

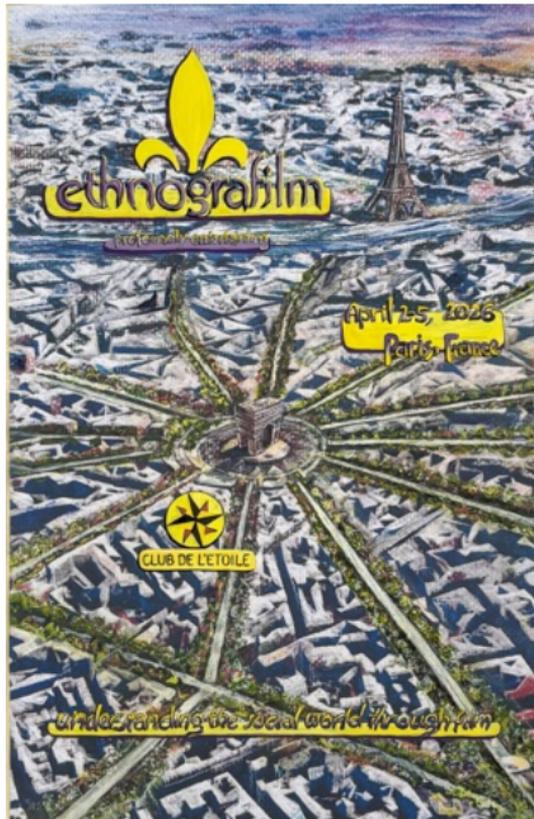
Ethnografilm 2026



Ethnografilm seeks to enhance our understanding of the social world through film. From the 2nd through the 5th of April 2026 in Paris, France, the festival features over 100 works by documentary and academic filmmakers.

Paris France

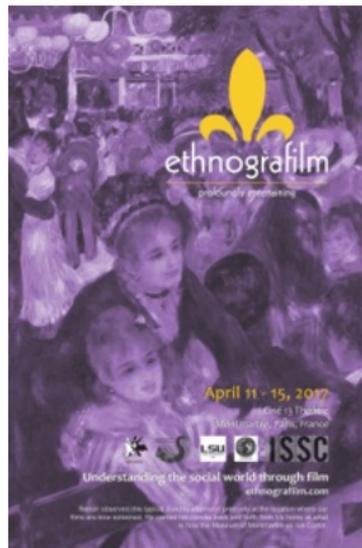
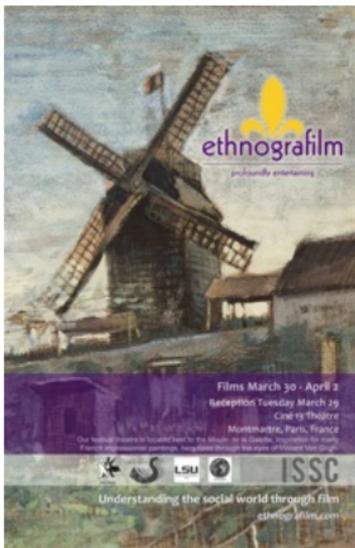
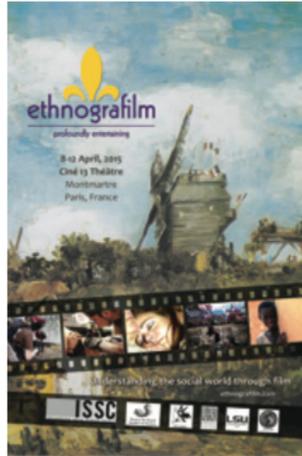
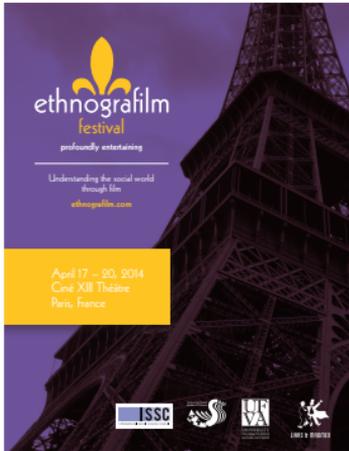
Ethnografilm 2026



For our 2026 poster Susan Arnold began with the Immersive View of our theater location in Google Maps. She used chalk pastel, then gouache and fine tip markers for the streets. The Eiffel Tower and Arc de Triomphe were drawn separately then applied at a larger scale. The center of the circle is the precise location of our *CLUB DE L'ETOILE*.

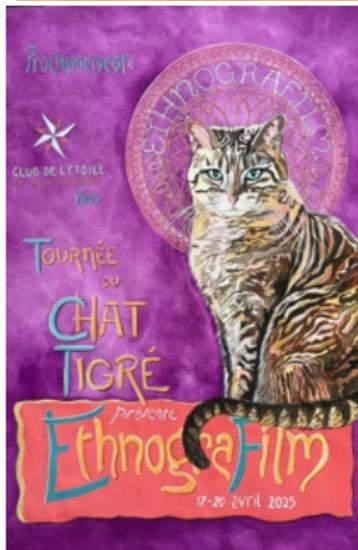
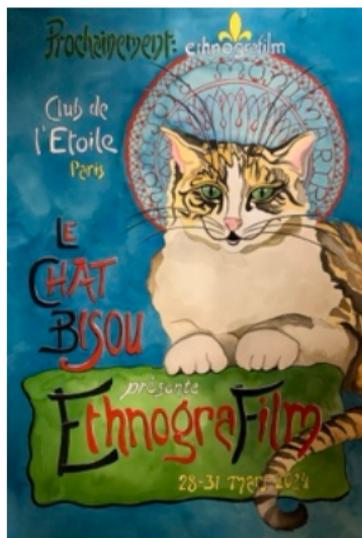
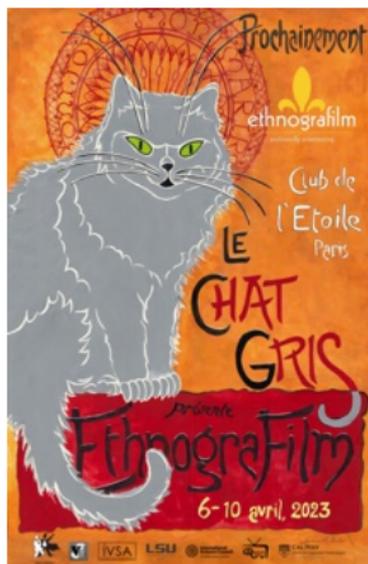
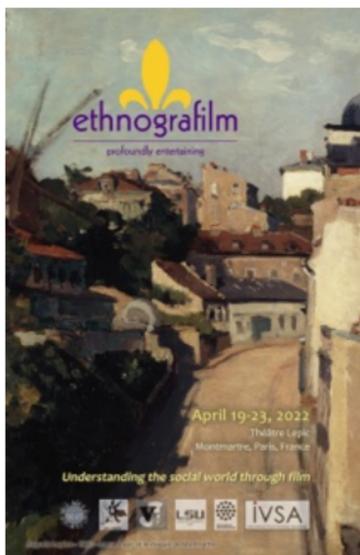
Paris France

