

The Heart of No Place

a film by Rika Ohara



"The Cold War wasn't won by missiles; it was won by people like you and your husband. It was the arts of the free world that kept leaking through until it became the flood that broke down the Berlin Wall."

The Heart of No Place is the first feature-length film by Los Angeles-based artist Rika Ohara. It premiered in March 2009 at Festival International Films de Femmes de Créteil (France) and won the "Best Film (International)" award at London Independent Film Festival (April 2010).

Originating where Ohara's own experiences as an artist and a Japanese woman meet the life and work of Yoko Ono, *The Heart of No Place* builds its multilayered narrative on a series of tableaux that began as ideas for dance-theater performances and installations. Although the film pays tribute to Ono and her work, it is not to be taken as a bio-pic. Rather, it is about Other Wars and Losses, seen through the eyes of a reimagined character.

The year is 1999; the place, a city in the Northern Hemisphere. Artist Y. surfs the Web looking for shadows of her dead husband, The Artist Known As John. Through encounters with Andrea, a young journalist with wild ideas about art and technology, and with Daniel Mohn, the visionary founder and CEO of Monosoft Corporation, Y. begins to find her way through the post-Cold War landscape, where borders are redrawn with milk, sugar and glass.

Shot entirely on Digital 8 on location in Berlin, Tokyo, Liverpool, Los Angeles, Death Valley and Ho Chi Minh City, *The Heart of No Place* took nine years to complete, with mid-production fellowship awards from the California Arts Council and the California Community Foundation. The film features a song by Yoko Ono, along with music by Dieter Moebius (Cluster) and Michael Rother (Neu, Kraftwerk), Anna Homler and the Dark Bob, with the onscreen participation of many other art- and Krautrock luminaries.

Ascending to the frontal lobe of the Western psyche as a creative, political and sexual being just 25 years after WWII, Ono presented a huge threat even to the "enlightened" members of the '60s Cultural Revolution. *The Heart of No Place's* disclaimer / dedication begins: "Although the following story is a work of fiction, it was thoroughly inspired by the life and work of Yoko Ono, who changed the way we view art, music, celebrity and, above all, Japanese women..."

<http://www.bluefat.com/TheHeartofNoPlace.html>