

## **Director's statement:**

Marie Menken (1909 - 1970) was the other outstanding woman pioneer filmmaker of the 1940s through the 1960s in New York next to Maya Deren who is considered the female icon of the Avant-garde cinema. Menken made about 20 short film poems of beauty, joy and vitality in 16mm. It is a personal cinema without protagonist, which searches to express the emotional point-of view of the viewer to the limits of abstraction and rhythm (like "Glimpse of a Garden", "Eye Music In Red Major", "Arabesque For Kenneth Anger", "Go! Go! Go!", "Wrestlers", "Lights" and "Andy Warhol"). She was the cameraperson for these films, and also edited them, mostly within the camera. The presence of her body gives the succession and patterns of images a physical quality. She is a master of single frame. Her filmic project "Notebook", structured in a lyric diary style, has inspired many similar films up to this day. Her work tends to be brief and to the point – a high artistry. It reminds me of the late Maya Deren asking for "filmic haiku", a lyrical essence of poetry. I am fascinated by Menken's essential feeling for rhythm. I am encouraged by her playfulness.