

MIKA MATTILA

P O R T F O L I O

F I L M & V I D E O W O R K S

2 0 1 3 - 2 0 2 1

叠像 / CHIMERAS (2013)

FEATURE DOCUMENTARY FILM

www.chimerasfilm.com

<https://vimeo.com/113643853>

Chimeras
叠像



"CHIMERAS" — WANG GUANGJI, DI GANG — MIRA MATILA — HAYI BIRDEBIRD INC.
— TIGER — AREX — FINNISH FILM FOUNDATION — FINNISH ART COUNCIL
— MIKA MATILA — ZIRA HAKANEN — MIKKO SIPPOLA — NARERO NIKA — MIKA MATILA

YLE SVT



The Darkness Collection

Una colección de filmes sobre la oscuridad reunida por Oskar Alegria
 An international suite of films about darkness compiled by Oskar Alegria



1 Artazu / Spain



2 Lyon / France



3 Bergela / Portugal



4 Ouagadougou / Burkina Faso



5 Sumatra / Indonesia



6 San Francisco / EEUU



7 Bretaña / Francia



8 Bogotá / Colombia



9 Yllánstunturi / Finlandia



10 Staten Island / EEUU



11 Montréal / Canadá



12 Calais / Francia



13 Belo Horizonte / Brasil



14 Forest Bruselas / Bélgica



15 Buenos Aires / Argentina



16 Shoyna / Rusia



17 Hamburgo / Alemania



18 Yucatán / México



19 Santiago de Chile / Chile



20 Donapalau / Francia



21 Boston / EEUU



22 París / Francia



23 Moleenbeck Bruselas / Bélgica



24 Tel Aviv / Israel



25 Londres / Reino Unido



26 Tallahassee / EEUU



27 San Petersburgo / Rusia



28 Berlín / Alemania



29 Quixadá / Brasil



30 Isla de Wright / Reino Unido



31 Buffalo / EEUU



32 Perast / Montenegro



33 Massachusetts / EEUU



34 Les Lilas / Francia



35 Baltimore / EEUU



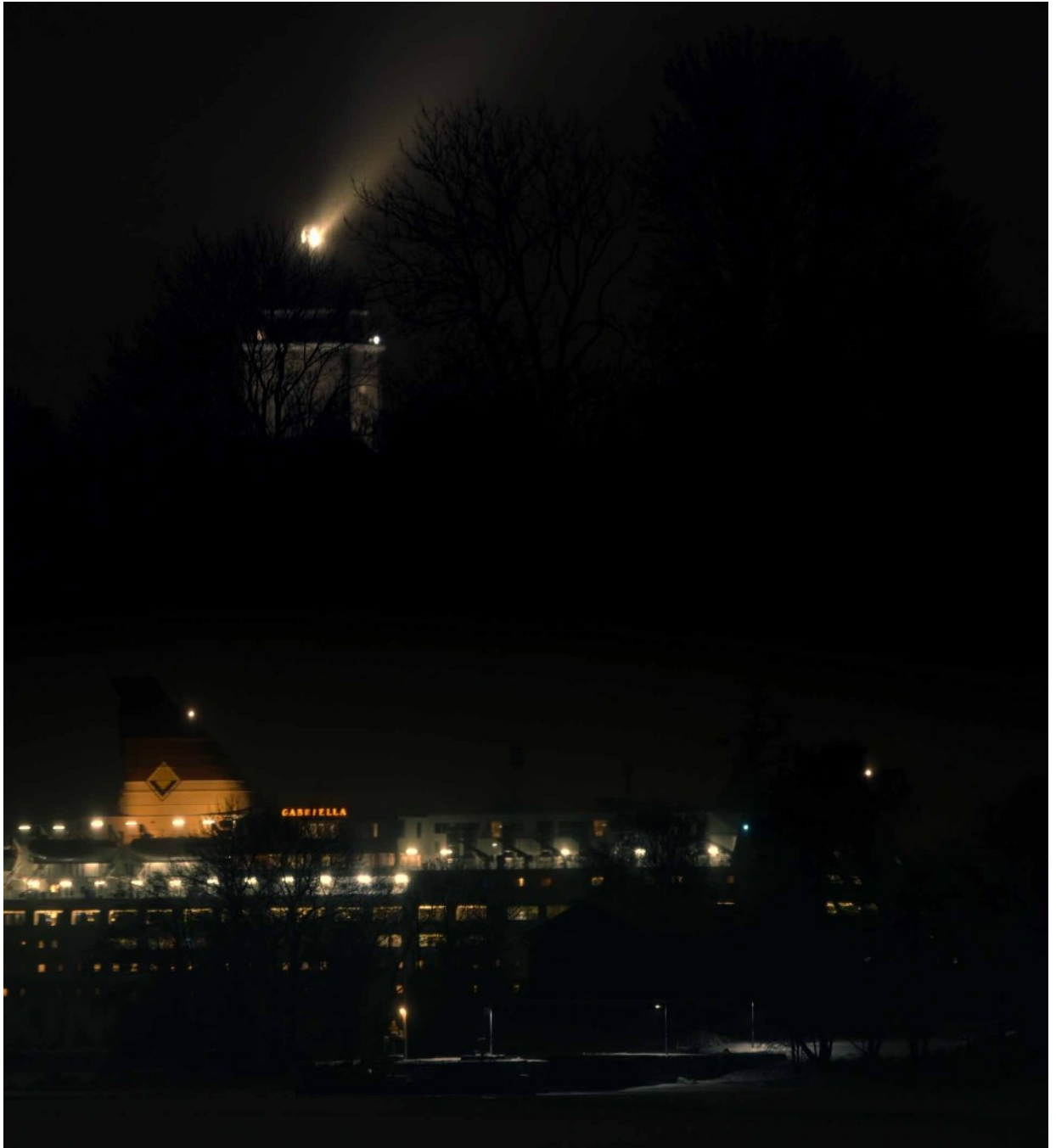
36 Isla de Ometepe / Nicaragua



37 Sofia / Bulgaria



38 Isla rey Jorge / Antártida





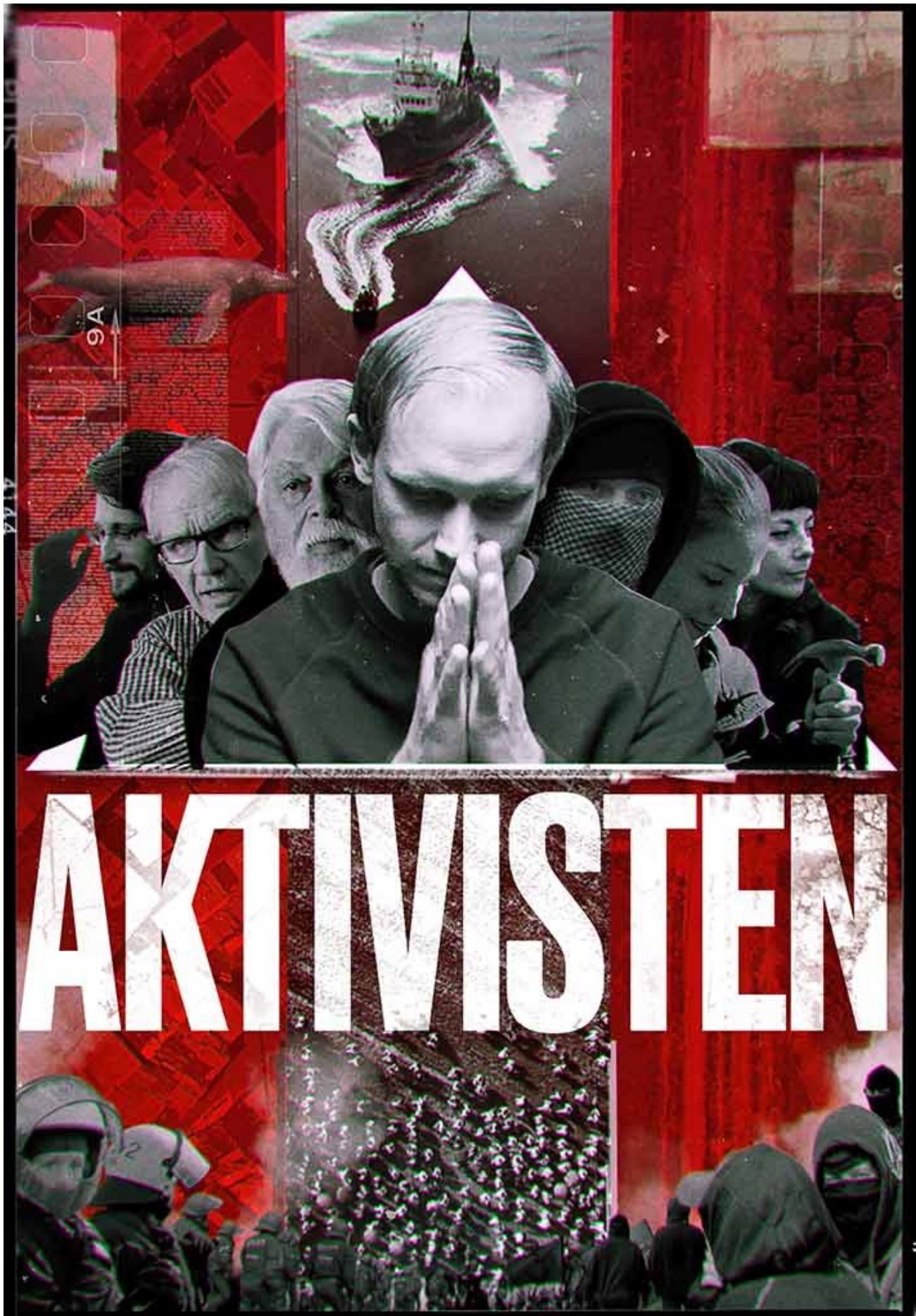
AKTIVISTEN / AKTIVISTI / THE ACTIVIST (2019)

