

## **Nicholas and Sheila Pye discuss *The Coronation***

Hi this is Nicholas Pye and I'm Sheila Pye, and we're here to introduce the piece *The Coronation* to you that we made in 2008. The piece *Coronation* was shot both in Austria, in Grass Austria, during a residency we did for 6 months, and also shot in Canada, in Ontario.

The two side panels were shot in Austria with the Adam and Eve-esque sort of references and the centerpiece with the three seasons, the three dissolving seasons and the performance were shot in Canada.

So in our performances, Nick and I are the main characters in this piece that you're watching. You experience summer, winter and fall so we shot the piece, the middle panel in those three seasons. That was intentionally meant to be sort of a metaphor or an allegory for growth and decay and regeneration in our personal relationship and also in human beings in general going through different stages of transformation.

The piece is quite literally or quite literally references triptych alter pieces, medieval alter pieces, specifically the Ghent alter piece, a northern European renaissance painting, and what we wanted to do was take this old format and breathe new life into it through a contemporary technology, so using video to almost make a painting move, so reexamining those issues in the paintings, in that nacelle of painting, and rearticulating them with the current medium. So by doing this we create a tableau or living picture, but also we delve into different subject matters such as sexuality, sexuality and identity, assuming each other's identity as well, so we do sort of take reference or a point of departure from these paintings but we also add our own allegories and illusions into the work.