

THROUGH THE SKIN:

A Film About Love, Lithium and Gym Teachers

A videotape by Elyse Montague

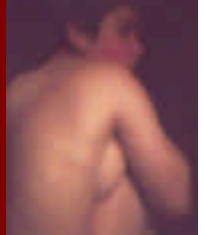


Experimental, 2002, USA
18 min, Video, Color/B&W

Credits

Director/Producer: Elyse Montague

Script, Cinematography and Editing: Elyse Montague



Synopsis

In this highly personal experimental autobiography, emerging filmmaker Elyse Montague presents a daring meditation on the experience and trauma of growing up androgynous. Incorporating home movies with vintage health public service announcements, along with her own performance pieces, Elyse jarringly discloses the conflicts between her changing female body with that of her gender and sexual identity. Through a montage of images set against a dissonant soundtrack, she speaks about the misunderstandings and tensions her identity struggle caused her family and the depression that later resulted. In scenes where Elyse binds her breasts, she painfully discloses how her parents sent her to a psychologist who diagnosed her with bi-polar disorder - a diagnosis that later proved to be incorrect. Exploring the complexities and implications of feeling androgynous in a female body, *Through the Skin* presents more than a personal testimony on the transgender experience, it provokes universal questions on the meaning of gender.

Director's Biography

Montague received her BA at Hampshire College, majoring in film studies and production, and was an assistant teacher at the International Film and Television Workshops in Rockport, Maine. *Through the Skin* is her debut work as a filmmaker.

Festivals

European Media Arts Festival, Osnabruck
Maine International Film Festival
Women in the Director's Chair
Women in Cinema, Walker Art Center
MIX Gay & Lesbian Film Festival
Flaming Film Festival, Minneapolis
Vancouver Underground Film Festival
Paris Gay & Lesbian Film Festival
Turin Gay and Lesbian International Film Festival

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