TV-SERIES

www.ideasthetic.com/aktivisti

TRAILER: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZltqFGdnL5k>

SERIES: <https://areena.yle.fi/1-4590537>





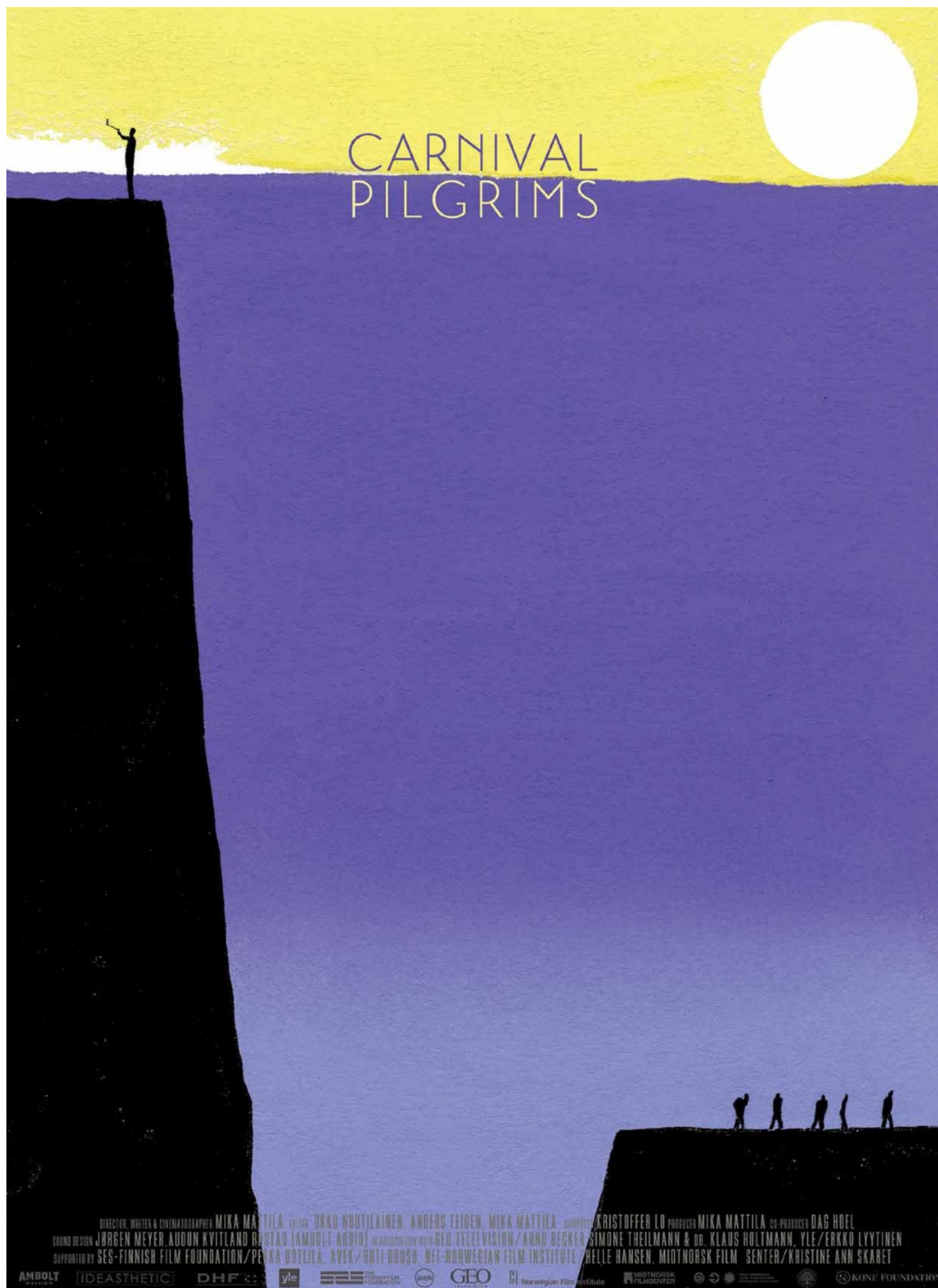


CARNIVAL PILGRIMS / IKUISET VAEHTAJAT (2020)

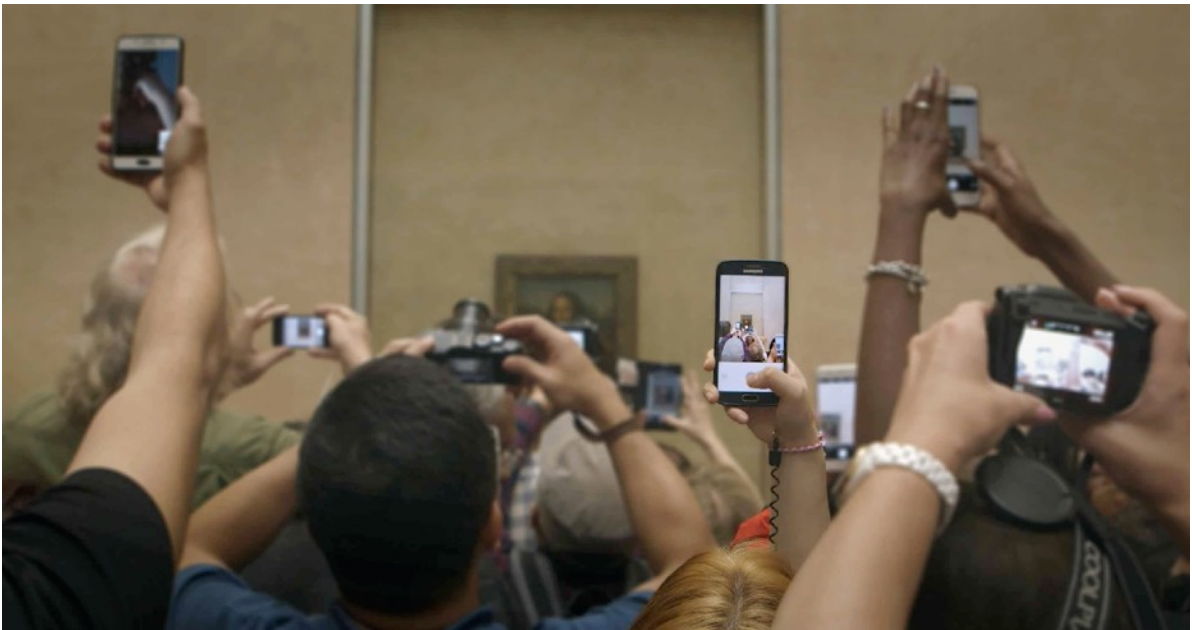
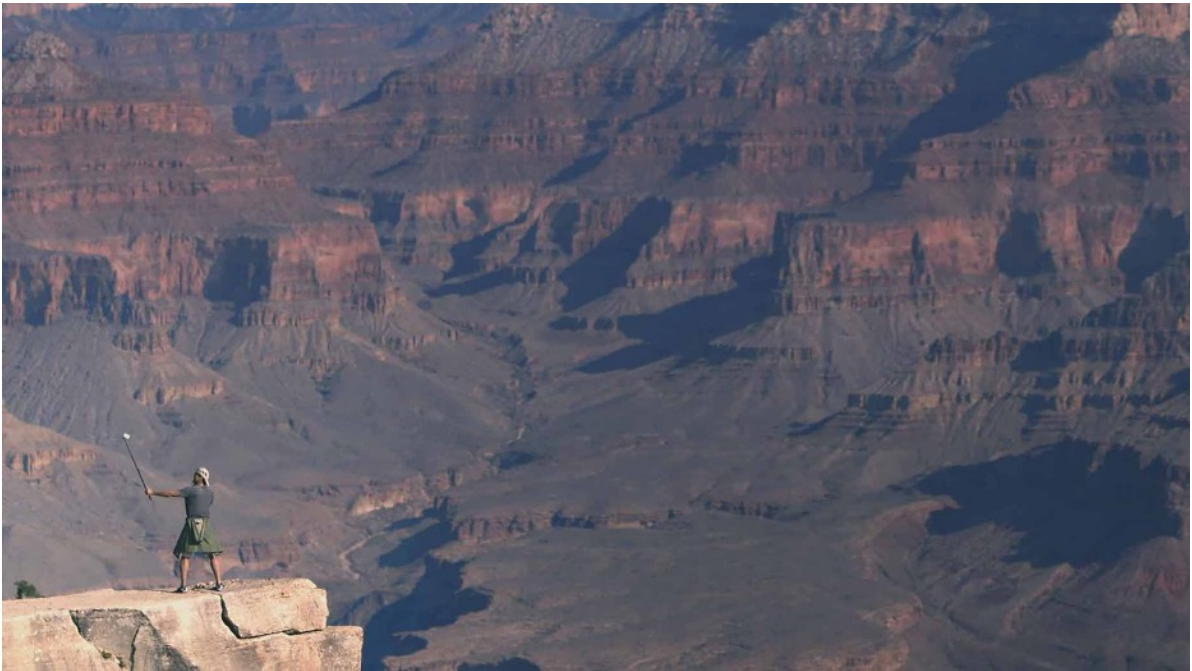
FEATURE DOCUMENTARY FILM