Ethnografilm 2026



Paris France

Ethnografilm 2026



Welcome to *Ethnografilm!*

Ethnografilm is a moment to cherish for filmmakers, scholars, and all those who brought this diverse group to Paris. The *International Science Council* has been instrumental in implementing the vision of a festival to celebrate excellence in movies that enhance our understanding of the social world.

Ethnographic film—“*ethnografilm*” in Greg Scott’s coinage—has been broadly defined, yielding a huge variety of styles, formats, and themes.

We have a classic fringe theatre at the center of Paris! We have a community of filmmakers and scholars gathered for inspiration and collaboration.

And we have a triumphal arch.

What could be better?

Wes Shrum



standard practice

No tickets required... all are welcome! Just come and go as you please with your friends, family, crew!

We have a reception on Thursday from 6 to 9pm followed by three days of films, beginning each day at 1pm. Free food and wine are provided. But we always appreciate one or two Euros as a contribution to continue that!

Our daily program: 2 hours of films followed by 30 minutes of Q&A with attending directors on stage. Each day we have four sessions: 1pm, 3:30pm, 6pm, 8:30pm.

Then we go out to one of our favorite local pubs—announced at the end of the last session.

Typically (check Google Maps) those include *Café Latéral*, *Beer Station*, *Le Général*, and *Haze* (formerly UC61)—not more than a block away.

Organization

Executive Director: Wesley Shrum, Louisiana State University

Artistic Director: Susan Arnold

Associate Director: Gregory Scott, DePaul University

Assistant Director: Matthew Harsh, California Polytechnic

Local Production: International Science Council

Zhensa Tsoy, Anne Thieme, Lea Nacache, Sarajuddin
Barekzai; Vanessa McBride; Megha Sud

Co-Founders: Wes Shrum and Greg Scott

Executive Committee

Michael Brims, University of Houston

Ron Harpelle, Lakehead University, Canada

Kelly Saxberg, Independent Filmmaker, Thunder Bay

Molly Merryman, Kent State University

Kathryn Kasic, Montana State University

Michael Brown, University of South Wales

Anna Fersztand, University of Zurich

Michael Frierson, University of North Carolina,
Greensboro

Sylvie Jacquemin, Cinematographer and Director, Paris

Robin Starbuck, Sarah Lawrence College

Simon Luling, Paris Filmmaker

Anna Ferzstand, Swiss Filmmaker

Kiril Kirkov, American University of Bulgaria

Lisa Pasold, Author

Ethnografilm 2026

William Shewbridge, University of Maryland, Baltimore
County

Paris France

Ethnografilm Partners



**International
Science Council**



International Visual Sociology Association



The Video Ethnography Laboratory was established at LSU as a resource for graduate teaching and video ethnographic research.

Ethnografilm 2026



Journal of Video Ethnography



CAL POLY

Center for Expressive Technologies

College of Liberal Arts



Paris France

As a miner, I live

LUCIANO EUGENIO PACIOTTI / ARGENTINA / 20 MIN



Carlos has walked through the underground tunnels of the Potosi Cerro Rico since he was fourteen years old. The cooperative miners work is extremely sacrificed, and the mineral extraction methods are completely handmade. Through this ritual they bear extreme living and working conditions. The alcohol consumption offers a true contact with the Pachamama and the coca. Apart from making their jobs easier, it is an offering to the Uncle, who inhabits the depths. The underworld has its own rules and you have to be up to survive its reality.

Asking the Forest for a Flute

Robbie Fisher

United States / 11 Min



An artist, a carpenter, a craftsman. Darrell grew up in the woods of north Mississippi and holds them sacred. This short film takes the viewer on a poetic journey as he turns a piece of the forest into music.

Atasikun: All Together

Irena Kalyuzhnaya / Russian Federation / 14 Min



Attempts to preserve the endangered language and dance and song culture of the Naukan Eskimos.

Bamako Chic: Threads of Power, Color & Culture

Maureen Gosling, Maxine Downs / Mali, U.S. / 27 Min



In the 1960s, a small group of self-empowered Malian women sparked a revolution, inspired by beauty and economic survival. The seemingly humble women's activity of hand-dyeing cloth blossomed into a symbol of cultural pride in West Africa and African diaspora communities, economic sustenance and international fashion.

Behold the Passing Fancies

Greg Scott

U.S. / 5 Min



In this poetic experimental film, an actor named Bry'n reflects on dying—his own, his mother's, and his son's. Fragmentary recollections congeal in his soliloquy, as he invokes various film roles he has played in the filmmaker's past films, to make sense of what it really means to live and to die. Ultimately, he finds himself embracing and connecting the incalculable grief of death and the overwhelming absurdity of living at all.

Boller Street

Cuyler Ballenger

Germany / 14 Min



Boller Street is a short film tracing the story of my fifth great-grandmother, the only member of her family to leave the small German village of Jebenhausen for the United States in the early 19th century. Shot on a return trip to the village in 2024, the film blends camcorder footage with speculative narration to explore the absence and fragmentation that often define Ashkenazi Jewish memory. Inspired by works like Shoah, Occupied City, and Summer in Baden-Baden, the film uses contemporary images to draw out buried histories.

BROWN: An Archeological Perspective in 4 Layers

Sophie Jackson

Bolivia, India, UK / 21 Min



Much in archaeology is brown--the layers of soil and deposits, the sherds, the 300 plus variations shown in the Musel Chart. Every archaeologist knows that brown is not just brown - variation, nuance, difference tell us much. Through case studies with 3 archaeologists working in India and Bolivia, this film takes us into these subtleties, right down to the microscopic and right out to the big picture questions of post colonialism.

