contemporary arthouse collection, classics, world cinema, documentaries, animation and music films

3. WORM's own productions form another part of the archive. The majority of the items were produced in the WORM SoundStudio and cover projects like Radio WORM (a monthly radio magazine that run from 2000-2012), Horspil (a series of radio plays produced from 2009 to the present day), and the Soundpiece Series which were released on LP. There are also many printed publications, such as artist Dennis de Bel's „A Very Hard Cover Book“ and publications by The Parallel University of WORM such as Omar Munoz Cremers' „De Toekomst Hervonden“

4. The WORM Pirate Bay archive involves a collection of Books, Magazines, Recordings (on CD, LP, Cassette), Film (DVD) and sound gadgets curated by WORM ex-Director Hajo Doorn and Mariëtte Groot from the Underbelly shop. Thematically this collection is based round the early avant-garde, experimental and underground music, sound art, film, media art, outsider art, DIY, activism and philosophy. The collection has both a national and international scope, with Dutch and English editions, and a preoccupation with the local and international art scenes.



# DISPLAY



The WPB is not just any free media archive. It also features an art installation that makes you question the act of looking, seeing, and consuming media. If you want to enjoy one of our items in-house you can ask for it at the WPB Service Desk and read or play it inside Amy Suo Wu's DISPLAY: a preview booth for WORM Pirate Bay, an archive of underground and avant-garde books, records, CDs, movies and gadgets turned into a public library. Up to three visitors can crawl into the soft and womb-like cocoons to watch films, listen to music, read books, and even sleep - while spectators can watch visitors preview the archive through the glass from the other side. DISPLAY also serves as a small fluffy exhibition space showcasing various media and art objects from WORM Pirate Bay. Converting an old mobile archival storage unit into a multi-functional presentation unit, DISPLAY indiscriminately displays media, objects and artwork as well as the body as an object. Formed like a human ant farm for ever-hungry eyes, it alludes to the windows of Amsterdam's red light district and the always-on-display culture perpetuated and mediated by reality TV and social media.



# RAN BY A COMMUNITY OF VOLUNTEERS



The WORM Pirate Bay is currently working with a team of twenty-six volunteers who are guiding and leading the project as a community. We believe this keeps our collection dynamic, asking ourselves each day what we have stored in the archives and not wanting anything to be left untouched. In contrary, we want to continuously add new items that feel right at the moment and re-categorize all existing materials by creating different programs using the items we're working with. We feel that the WORM Pirate Bay eventually needs to become an archive that functions as a living organism.

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## How to access the WORM Pirate Bay Media Archive

1. Visit the WPB every WED-FRIDAY 20:00-23:00.
2. Use the database (on the Service Desk counter) to browse through our collection.
3. Select a DVD, VHS, CD, audio cassette, record or a book. Alternatively select one medium from the Closet Shelves.
4. Ask our staff at the Service Desk for the item and leave your passport as a guarantee.
5. Preview it in "DISPLAY" (a multi-functional art-design-non-object) and don't forget to take your shoes off... Or ask an assistant to make a freeDUPLICATION of the item.
6. Enjoy!



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