www.ideaesthetic.com/carnival-pilgrims

<https://vimeo.com/365966068> / PW: pilgrinale



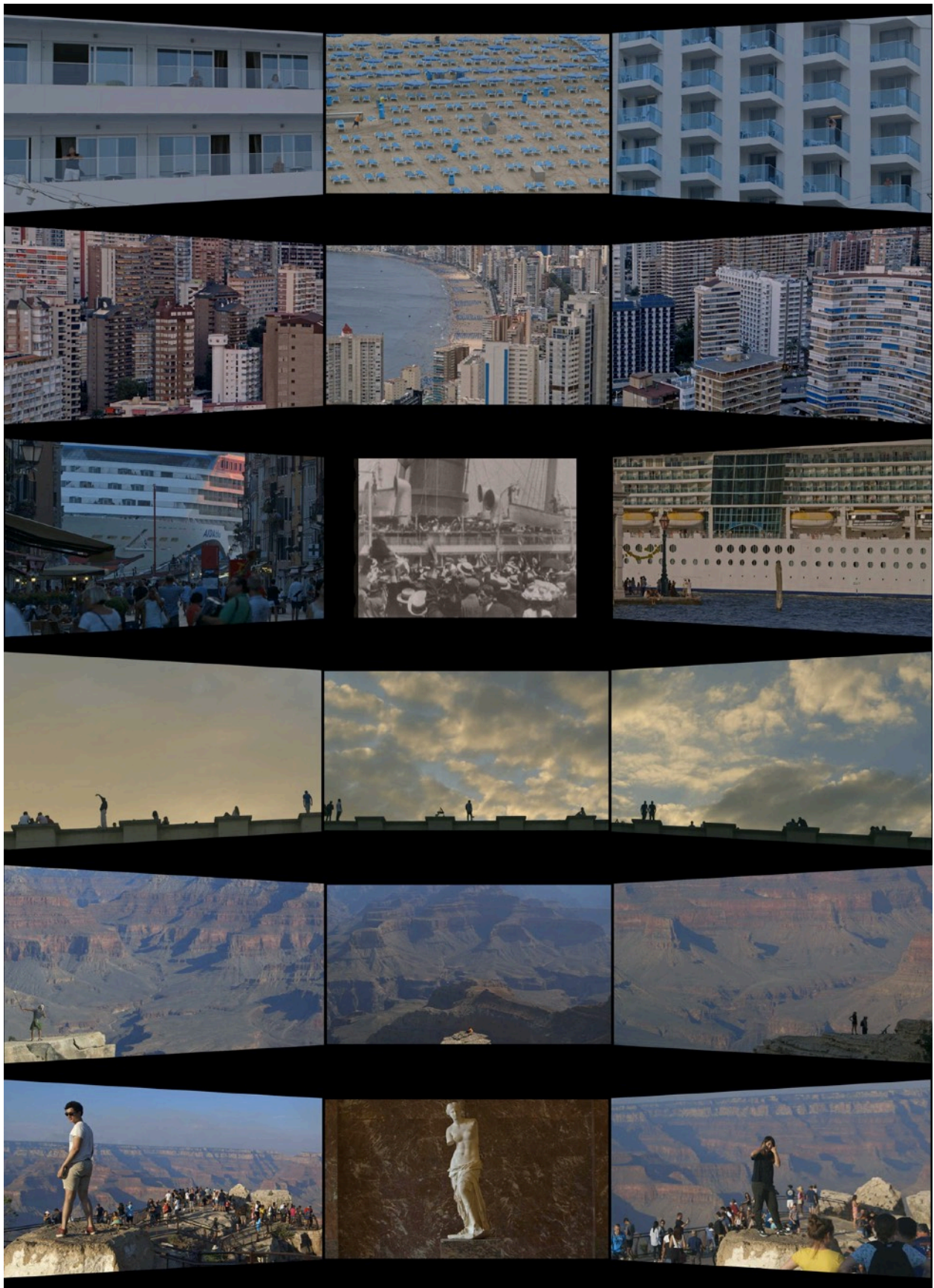




ELSEWHERELAND (2021)

3-cannel video installation / 150 min loop

4.6. - 29.8. 2021, VB Photography Center, Finland (with Martin Parr: *Life's a Beach*)





P R E S S Q U O T E S



This intellectually bracing, visually arresting documentary goes far beyond character study into a search for Chinese identity.

MAY 6, 2013 | John Anderson

Portraying two minds in aesthetic crisis - the troubled contemporary-art giant Wang Guangyi and the younger, tentative Liu Gang - Mattila also freeze-frames China at a moment when its aspirations are at war with its sense of identity.... Underneath the film's shiny surfaces and lush photography (Mattila himself handled the superb lensing) is a sense of consternation. Mattila goes far beyond a character study of two fascinating artists into a search for Chinese identity, at precisely the right time.

Sight&Sound | ***Bests of Sheffield Doc/Fest 2013: Chimeras.***

July 10th, 2013 | Ashley Clark

...The teasing question of whether or not Chinese contemporary art can escape the suffocating tendrils of globalisation and, specifically, Western influence, is central to Mattila's elegantly shot, drily amusing dual character study.... Mattila's masterstroke is not to force comparisons between the two men. Instead, through intelligent, theme-driven editing, he opens up space for the viewer to draw their own connections and process the fount of cultural and historical information dispensed and discussed by Gang and Guangyi in sensitively captured private moments. (An unobtrusive, restrained presence, Mattila has snagged tremendous access to his subjects.)...