Buryat in European Cinema

Artem Viktorovich Burlov

France, Russian Federation / 20 Min



A portrait of an actor who, despite everything, achieved outstanding success in European cinema during emigration. 'He lived in forced emigration for forty-three years. His name was banned in his homeland, and until the end of the century no one knew anything about him. Seventy years in complete oblivion!' Author's opinion - The current generation of viewers does not know the fate of the Buryat Valery Inkijinoff, which is not inferior in scale to the tragic fate of Russian emigrants who left their homeland after the revolution of 1917.

Cafés Blues

Gleb Raikov

France / 9 Min



“Cafés Blues” follows volunteers from the French League Against Cancer who facilitate cancer survivors’ support groups in the rural south of the Essonne department (Île-de-France). Through an ethnographic, ground-level approach, it shows how their own experiences of illness or caregiving shape a sustained commitment to mutual aid and community care.

Cartas De Amor

Nicole Cichocki Werneck
Brazil / 8 Min



Cartas de Amor serves as both an auto-ethnography and a love letter to the Brazilian fishing village of Garopaba, the coastal town that holds the echoes of the artist's upbringing. At the end of each year, she returns and slips into her quiet ritual of arrival. The film moves through the director's corners and curiosities; the reverie-inducing beaches, the primitive waterfalls, and the artisans. Each visit carries the feeling of a return, as though the town waits all year to greet her again.

Chiacchieria

Andrea La Puca

Italy / 20 Min



The documentary aims to take as an example the contradictory relationship between reality and fantasy, between religious belief and spiritualism, to raise awareness of how much human beings are now forgetting the importance of living with their imagination instead of forgetting it to live only in objective reality.

Chicken Ghetto

Sangsun Choi

Uganda / 18 Min



Mable is a teenager living in the Banda slum of Kampala, Uganda. She loves singing on the streets and carries many questions for God, among them being why she is the only one in her family with sickle cell disease.

Co-Husband

Ganesh Panday

Nepal / 35 Min



This film revolves around the polyandry custom prevalent among the Lama communities living in the mountain region of Nepal. Among Lamas of Humla district of Nepal, there is still a very strange tradition, which may be a matter of great surprise to many. Lama brothers, no matter what in numbers they are, just marry a girl (have a common wife). They not only share their love and work, they also share a wife among them.

Cutting Light to Shadow

Runqi Xiao

China / 34 Min



In Tengchong, Yunnan, China, an ancient art form, shadow puppetry, traveled from the Central Plains more than two centuries ago and took root in local soil, evolving into a distinctive tradition. Filmed from a visual anthropological perspective, this documentary focuses on the contemporary life of Tengchong shadow puppetry. Elder performers embody the resilience of tradition through their craft, while younger inheritors explore new modes of expression.

Dance Movements

Michael Brims

United States / 10 Min



This film explores the cultural heritage of first and second generation Americans through traditional Indian Dance in Houston, Texas.

The Darkness: Lessons on Solar Energy, Community, and Power

Nelson Varas-Diaz

Puerto Rico / 20 Min



"The Darkness" is an ethnographic documentary that captures the resilience of the 'Alto de Cuba' community in Puerto Rico as they confront disaster and darkness. Partnering with the grassroots organization 'Casa Pueblo,' they harness solar energy to restore power, protect their health, and reclaim their well-being. Through their journey, the community offers five powerful lessons on building a just and sustainable future. The film highlights their fight against governmental neglect and the privatization of Puerto Rico's power grid, showing how collective action can ignite hope, power, and change in the face of crisis. Is this just about solar power, or is there more at hand?

Defensa: The Right to Work

Cecilia Dinardi

Argentina / 23 Min



Amid Argentina's worsening economic crisis, one of the most emblematic cafes in the historic centre of Buenos Aires is threatened with closure. A team of determined waiters embark on a struggle to save their jobs and rescue the city's cultural heritage.

Dodecahedron

John Cannizzaro

U.S. / 17 Min



Dodecahedron is a light-hearted primer for filmmaking : 12 contemplations to consider when making images. Originally produced as an installation for three 16mm film projectors, the film was re-mastered and edited for a single screen presentation. Dedicated to Robert Gardner.

Dogs and War in Ukraine

Adane Yamada

Japan, Poland, Ukraine / 52 Min



In February 2022, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. One month later, director Akane Yamada traveled to the country. At the border with Poland, she witnessed animal welfare organizations from around the world mobilizing to help refugees and their pets. Even during wartime, some Ukrainians continued to adopt dogs and cats from shelters, animals who, in turn, provided comfort to hearts wounded by war.

The Empire Writes Back

Dorna Van Rouveroy van Nieuwaal
Indonesia, Netherlands / 28 Min



The Empire Writes Back is a short documentary about a long-overdue conversation between Indonesia and the Netherlands. At a unique summer school, students from both countries explore their shared colonial past through film and literature—not as fixed history, but as lived memory. What emerges is not consensus, but a deeper understanding of how narratives are shaped, challenged, and rewritten.

Eternal Echoes: A Life Built on Faith and Practice

Sheeba Tsang

China / 20 Min



Tibetans' deep devotion to religious beliefs has led many families to send their brightest boys to monasteries to become lamas, which they regard as the glory and pride of the entire family. Years of hard study and the accumulation of knowledge are essential for the growth of lamas in their spiritual development and practice. This documentary faithfully captures and realistically portrays the daily religious gatherings and debate activities of lama monks in two Tibetan monasteries.

Evidence For the Future

Marcel Antonio del Castillo
Mexico / 15 Min



Located in a dystopian future where water no longer exists, this video essay works as an archaeological resource for collecting evidence on the links to water in society at the beginning of the 21st century, based on field research, the encounter with knowledge. and experiences of the communities of the Galeana municipality of the state of Nuevo Leon in Mexico.

The Fair

Ines Sommer

United States / 52 Min



Set in a conservative, mostly white Midwestern community--not far from where Abraham Lincoln once lived as a young man--*The Fair* looks at American rural life and pastimes through the spectacle of an annual county fair. We witness rituals of livestock judging, craft competitions, pig chases, and an extended behind-the-scenes look at the fair's beauty pageant. The image of a tight-knit community emerges. Infused with subtle touches of humor.

