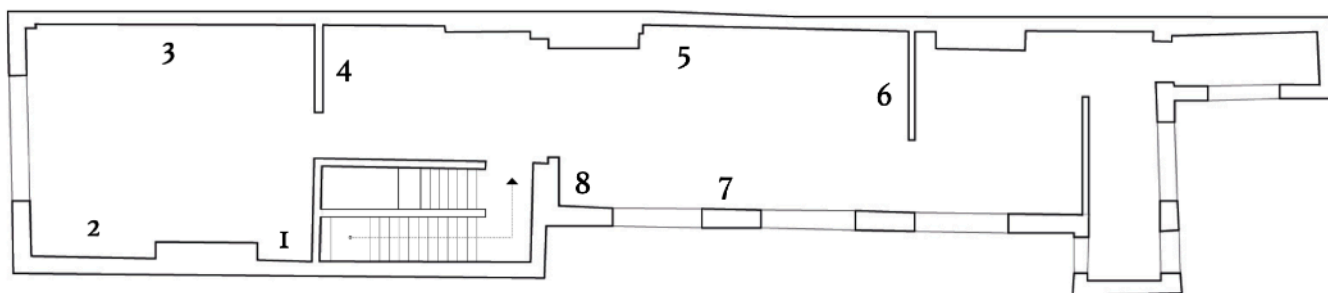


Johanna Hedva

Failed Poet: New and Early Video Works

TINA



1. *The Vanity of Amnesia Keeps Me Young*, 2026
Single channel video, an excerpt from *The Odyssey*, translated by Emily Wilson
5 minutes, 4 seconds
Edition of 3 + 2 APs
2. *Untitled (Somebody Cheating Me)*, 2022
Three channel video
9 minutes, 37 seconds
Edition of 3 + 2 APs
3. *Failed Poet*, 2015
Single channel video
17 minutes, 55 seconds
Edition of 3 + 2 APs
4. *On Hell*, 2018
Single channel video
6 minutes, 34 seconds
Edition of 3 + 2 APs
5. *2 Coins (Tears are what god uses to lubricate his big machine of nothing)" and "Mary (God is an asphyxiating black sauce)*, 2020
Single channel video
17 minutes, 40 seconds
Unique
6. *Sick Witch*, 2016
Single channel video
6 minutes, 51 seconds
Edition of 3 + 2 APs
7. *The word for body left my body*, 2018
Single channel video
3 minutes, 18 seconds
Edition of 3 + 2 APs
8. *Odyssey Odyssey*, 2013
Single channel video
18 minutes 37 seconds, performed by Joey Cannizzaro, Brian Doose, Marcus Kuiland-Nazario, and Claire Kohne
Edition of 3 + 2 APs

The Vanity of Amnesia Keeps Me Young

Made in 2026, by candlelight. The text is from the “lotus-eaters” excerpt from *The Odyssey*, translated by Emily Wilson, in the first translation by a woman which was published only in 2017. The sound is Hedva’s 2022 “Scream Demo,” a vocal piece recorded in Hedva’s apartment during lockdown. *Scream Demo* demonstrates Hedva’s methodology of swinging between the antipodal styles of opera and P’ansori, pushing into the possibility of vocal cord damage. In making this edge legible, and sometimes taking the body beyond it with all the attendant possibility of failure, Hedva invokes an inversion of normative Western values around what a voice should, and should not, sound like.

Untitled (Somebody Cheating Me)

Three-channel video from 2022 of Hedva’s grandmother in late-stage Alzheimer’s. Hedva’s grandmother emigrated to the US from South Korea when she was 28 years old, working as a janitor in a hospital for 33 years. She never took a day off. In 2022, she was 92 years old. Befuddled by her disease, she would circle her house and find stacks of old bills and mail from the hospital where she worked. She’d start reading them, but by the time she got to the bottom, she’d have forgotten what it was and why she was reading it. This piece was made as a comment on the hellscape that is the concept of a medical bill, of health insurance, at all.

Failed Poet

A trilogy: Leopard, Metanoia, and Mnemosyne. Made between 2013 - 2015. The first was begun when Hedva was an MFA student at CalArts. “In many ways, I’ve failed as a poet. I mean, I don’t even know what poetry is.”

On Hell

From Hedva’s 2018 debut novel, *On Hell*, a video of an excerpt of the first chapter, using the text-to-speech software common at the time. *On Hell* transcribes a body broken by American empire, hacking itself away from contemporary society. “Hacking” is not a metaphor. Video features the “Cholla” typeface by Sibylle Hagmann.

“2 Coins (Tears are what god uses to lubricate his big machine of nothing)” and “Mary (God is an asphyxiating black sauce)”

Performed at Klosterruine Berlin, July 5, 2020 as part of Hedva’s solo exhibition, *God Is an Asphyxiating Black Sauce*. The two songs, from Hedva’s 2021 album *Black Moon Lilith in Pisces in the 4th House*, were performed to no one, in the ruins of a 13th-century Franciscan monastery.

Sick Witch

Sick Witch is the performative id—the stand-up comedy routine—of Sick Woman Theory. She retches, screams, needs to sit down, wobbles, regurgitates bullshit people have told her to do, takes off many wigs, and is wracked by ghosts. Debut performance at Yes Femmes, HRLA, Los Angeles, April 2, 2016. Video of private living room performance in 2016.

The word for my body left my body

Video koan. “After my mother died this year [2018], I took long slow walks whenever the grief waves crashed. Walking slowly helped. My mother was third-generation born and raised in Los Angeles. I am fourth. I left the motherland in 2016 for Berlin so I could have healthcare. But the Berlin winters kill me, so I go home then. This video was filmed in the span of two weeks: autumn in Berlin and winter in LA. The grief feels the same in either place, but it also feels different.”

Odyssey Odyssey

A play about masculinity and the eternal return. Episode five of Homer’s *Odyssey*, performed in a Honda Odyssey, being driven on the Los Angeles freeway, for two people at a time. The audience joins Odysseus, a young queer man, as he escapes from the drag queen sorceress Kalypso, who has kept him as a sex slave for seven years in her cave underneath the VONS in Echo Park. With the help of his hyper-macho, Kleist-quoting “bro,” the trickster driver-god, Hermes, they attempt an escape. Something pulls them back. Performed by Joey Cannizzaro, Brian Doose, Marcus Kuiland-Nazario, and Claire Kohne, as part of 2013’s “The Machine Project Field Guide to L.A. Architecture” in the *Getty Pacific Standard Time*. Adapted and directed by Johanna Hedva. Video by Ian Byers-Gamber.