Chimeras: Film Review

10/30/2013 | John DeFore

A doc about culture change in China that doesn't stop at lamenting vanishing folkways or cluck-clucking at rampant consumerism, Mika Mattila's *Chimeras* looks at the struggle between Eastern and Western mindsets through the work and lives of two celebrated artists. Tightly focused but appealing to both art lovers and those seeking insight into an evolving China... Mattila spends enough personal time with both artists to find ironies in the contrast between how each man lives and the philosophical underpinnings of his work. But he doesn't harp on these observations, and this thoughtful, serious film instead positions them as more clues about a nation struggling to understand itself while being forced to assert its place in a world long dominated by Western Civilization.

Los Angeles Times | ***Documentary spotlights Chinese art***

May 10, 2013 | Clarissa Sebag-Montefiore

Finnish filmmaker Mika Mattila's thought-provoking "Chimeras" -- which played this week at the San Francisco International Film Festival -- is a documentary about the search for a uniquely Chinese aesthetic in an international art world dominated by the West. Mattila spent four years trailing both subjects and he is able to home in on the smallest of details. Some are painful. ... A chimera is defined as a thing that is hoped for but is in fact illusory, or an organism containing a mixture of genetically different tissues, formed from fusion, grafting or mutation. Both definitions seem to pertain to Wang and Liu, as they examine and try to reconcile Chinese life and culture with global influences such as Coca-Cola and villa developments -- both in their art and for themselves. "Where are our roots?" Wang asks simply.