Paris France

Fandango in Chinameca

Isaac Kerlow

Mexico / 17 Min



Fandango in Chinameca presents, in an immersive manner, the flow of moments and emotions that occur throughout an all-night community fandango. The short also documents the evolving role of women in modern-day fandango festivals. Far from presenting an idyllic, touristy version of son jarocho, this short portrays the intimate reality of a fandango, contrasting tradition with improvisation, modesty with flirtation, and escape with joy.

Festival of Community: Pipe Dreams

Natanya Mark De La Bather

United Kingdom / 4 Min



This film documents the Festival of Community at Staffordshire Street Studio in Peckham, London 2024. The focus of the film is the exhibition, Pipe Dreams, by Jimi and Madeline Famurewa, a tribute to leisure centres across the UK that are closing down, and a celebration of the role that these spaces played for community life of families in the 1990s. Film as method explores the social significance of these lost leisure spaces and acts as a ‚Äöliving archive,Äö (Hall) of the exhibition.

The Fields of Women in Madagascar

Hadrien Di Roberto, Salohy Rafanomezantsoa
France, Madagascar / 29 Min



The Fields of Women is a documentary film on women's access to agricultural land and gender inequalities in Madagascar rural regions. Through ten portraits of women, it explores the complex realities of land ownership and management within peasant families. The women share their perceptions, experiences and experiences and the challenges they face in gaining access to agricultural land in the face of often unequal social norms and local practices.

Flag Burning

Marcy McCall

United States / 9 Min



A rare, filmed observation of a U.S. Army flag burning ceremony. High school students frolic on the banks of the Etowah River in North Georgia and then convene to destroy an American flag. The film absorbs the viewer into an unfamiliar reality. It records an experience of growing up, an intersection of friendship, flirtation, education, and the military where the shaping takes place. FLAG BURNING is the final installment in a video trilogy documenting the everyday lives of teenagers and their families in the far corners of Georgia.

Following the Thread

Kathy Brew

Peru / 20 Min



In the Peruvian Andes, textiles are omnipresent in the lives of indigenous people. They are both eminently practical and stunningly beautiful as generations of weavers have applied their creativity to invent techniques and designs found nowhere else in the world. Textiles still form a powerful part of identity. But this identity is at risk. Indigenous people still face racism on a daily basis. A globalized market economy that produces cheap, machine-made products destroys respect and interest in the hand-made.

Freedom of Speech: Giordano Bruno

Ottar Ormstad

Norway / 15 Min



In this historic poetry film, Norwegian visual poet and artist Ottar Ormstad documents parts of the life of the Italian philosopher and poet Giordano Bruno, born in 1548. After 1870 there was a long struggle for a monument on Campo dei Fiori in Rome, where he was burned alive for heresy the 17th of February by the Roman inquisition in the year 1600. In less than a quarter Ormstad is telling a story about his life, travels, thoughts, death and the fight for raising a monument in Rome. This is presented through his camera, his own concrete poetry and music. Five of Bruno's poems are presented in Italian and read in his English version by Ormstad.

Gert's Boys

Sarah Laura Schwartz

United States / 20 Min



Gert's Boys centers on Cindy "Gert" McMullin, an original volunteer and co-founder of The AIDS Memorial Quilt. The Quilt was launched in San Francisco's Castro neighborhood in 1987, the epicenter of the AIDS crisis, as a social action tool to demand a public and government response to AIDS. Today, the Quilt is the world's largest piece of community folk art with over 50,000 3x6 panels commemorating over 110,000 lives lost to AIDS. Gert, often referred to as Mother of the Quilt, continues to oversee the panels, which she refers to as her 'boys,' in a warehouse in Oakland, California.

Ghosts of Alderney--Hitler's Island Slaves

Andrew Johnstone

United Kingdom / 52 Min



The Channel Islands were the only British territories occupied by Germany during World War Two. The tiny island of Alderney saw the biggest mass murder on British soil. Thousands of slaves were shipped there from all over occupied Europe to build fortifications for Hitler. Now, 80 years after the island's liberation, artist Piers Secunda investigates the Nazi atrocities, uncovering evidence of appalling brutality and summary executions. Piers travels to Alderney, France and Belgium, meeting some of the families of the victims as he attempts to bring the Ghosts of Alderney back to life.

Paris France

The Gold Panner from Lannavaara

Mattias Löw

Ghana, Namibia, Sweden / 95 Min



From his frozen birthplace above the Arctic Circle, Hans “Hasse” Soderstrom emerges as a man possessed by an impossible vision: to prove that ethical gold mining can thrive in one of the world’s most corrupt industries. At just twenty years old, he abandons the Arctic silence of Lannavaara for the scorching heat of Ghana’s legendary gold fields. What begins as youthful ambition evolves into a quarter-century obsession that will consume over \$10 million of other people’s money, shatter his relationships with family, and test the very limits of human determination.

Grandma & Isabella

Hannah Engelson

United States / 12 Min



A poetic, observational documentary centered on Livina who is raising her great-granddaughter Isabella in Rockaway, New York. Filmed intermittently over four years, the film follows a chronological structure, beginning when Isabella is four years old and ending when she is eight. Livina is originally from Panama and now lives in a two-bedroom apartment. Day by day, she prepares breakfast, assists Isabella with schoolwork, oversees playtime, and savors quiet moments to read her daily scripture and watch soap operas. The film reflects on the often unseen labor of caregiving and the quiet commitment of those who step in, generation after generation.

The Guardian of Stories

Claudia Belasi, Markus Steiner Ender
Laos, Spain / 52 Min



Siphai Thammavong is a young storyteller from Luang Prabang, Laos. He lives with his wife, Thip, and their children on the outskirts of the city, juggling multiple jobs to support his family in one of the world's poorest countries. Between running a small roadside grocery store, taking on various odd jobs, and managing household chores, Siphai still finds time to perform in a small theatre, where he brings traditional stories to life for visiting tourists. But he knows that these ancient tales, passed down orally for hundreds of years, are now vanishing.

Hands

Illija Osichenko, Kiril Kirkov
United States / 5 Min



The taken for granted beauty of hands and how important they are to humans.

Have You Seen My Gods?

Amitabh Joshi

Nepal, United States / 52 Min



Amitabh sets out to locate the stolen Gods of Kathmandu fulfilling his grandmother's final wish. Sparked by his grandmother's ailing health, a filmmaker returns to Kathmandu, a city of vanished gods and fading rituals. When the Laxmi Narayan statue, stolen in the 1980s, resurfaces in a U.S. museum, its repatriation led by local activists becomes a path he follows through ritual, shrines, and the diaspora. Featuring rare archival footage of Kathmandu from the 1950s and a quiet investigative thread that uncovers the identity of the art collector who acquired the statue, the film becomes a lyrical elegy and a quiet act of resistance against colonial theft and cultural erasure.

