

Los Angeles Filmforum and SEEfest present
Crossing Distance: Family, Archive, and Legacy in short films from Eastern Europe
Sunday, May 5, 2024, 7:30 pm
At 2220 Arts + Archives

Los Angeles Filmforum is the city's longest running organization dedicated to weekly screenings of experimental film, documentaries, video art, and experimental animation. 2024 is our 49th year. www.lafilmforum.org

All Los Angeles premieres!

Filmforum hosts a program from the 19th Annual SEEfest to present wonderful short films from Eastern Europe. Looking at how images play a role in connecting people across distances or generations, the films utilize a variety of direct and archival documentary approaches to find emotional riches.

Special Thanks to Vera Mijojlic and Gabrielle Fernandez of SEEfest



Program:

Hands: Triptych

By Kaja Rakušček

Slovenia, 2023, color, sound, 4:36

Los Angeles premiere!

Three micro-portraits of hands show how the way of life is reflected on the hands of a bass player, a tattoo artist and a retiree.

Self-portrait Along the Borderline

By Anna Dziapshipa

Georgia, 2023, color, sound, 50 min.

Los Angeles premiere!

An abandoned house opens the door to revisit the past by bringing to life a unique, nearly destroyed image archive from the unrecognized territory on the border of the Black Sea: Abkhazia, a place normally inaccessible for Georgians because of the ethnic conflict that happened between Georgia and Abkhazia back in 1993.

Composed largely of black and white home-movie clips and an introspective voice-over, this film becomes a pensive video journal by the director/protagonist. At an early age and continuing to adulthood, she finds herself caught between dual ethnicities and opposing national identities. – Michael Pardy

Valerija

Director and screenwriter: Sara Jurinčić

Croatia, 2023, color, sound, 15 min.

Los Angeles premiere!

The island tradition is that the women choose the image that will represent them on their grave after they're gone. Reality and subconscious mix, as the author questions: "How does it feel to have a family tree consisting only of women? What do our ancestress' whisper from their silent portraits?"

A meditation on family and inheritances, in the act of tending a grave.

The Silence of The Banana Trees

By Eneos Çarka

Hungary, 2023, color, sound, 24:06

Los Angeles premiere!

- FIPRESCI Award - Drama 2023

- Best Short Documentary Award - Sole Luna Doc 2023

- Audience Award - CinEast 2023

- Special Jury Award - BEAST 2023

A father finds shelter in the memories he created together with his daughter to whom he hasn't spoken in years. The film transforms into a go-between in an attempt to unite them through images, sounds, and letters.

"One of the best entries of the festival was *The Silence of the Banana Trees* (FIPRESCI Prize) by Eneos Çarka, my favorite film: an unspectacular, gentle documentary about a Hungarian father whose talented daughter has at some point renounced him and rejects any personal contact. He lives in a large, deserted house tastefully furnished with objects from a distant past, including two banana trees with gently swaying leaves, perhaps reminiscent of a trip they took together many years ago. The father spends his days here between his daughter's artwork and countless photos and slides from the time when he was still her most important inspiration and admired creative partner. The filmmaker patiently observes the father, listens, but also wants to mediate and intervenes in the family matter with a letter.

"As an experienced viewer, you now expect and fear the discovery of a dark secret. How the director deals with this, takes us by the hand and leads us to the simple yet surprising ending shows the credibility, the aesthetic quality and the strong emotional impact of this little film." - Achim Forst for FIPRESCI

Director Bios:

Kaja Rakušček (Hands: Triptych) (b. 1998) graduated from the University of Ljubljana with a degree in English Language and Literature. She is active in the fields of filmmaking, volunteering and poetry. During her ESC exchange at Luksuz Produkcija, she was improving her filmmaking skills and worked on more than 20 film projects, both individually and in groups. Since 2021, her poetry has been published regularly online, in print and at exhibitions. She is also culturally active in her work and volunteering ventures as a translator, editor, writer, curator and film festival worker.

Anna Dziapshipa (Self-Portrait Along the Borderline) born in 1982 and based in Tbilisi, Georgia, is a filmmaker and a producer specializing in documentary film. With a background in art history, film production, and cultural management, Anna explores themes of memory, identity, and the transformation of physical borders. She co-produced the latest fiction film of Aleksandre Koberidze *What We See When We Look at the Sky*, which won the

FIPRESCI Award at the International Film Festival and had a theatrical release in the USA, Germany, France, etc. She is also the maker of several short films: “The Hunter Erects the City” (2018), “Dear Dirty Tbilisi” (2016), “On Being Dziafshipa” (2018), “A House Left in a Dream” (2021). She is a producer of Salome Jashi’s first documentary *Bakhmaro* and together with her is a co-founder and director of the documentary film company Sakdoc Film. Anna shapes the company's artistic vision and provides support to documentary filmmakers in Georgia and the South Caucasus region. She is also a co-founder of the DOCA – Documentary Film Association Georgia. Anna, a 2022 Fulbright scholar, conducted her research at the University of Arkansas, focusing on the development of a syllabus for documentary production. She has been teaching this course since 2016 at the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs in the Department of Audio-Visual Studies. *Self-portrait Along the Borderline* premiered at Visions du Reel in April 2023, where it received the prestigious Jury Prize for Best Medium Length Film.

Sara Jurincic (Valerija) architect and filmmaker (b. 1989. Zadar, Croatia). Graduated at AF Zagreb 2015. Worked and exhibited with: W.O.R.M. Rotterdam, Klubvizija lab, CAFxCPH, Restart, KONTEJNER. In 2018, she established NOMAD STUDIO – art and spatial-experiment lab, involved in projects, exhibitions and workshops around Europe. In 2019. and 2020. She is part of Sarajevo Talents, EW Talent lab (Wiesbaden), Dok Leipzig Short n’ Sweet pitch (with the project “VALERIJA”). She won multiple awards for her debut film that has been shown on more than 30 international festivals, including Oberhausen Film Festival (international competition).

Eneos Çarka (The Silence of The Banana Trees) His films have screened at numerous festivals, galleries, and cultural events such as IDFA, FIPADOC where he received the Tënk Award, HotDocs, Thessaloniki, GoShort, Festival dei Popoli and more. He received the FIPRESCI Award in 2023 and served as a Jury Member in the IDFA Competition for Youth Documentary in 2022. His first feature debuted at IDFA Luminous section in 2023 where it received a Best First Feature Nomination. He is currently pursuing artistic research at the University of Southern California.

This program is supported by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and the Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles. We also depend on our members, ticket buyers, and individual donors.

Coming Soon:

May 19 – Films by Andres Garza and Francisco Romero

June 2 – Prismatic Ground Festival West

June 23 – Alee People

Memberships available, \$40 Student \$75 Individual, \$125 Dual, or \$225 Silver Nitrate

Contact us at lafilmforum@gmail.com.

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