Chimeras: Can China's art stars create a truly Eastern art?

Apr. 24 2013 | Katie Taylor

Finnish director Mika Mattila successfully illustrates a rather abstract theme in this intriguing film: Can China's international art stars escape Western influence to create a truly Eastern art? His approach is to contrast the careers of two artists confronting the issue.



WHAT'S UP, DOC?

May 03, 2013 | Jason Anderson

Along with international premieres of recent Sundance doc-competition highlights ...the least classifiable titles often prove to be Hot Docs' most memorable. Mika Mattila's *Chimeras* juxtaposes the careers of two figures in China's contemporary art scene: a young photographer named Liu Gang and the far more established Wang Guangyi.

cinemaitaliano | ***CHIMERAS - Due artisti contemporanei in Cina***

06/12/2013 | Duccio Ricciardelli

TRANSLATION: The director follows the vernissages of the two artists throughout the country and in the meantime shows us with his clean and cinematically perfect images the urban and social changes that have affected the modern Chinese metropolis. The directorial style of North European Mattila, is the perfect match with the lingering expectations of Chinese metropolitan environments...*Chimeras* is a pure documentary film with visual influences ranging from Kaurismaki to Jarmusch with nod to the atmosphere at *Tokyo - Ga* by Wim Wenders

FilmQuarterly | ***Encounters of the First, Second, and Third Kind***

Film Quarterly, Vol. 67 | Neta Alexander

Filmmaker Mika Mattila explained that he has always been fascinated by cultural myths and collective fantasies. However, he stressed one should not confuse myth with truth: "*If you do not constantly check the mechanisms and hidden motivations behind the stories that surround you, you will never be able to see who you really are.*" Avoiding what Mattila calls "the brainwashing effect" of stories, *Chimeras* explores the challenges Chinese artists face when entering the international marketplace. ...This year's best films were the ones exploring an encounter of (at least) three kinds: between the West and "the rest," between the filmmaker and her documented subjects, and between the film and its audience.



Form-Busting Films Get Warm Welcome at Hot Docs

MAY 7, 2013 | John Anderson

What "*Chimeras*" and some of the other more adventurous docs at Hot Docs noted was the ability of filmmakers — and the capacity of the genre, in league with modern technology — to make movies about abstract ideas, even when conventional visual materials aren't readily available and may not even exist. In many cases, documentaries are becoming art films, whether or not their subject is art.



After touring some of the world's most prestigious documentary film festivals, director Mika Mattila has finally brought his film 'Chimeras' to home audiences.

06/12/2013 | Donagh Coleman

Mattila's debut is undoubtedly one the year's most successful Finnish feature documentaries... considerable cinematic, aesthetic and technical flair... "What happens in the Chinese art scene not only encapsulates the underlying currents of Chinese society, but tells us something about the world we are about to enter," Mattila notes, alluding to China's growing power on the world stage.



| The Great Gallery Wall of China: Mika Mattila's Chimeras

Issue No:181 | Mike Walsh

China is at crossroads, aught between a traditional past and a globalised, consumerist future. In *Chimeras*, Mika Mattila dramatises this conflict through the lives of two artists and depicts the tribulations that arise in mediating both worlds... beautifully shot and deeply insightful... Film's complexity stems from it's knowledge that there are no simple answers to the contradictory pulls that are experienced within rapidly changing cultures.



The excellent debut documentary film by Mika Mattila successfully unveils the spirit of contemporary China

Leena Virtanen | 17.02.2014

TRANSLATION: Mika Mattila might very well be the next international star of Finnish documentary film. In fact he kind of managed to reach that status already with his first feature film. *Chimeras*, has drawn an unusual amount of attention internationally, getting rave reviews within international press... Mattila has realised that through the art scene one can reflect those slow processes that gradually are shaping the ancient culture. ...*Chimeras* has been immaculately executed across the board, one example being the contemporary Chinese music used in the films soundtrack.