Heat of the Border

Robert Rafael dos Santos
United States / 20 Min



Heat of the Border addresses the difficulties faced by two immigrant families in Foz do Iguacu, a city known for its rich linguistic and cultural diversity. Through stories, the film follows the challenges of these families. Even in a multicultural city like Foz do Iguacu, bridges to true integration can be difficult to build.

The Help of the Invisibles—Himalayan Oracles

Viliam Poltikovič

India / 52 Min



An intimate and thrilling insight into the remarkable, mysterious world of the Himalayan oracles that is completely unknown to the West. Since time immemorial, in various parts of the planet, people have connected with beings from the unmanifested world to give advice, divination, healing, cleansing of negative energies and exorcism to others. The phenomenon, which we know only from history thanks to the famous oracle at Delphi, has been alive for centuries in the magical region of Ladakh.

How to Groom Your Rabbit

Ashley D. Morgan

United States / 19 Min



An at home rabbit grooming tutorial evolves into a character study on an eccentric bunny caretaker's journey. Eventually needing to end her business because of it's growth, the film explores agony and ecstasy of pursuing your passion.

Humalos

Cyril Pallus

France / 5 Min



The French government's best kept secret.

Paris France

Iceland on the Trail of Democracy

Steve Vilhem

United States / 58 Min



The Icelandic revolution, also known as the “Pots and Pans Revolution,” occurred in October 2008 in Iceland. It was rooted in the context of the subprime financial crisis when, in less than a month, the country’s three main banks declared bankruptcy. From this protest emerged an unprecedented process: the drafting of a new Constitution based on participatory democracy, which utilized methods such as random selection, online participation, citizen debates, elections, and more.

IMEQ

Robin Starbuck

United States / 8 Min

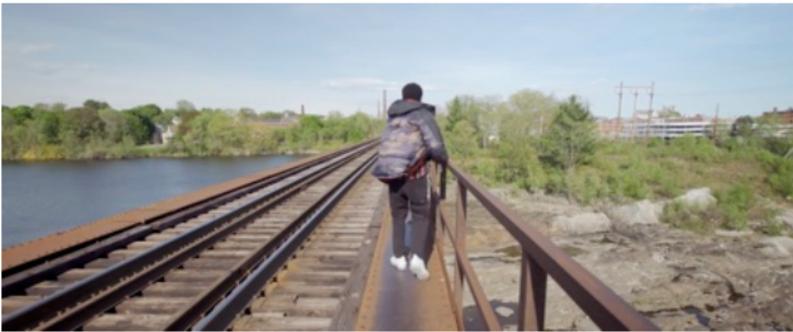


A visually poetic encounter with the ice and water of the northern Arctic Sea. Shot entirely north of Disko Bay Greenland.

The Intersection

Jessamine Irwin

United States / 30 Min



Cecile reconnects with the French of her childhood thanks to recently arrived Franco-African immigrants, like Tresor, seeking asylum in Lewiston, Maine. As history repeats itself, Cecile develops a close friendship with the new arrivals that helps Cecile finally find her pride in her own heritage.

Invisible Machines

Yelena Guzman

Canada, United States / 24 Min



An experimental ethnographic film about captioners who use stenotype machines to transcribe speech to text in real time for d/Deaf students in the classroom. The film reflexively recreates the gaps in the work of interpretation and translation by messing with its own audio track, offering viewers a way to feel what is at stake in real-time captioning. Even while the film renders the face and voice of the protagonist here invisible, it foregrounds the "access intimacy" between a captioner and a student, and argues for what is lost when captioners are replaced by talk-to-text.

Island of Elephants

Lenore Rinder

India/ 17 Min



At Dubare, one of India's Elephant Camps, twenty-six elephants are tamed and “socialized” to mix with the public. We hear from a veterinarian and an animal activist who share how these wild, majestic animals are captured and taken care of, in efforts to save and conserve elephants threatened by poachers and encroachment.

Just a Fight

John Grady

United States / 13 Min



A man at mid-life tells us about the fights he had with other men when he was a kid. Precipitated by conflicts over girls and slights too numerous to mention, these fights illuminate an important way that men learn invaluable life lessons about negotiating status in a world of inequality. A tale of the hidden injuries of class reported from a victor's perspective, *Just a Fight* suggests that the way of life that accepted the fist fights as a vehicle for redressing grievance may have simultaneously created institutional forms that, at least, promise a route to imagining and performing equality.

Kickoff

Roser Corella, Stefano Obino

Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Spain / 77 Min



In a small village in the mountains of Kyrgyzstan, where conservative traditions confine women to domestic duties, Gazi challenges the status quo by organising a women's football tournament. As she strives to empower the women and break social taboos, Gazi must navigate through cultural resistance, unveiling a compelling story of resilience, and social change in this unique setting.

Lady Chief

Sarah Bromley

Ghana / 11 Min



Lady Chief is the story of how an elderly Ghanaian woman becomes the only female clan chief in her home village of Kukurantumi, Ghana, despite her unconventional life path and resistance within the local chief hierarchy. After building a nonprofit that serves rural parts of Ghana by starting local libraries, Nana is met with the decision of running for her clan's chief. While she faces backlash from a local head chief and becomes only the second woman in the history of her clan to contest for the role, her determination and loyalty to her home village triumphs as the film shows her amongst her people at an annual celebration.

The Lama's Son

Kesang Tseten

Nepal / 52 Min



In Nepal's Himalaya, a Bonpo Lama awaits his son to return from NY to take over his ancient role. It is a sign of a society crumbling, exacerbated by climate change. There are still outposts in the Himalaya where tradition thrives, but for how long. The Lama realises his son is right in thinking the future is elsewhere.

The Last Picture Shows

Rustin Thompson

United States / 52 Min



Journeys into the American West on a search for traces of what was once a center of small-town life: the movie theater. Long abandoned and forgotten cinemas; movie houses that have fallen into disrepair; theaters recently closed, theaters struggling to hold on, and theaters that—thanks to their thoughtful caretakers—are not only surviving but thriving. *The Last Picture Shows* reminds viewers that even in vast cinema deserts, there are oases of community and gathering that remain, where the movie house continues to be a place of wonder, contemplation, and connection.

