

Jani Ruscica

Human Flesh

2019

2K video, stereo sound

16 minutes

Courtesy of the artist and Galerie Anhava, Helsinki

Finnish artist Jani Ruscica works across a variety of mediums such as wood cut, sound, video, performance, photography and sculpture. He uses these forms to look at the places and moments where meaning appears, when it radically changes and how it breaks down.

Human Flesh is concerned with the phenomenon of language, its communicative capacity as well as its basic existence as sounds and shapes. Central to the video are letters spelling out the work's title that are given human voices and faces. As if trying on their forms for the first time, they sensuously mouth and project a range of words that make us aware of the intimate relationship between our biological reality and the culture that binds and divides us; our language comes into being through the specific capacities and limitations of the human body, a body it then shapes in turn.

Visually *Human Flesh* has an elegantly minimal feel that sits between the white walls of an art gallery and the clinical surfaces of a scientific laboratory. In this way, and like much of Ruscica's work, the video feels like a deliberate experiment conducted into the strange weirdness of the human operating system.

Jani Ruscica was born in 1978 in Savonlinna, Finland and raised in Italy; he currently lives in Helsinki. Ruscica has realised a wide range of commissions, including those for Camden Art Centre and Animate Projects in London, and MoMA PS1, Creative Time, and MTV global in New York. His work was included in *Everything was Forever Until It Was No More*, 1st Riga Biennial (2018); and presented at the Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art, Helsinki (2016); and the Kunsthalle Detroit, Museum of Contemporary Art (2013).