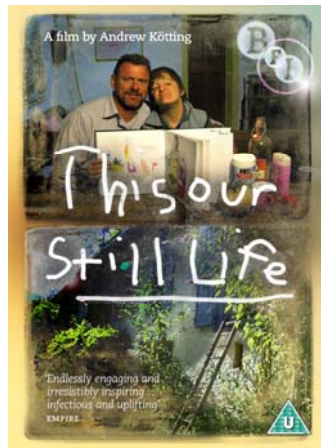


DVD press release



This Our Still Life

A film by Andrew Kötting

'Marries heart-rending visionary intensity with lurching human comedy' Iain Sinclair

'Endlessly engaging and irresistibly inspiring' Ian Freer, Empire

This Our Still Life by Andrew Kötting (Gallivant, Ivul) is a deliciously eccentric portrait of the remote tumbledown Pyrenean farmhouse where the filmmaker, his wife Leila and daughter Eden have lived on and off for more than 20 years. Premiered at the 2011 Venice Film Festival and released in cinemas by the BFI last November, it now comes to DVD with three extra films and a comprehensive booklet.

Last seen in *Gallivant* (1996) as a plucky kid touring the coastline of Britain with her Big Granny, Eden, who was born with a rare neurological disease, is now a young woman aged 23. Here we see her painting still lifes and singing along to the radio as the seasons ebb and flow around her. In the words of Andrew Kötting:

"Ten years ago Eden and I started drawing 'Still Life' together and I found that I arrived at a meditative state of mind through this process... More often than not we were living in our isolated Pyrenean farmhouse when we made these drawings. The house is called 'Louyre' and is up a track deep in the forest, underneath the shadow of a very tall mountain. Our lives there were a million miles away from the hubbub of London living.

"Eden was a baby when we moved in so the place is full of memories. I started to document our lives together on a Super 8 camera in 1989 and then again with a cheap digital stills camera in 2004. A portrait of 'Louyre' began to appear, but it wasn't until the Christmas of 2006, when I was watching Stan Brakhage's Dog Star Man, that I decided to start editing the material."

This lo-fi marvel features music by Scanner's **Robin Rimbaud** and a range of voices from Kötting's sound archive to explore notions of nostalgia, memory and place. It evokes a way of life which is elemental and rudimentary, unhurried and at odds with the modern world.

As the seasons revolve, voices in the filmmaker's head seem to question the purpose of existence, but all attempts to impose meaning and structure remain inconclusive and fragmentary. A fairytale atmosphere is conjured up, not devoid of sinister or melancholy undertones, but full of magic and mystery, riotous colour and the play of light.

Special features

- *Mapping Perception* (2002, 37 mins): a collaboration between Giles Lane, curator and producer, Andrew Kötting and Mark Lythgoe, a neurophysiologist at the Institute of Child Health, London with the participation of Eden Kötting
- *An History of Civilisation* (2011, 7 mins): from Southwark Park in south-east London and with a backdrop of Canary Wharf, we observe a May Day Bank Holiday Fun Fair
- *Portrait of Eden* (2011, 21 mins): a portrait of Eden Kötting by Gideon Koppel
- 32-page illustrated booklet featuring essays by John Roseveare, Iain Sinclair and Sukhdev Sandhu and drawings by Andrew and Eden Kötting

Release date 19 March 2012

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UK / 2011 / colour and black & white / English language / 57 mins / DVD9

Original aspect ratio 1.33:1 / Region free

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Images are available at www.imagenet under BFI>DVD 2012