Life Where the Dead Rest

Elin Maria Landgren
Sweden / 27 Min



Over the course of a year, the film takes us into Kikas Cemetery and the people who work there. Though the place is closely tied to sorrow and death, it also brims with vitality and joy. This poetic documentary offers a tender glimpse into a world where grief and life coexist.

Lights in the City

Ignazio Figus

Italy / 18 Min



On the night of 16th to 17th January, many towns in Sardinia celebrate Sant'Antonio abate. The communities gather around the fire, which is the central element of the celebrations, to ask the thaumaturge saint for graces and miracles. The lighting of bonfires is deeply linked to the symbolism of light and warmth that comes to break the cold and darkness of winter, marking the awakening of nature and the growth of crops.

The Long Road Home

Barbara Anne Lindstrom

United States / 7 Min



Based on the true story of a teenage girl who escaped twice from a concentration camp and finally freed herself and 3 other young women.

Maasai Eunoto

Kire Godal

Kenya / 34 Min



Through the voices of warriors and elders during their emotional rite of passage in 2022, *Maasai Eunoto* follows the vanishing Maasai warrior passage to elder-hood revealing the hidden past & present of one of Africa's most important cultural initiation ceremonies. The indigenous Maasai are fighting to keep their traditions alive today.

Macula

Mariana X. Rivera

Mexico / 25 Min

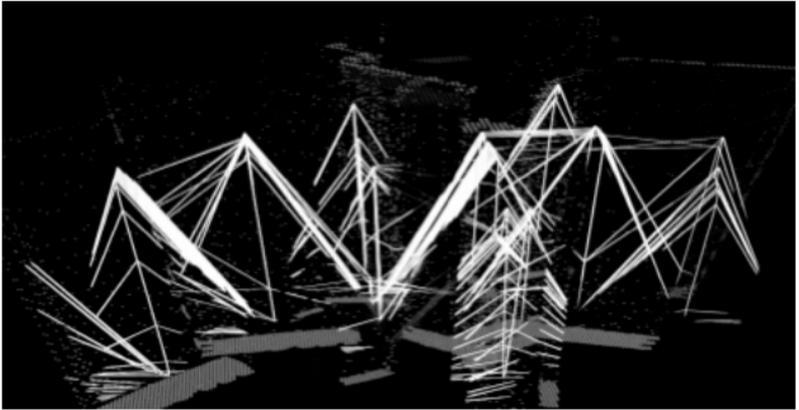


It is within the macula, at the back of the eye, that the images are fixed in the retina. Sonia's gradual vision loss becomes the filmographic allegory that allows her daughter to make a journey to unveil the events that had been kept in silence until then, and that had eclipsed the primeval memories of her gestation and birth.

MAGPIE

Ian Gibbons

United States / 4 Min



The Australian Magpie has extraordinary vocal ability, trilling and carolling a wide range of calls, often together, and often at night. The audio for this piece was developed around a recording I made of a magpie singing at night behind our house. I transcribed two of the melodies and then worked out how to play and arrange them. The chorus includes the actual voice of the magpie. The audio during the credits is an unedited sample of three magpies carolling on a still winter's night. The video is animated from footage of magpies around our house, in Belair National Park, and on the Victorian coast during a storm; local trees at night; and the word "magpie".

MARIMARI

Paul Wolffram

Papua New Guinea / 52 Min



In a land where witches are still accused, tortured, and burnt, one woman does all she can to rescue and rehabilitate the survivors. Evelyn Kunda is a subsistence farmer, teacher, a human rights defender, and the only woman from her village who doesn't believe that she is surrounded by witches. *MARIMARI* takes the audience into the villages, towns, and urban slums of Highlands Papua New Guinea where she fights to rescue and rehabilitate the survivors of sorcery violence. In the face of an almost ubiquitous belief in sorcery, this moving and cinematic, verite style film intimately observes her as she assists three families struggling to put their lives back together following violent attacks.

Memoria Collectiva

Cristina Colmenares, Manuel-Antonio Monteagudo
Peru / 15 Min



In 1983, during the darkest days of Peru's Armed Conflict with the Shining Path, masked soldiers entered Adelina's home and took her husband away. She would never see him again. After facing silence and contempt from the Police and Army, Adelina joins forces with the many other women who have lost their husbands and children to soldiers who were supposed to protect them. Together, they will unite to demand justice.

Milton's Mulberry

Tony Eva

United Kingdom / 20 Min



Explores the rich history of the ancient black mulberry tree in the Fellow's Garden of Christ's College, Cambridge, UK. Intertwining horticulture, poetry, and politics, it traces King James I's failed silk industry, Milton's radical legacy, and the tree's role in college life today. We follow Milton's journey from his formative years, through his association with Oliver Cromwell, to publishing his seminal work, *Paradise Lost*. The tree represents a powerful symbol of artistic expression, colonial enterprise, and enduring freedom of thought.

MISHA

Paul De Roo

Belgium / 52 Min



An impressive portrait of Mikhail Bezverkhni, a 73-year-old top musician of Russian origin, who won the Queen Elisabeth Violin Competition in Brussels in 1976. On his return, he was put under house arrest by the KGB for 14 years. Only in 1990, after the implosion of the Soviet Union, could he emigrate to Belgium. He now lives on the seamy side of society appearing as a shabby street musician who plays beautiful pieces from the repertoire of great composers. But his appearance is only the veil of his ambivalent relationship to the public. He rejects bourgeois success and money. He wants to be Prometheus, who brings the music of the gods to the people.

Monument

Jeremy Drummond

Canada / 17 Min



Beginning in ghostly abstraction and accumulating texture by texture into a droning meditative trance, Monument deepens to a visual and sonic intensity, mixing Super 8 film with video footage to create a complicated, multilayered encounter with the tension of protest and reclamation. A vivid and energetic durational experience of collective resistance and celebration.

