## Pipilotti Rist
(Grabs, Switzerland, 1962)

Pipilotti Rist's *Cinquante Fifty (Installation for a Parking Lot)*, 2000, envelops viewers in an environment of music and images. The installation consists of a piece of music, composed and sung by Anders Guggisberg and Rist, and two videos projected on the wall and the ceiling. Arranged like a sweet lullaby, the song is a melody that invites abandon and emphasizes the oneiric structure that characterizes the projected images. Just as in certain dreams, when the subconscious is free to express itself, the sequences and actions described in the videos can seem incongruous. While in the mirrored images on the wall a man is walking along the edge of a highway, on the ceiling the rapid movements of the video camera fly over the surface of a building and show fleeting views of flowering trees. But the man is naked and the apartment block is inhabited by two women who seem oblivious to each other. One looks out the window, while the other, played by Rist, presses her hands and face against the panes of a large closed window. Apparently confined within the perimeter of her residence, this second woman seems to want to seduce the video camera. Projected on a large scale, her image assumes metaphorical value and seems to allude to Rist's constant desire to escape the two-dimensional confines of video, to seize viewers and drag them into her world.

The idea of the subconscious is recurrent in Rist's art. The artist has frequently declared her interest in the possibility of investigating the images that the mind produces in the lack of inhibition of the dream state. Experimenting with the possibilities offered by technology, and expanding every type of disturbance and errors of transmission, color, and focus, Rist uses video as a sort of psychoanalytic process, bringing to light what is usually repressed. Psychedelic, ironic, and erotic, her art often has a liberating effect and succeeds in transforming the spaces where it is installed into places where people can linger and daydream. (MB)