My Voice Journey

Hasmik Gasparyan

United Kingdom / 17 Min

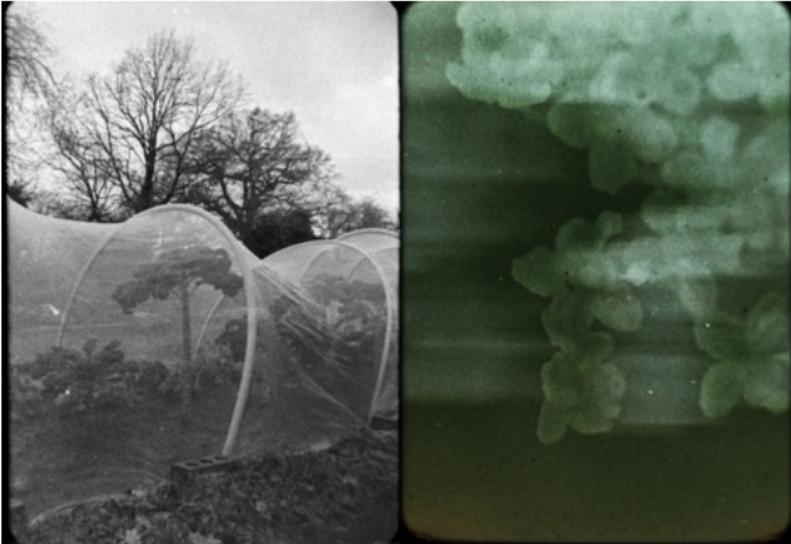


In times of connected disconnection can our VOICE bring us closer to others and to ourselves? Do singing activities with vulnerable groups have a 'healing effect' and alter the unique relationship between a person and their voice for the better? To find answers to these questions, we follow the voice journeys of vulnerable representatives of the community choir in Middlesbrough, the town known as one of 'the worst places to live in England'.

On Hannah Fields

Lewis Heriz

United Kingdom / 4 Min



A patch of land in Derby, UK, is adopted by an ex-NHS Psychiatric Nurse and transformed by a cyclical system of recovery. A poetic portrait of a place, the people who support it and that it supports.

On the Land of the Jingpo

Hanyu Chen

China / 16 Min



Documents the daily life and labor of a Jingpo family in Dehong, Yunnan, moving through fields, firewood areas and other living spaces, revealing their reflections on individual fate, cross-border labor, tradition, and changing times.

On the Roofs of Those Who Sleep

Antonello Pisano Murgia
Italy / 15 Min



The wandering souls of the rediscovered Necropolis of Tuvixeddu, eternal ghosts in search of a broader meaning to human responses, become singers of the history of the city and of what remains of the Necropolis and its artistic emergencies.

One Nation, Divisible

Tracey Anarella

United States / 71 Min



In a relentless pursuit of justice, a chaplain, a lawyer, law enforcement officers, and grieving families unite to confront the devastating effects of U.S. policies on Native peoples, as they search for answers to the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives (MMIWR), battling to prevent further vanishings and murders.

Our Neighbors in Néhou

Zeke Hanson

France, U.S. / 28 Min



An American family meets the French family that lived by their grandfather during WWII.

Ox

Beñat Gereka Bikuña
Spain / 10 Min



There was a time when oxen carved silent furrows and carried the life of the farmhouse with their slow, steady pace.

Today, their footsteps echo in the village squares, dragging stones and memory.

The land and the labor, transformed into tradition.

Paloma Negra: The Queen of Amphetamines

Jesús Pamplona, Javier Muriel
Spain / 52 Min



A criminal past begins with drug dealing in Colombia and continues with the birth of “La Negra” in Amsterdam: a top-level drug trafficker who made it to the list of the five most wanted women by Interpol. To hide herself and avoid capture, she looked for an unwary guy. She found Jesus Pamplona. After almost ten years without any contact, Jesus decides to reconstruct the image of former roommate and friend, Paloma. It is a difficult task, since their friendship is full of silences, lies, and absences.

Pulse

Joseph Dahdah

Canada / 14 Min



In a world of perpetual motion, worker and machine exist in a rhythmic dance of function and maintenance. Through an immersive, sensory-driven experience, the film amplifies the mechanical hums, rhythmic clanks, and ceaseless whirring that shape their shared existence. Shifting perspectives between the precise motions of the machine and the labouring hands of the man, the film explores their unspoken relationship—blurring the lines between observer and observed. As gears grind and routines repeat, who truly relies on whom?

Rag Dolls

Amy Adler

Mexico / 12 Min



Two women living with disabilities in Mexico face challenges, yet find ways to love and care for each other.

Regina B

Frances Barth

United States / 13 Min



A portrait of the painter Regina Bogat, who at the age of 84 had her first solo show at Zurcher Gallery in New York, presenting work from the 1960's. These paintings had only been seen once at her loft party. A part of the 10th Street art scene, Regina was the only woman artist working in the Bowery Studio building with Mark Rothko, James Brooks, Ray Parker and other Abstract Expressionists. A natural raconteur and independently minded painter, Regina subsequently married the painter Alfred Jensen and has continuously painted throughout her life.

Run and Drive

Hubert Hayaud

Guatemala, Mexico, U.S. / 24 Min



Run and Drive follows Julio, a Guatemalan driver, as he hauls two wrecked cars, one hitched to the other, from San Diego to Quetzaltenango. Like thousands of others, he buys vehicles declared “total loss” by American insurers in order to repair and resell them back home, part of a cascading economy of recycling. With only a few spoken lines, the film relies on a meditative soundtrack that amplifies the solitude and contemplative rhythm of this long road trip across borders.

Sacred Coils

Davide Petrosino

Italy/ 18 Min



In the Abruzzo region of Italy in a small village of Cocullo, a religious ritual in honour of Saint Dominic brings the population into close contact with the snakes of the area. A coexistence based on love, respect and a veil of mysticism.

The Sea in the Blood

Fernando Martín Llorente, Elsa Suárez Ucieda
Haiti / 19 Min



"Silence reveals stories that our eyes fail to see."

We traveled to Haiti, to a small fishing village on the shores of the Caribbean Sea, in search of stories of resilience. During the shooting, we discovered how its inhabitants are deeply shaped by the stories they have been told since childhood.

The Sky Is Falling

John Bright Mann

United States / 9 Min



Shot in S16mm film, seven performers embody the defensiveness and chilling anxiety resulting from walling themselves off from the natural world, finally losing focus, then function.

Sleeping With the Dragon

Mark L. Feinsod

United States / 10 Min



A first-person comedic documentary set in the 1980s. When Mark L. Feinsod was in middle school, he and his friends Mike and Steve had a Dungeons & Dragons campaign they took seriously. Once their friend Bindul joined in. They encountered a dragon and to everyone else's surprise, Bindul insisted he wanted to have sex with it. Now, decades later, nobody can agree upon what happened next in this hilarious movie about memory, friendship and childhood.

Small and Big

Zelamir Gvardiol

Serbia / 33 Min



23 years after the bombing of Serbia in 1999, the dropping of depleted uranium bombs and the destruction of chemical plants by NATO pact, the documentary team travels in search of survivors. After the ecological genocide, permanently polluted water, air and land continue to poison.

Sounds of Weeping: Funeral Marches in Maltese Society and Culture

Simon Farrugia, Philip Ciantar
Malta / 10 Min



An ethnographic film that delves into the emotional spaces created by funeral marches on the Mediterranean island of Malta. While Maltese wind bands are often celebrated for their vibrant festa marches, this documentary shifts focus to the evocative funeral marches that serve as spaces for personal and communal expressions of grief.

Spark in the Meadow

Bernardita Llanos

Chile / 17 Min



Law student Sofía Brito experienced sexual harassment by her professor, a renowned attorney and member of the Supreme Tribunal of Chile. As his research assistant, she worked with him on exceptions to legalize abortion. Her story was the spark that ignited the feminist surge across colleges in 2018. Students occupied schools, facilities in mass and marched in the street to denounce machismo, male abuse and violence.

The Spin Disturber

Hélène Lebon

Canada / 10 Min



On Prince Edward Island, vinyl is making a comeback as an act of resistance in the digital age. Blending nostalgia and authenticity, this cinematic essay explores the beauty of the tangible and the magic of etched sound, as an entrepreneur and artists reinvent a deep, intimate connection to music and time.

Summer Mass

Jacopo Ficulle

Italy / 6 Min



Francesco, Michele and Marcello are about to play in the band for the first time. The village moves in unison, flooding the main streets of the old town. The lights of the merry-go-rounds remain lit until well into the night. The feast of Saint Anthony coincides with the peak of public life in Amantea: it is June the 12th and for the children, their parents and the elderlies, summer has finally begun.

The Time of Life

Ioannis Koutouzis

France, Greece / 27 Min



Playful, sly, sometimes aloof, always quizzical, their eyes are beckoning you to embark on a journey. Of those who won't leave you unaffected, all you have to do is go through that luminous gate, let yourself imbibe the light, enter into the common room, the playroom. This world which looks so severe, this universe of silence and murmurings, is oddly chatty.

Sunrise Xuejian

Chin-Fa Chen

Taiwan / 28 Min



The story of a park ranger from the Atayal people, one of Taiwan's Indigenous groups, who reflects on his father's legacy as he watches the daily sunrise over Xuejian in his hometown, Taiwan. For three generations, his family has dedicated itself to this profession, forging a deep and inseparable bond with the mountains and forests. The protagonist, An-Liang, also brings his son along, retracing the paths once traveled by his father.

A Tale of Two Qallunaat

Kelly Jean Saxberg, Navalik Tologanak
Canada / 48 Min



This documentary, narrated by Martha Flaherty, tells the tale of two Qallunaat women from Thunder Bay, Ontario who travelled to Pond Inlet in the early 1970s and left a unique legacy of stories, film footage and sketches. Inuk Elder, Navalik Tologanak brings Sheila Burnford'S non-fiction book *One Woman's Arctic*, her film footage and hundreds of Susan Ross sketches to share with Elders and youth. The faces and stories of the people documented by the two artists more than 50 years ago are shared in the spirit of reconciliation.

Ten Cents: The Photography of Mike Flynn

Wyatt Otero

United States / 11 Min



An ad posted on Craigslist.com leads Wyatt, a filmmaker, to Mike, a 78-year-old photographer who has spent decades quietly creating masterful work. From forged press credentials to psychic monasteries, Mike's stories are as astonishing as his photos. Together, they sit down to explore the life of a great artist who never valued the price of his art more than the ten cents of paper it cost to print on.

Time to Land

Vincent Gaullier

France, Belgium, Senegal / 90 Min



Bruno Latour was a philosopher of ecology, a field thinker. From a field in Finistere, a housing estate in Wallonia, the outskirts of a Senegalese port or the foothills of the Alps, these “Earthly people” attempt to describe their territories, explore their dependencies, try to marry geology, biology and sociology. Each in their own way, they are participating in the emergence of an “ecological class.” It's an impetus that Bruno was hoping and praying would help create a balance of power to defend a habitable world.

Tristan in Paradise

Andrew G. Taylor

Australia / 6 Min



A French back-packer joins the Koonibba Roosters, the oldest Aboriginal football team in Australia. A short film portrait about history and Empire, memory and forgetting, Joachim Murat and Outback football.

Tumbling Towards Home

Imelda O'Reilly

Ireland / 15 Min



A coming-of-age story about Malcolm Adams, an Irish immigrant who moves to New York in 1989 to study acting under Alan Langdon. He works through the grief from the loss of his mother and his friend Philip Seymour Hoffman. This leads to his decision of where to put his hat down and call it home.

Urban Art in Bogota

Enrique F. Pilozo

Colombia / 4 Min



Brief explosions of colors and artistic manifestations on the walls of Bogota.

Vishnumaya: Making a Deity

Wes Shrum, Antony Palackal, N.B. Lekha
Kerala, India / 15 Min



Among many Hindu gods is a unique deity in South India who has a special relationship with his devotees. Narrated by two sisters, this documentary follows the evolution of a deity, once exclusively for the lower castes, but now popular among all levels of society.

Why Wouldn't You?

Maria Loftus

Ireland / 14 Min



We are living in a time when misinformation, political scapegoating, and targeted fear campaigns are increasingly used to demonise and marginalise people seeking protection. This environment has made it even more urgent for communities, educators, and advocates to respond with truth, empathy, and action. This film showcases the stories of grassroots solidarity in the inner city in Dublin, illustrating how ordinary people are choosing to stand with those experiencing forced displacement rather than succumbing to fear or apathy.

Writing a Wrong

Richard Lee Fertell

France / 5 Min



True Story. Important footnote in French History, Book-making History, and possibly Jewish History. Acceptable for children and connoisseurs of hand drawn cartoons. Includes academic references.

X-Evangelicals

Paul Nethercott

United States / 5 Min



X-Evangelicals is about a few individuals who found the courage to reinvent themselves. Every story is unique. The common theme? "To be who we want to be, we chose a new pathway, a new identity." The personal stories are a window into the complex reasons why some have chosen to abandon entire belief structures, friends, and family, to reinvent themselves.