This is us! Startling and beautiful masterwork about our connection with the world. Carnival Pilgrims is essential viewing for everyone, everywhere

21/01/2020 | Joonatan Itkonen

In an early contender for one of the best films of the year, Mika Mattila captures with stunning clarity the hubris and arrogance of human tourism. Documenting the herd-like patterns of tourists in multiple countries, Mattila has created a stunning portrait about our disconnect with other cultures even at the height of global tourism... This isn't a long film, yet it feels massive in scope. *Carnival Pilgrims* creates an emotional bridge throughout the history that transcends exposition. In just ninety minutes Mattila takes us from indescribable beauty to horrific depths of consumer migration. Mattila's film is both a mirror and a shining light on our biggest faults. Always dispassionate yet not unkind. There is a deep understanding that within capitalist poison there are those that seek purpose and connection.



Mika Mattila über den Film "Woanders": „Das grundlegendste menschliche Bedürfnis ist nicht Sex. Es ist der Wunsch, woanders zu sein“

15/6/2020 | Tobias Bug

Trotzdem gab es 2019 mehr als 1,4 Milliarden weltweite Reiseankünfte. In der Pause sind wir gezwungen, nachzudenken: Warum reisen wir? Wie reisen wir? Zu welchen Kosten? Kurzum: Werden wir so reisen wie bis Februar 2020 oder passen wir uns an? Für mich waren diese Fragen am Anfang des Films motivierend, jetzt umso mehr. Ich beantworte sie aber nicht, sondern ergründe, beleuchte Aspekte der Antworten. Mein Film könnte für Freizeitreisende ein Spiegel sein: Um auf die Dynamik ihrer Träume und Sehnsüchte zu blicken, von denen die Tourismusindustrie lebte – bevor alles zum Stillstand kam. ...Für Sie ist das Reisen ein uraltes Rit. Alle Reisenden sind unterschiedlich. Was sie verbindet ist ihr Ritual – die Reise. Ich behandle zuerst ihre individuellen Reiseträume, die aber elitär sind. Der Massentourismus ist nicht nachhaltig, aber Flugzeuge und Kreuzfahrtschiffe haben das Reisen demokratisiert und es allen zugänglich gemacht.



| The spectacle of tourism.

issue 105 2/2020 | Ilpo Hirvonen

TRANSLATION: One of the biggest surprises of the DocPoint festival was Mika Mattila's *Carnival Pilgrims*. Using intertextual references from *Epic of Gigamesh*, this essayistic film explores what Mattila calls the most fundamental human desire: *To be somewhere else...* *Carnival Pilgrims* is truly a spectacular audiovisual display of fireworks. Progressing through breathtaking editorial rhythm, the associative spectacle of images and sounds crisscrosses freely from continent to continent, drawing audiences along to a compelling essayistic journey. In place of firm statements or conclusions, the film's quality lies within its powerful, but subtle cinematic reflection. Often the film feels as if it would be taking a critical stance towards tourism, but it is difficult to place this attitude anywhere within its narrative structure. Perhaps the critical stances lie rather within the attitudes that the audience brings with them to the theatre.



| Obligated to move

13/10/2020 | Mari Suonto

TRANSLATION: Pandemic has put a stop to our holiday plans and the climate change had made global tourism ethically questionable already long before. Is our craving for travel a fundamental human desire, or is it rather a frivolous luxury that we should dispose? ...Mattila says that mobile way of life has been at the heart of human everyday experience for most of human existence. Once the roaming hunter-gatherer tribes settled down to their farms, our lives were bounded by the land and organised through the calendar. This created the cyclical routines of the everyday life, but also the desire to escape these routines. The ritualised escape from everyday became the focus of Mattila's documentary, which was filmed during the last six years around the globe... At the heart of the film lies a certain tension that exists between our inner, romantic fantasies and the observable realities at these tourist destinations. We see ourselves as independent explorers, yet we end up chasing the myths that we've consumed in films, literature, art etc.

MIKA MATTILA

P O R T F O L I O
C I N E M A T O G R A P H Y
2 0 0 0 - 2 0 2 4

TURILAS & JÄÄRÄ / TOOTLETUB & JYRO (2000, 2nd unit kuvaajana, Finland)

animation series

Kansainvälisesti palkittu nukkeanimaatiosarja. 13 x 5 min.



KÄSIKIRJOITUS & OHJAUS:

Mariko Härkönen & Ismo Virtanen

ROOLEISSA:

Vesa Vierikko & Sam Huber

KUVAAJA:

Tero Makkonen

B-KUVAAJA:

Mika Mattila

TUOTANTO:

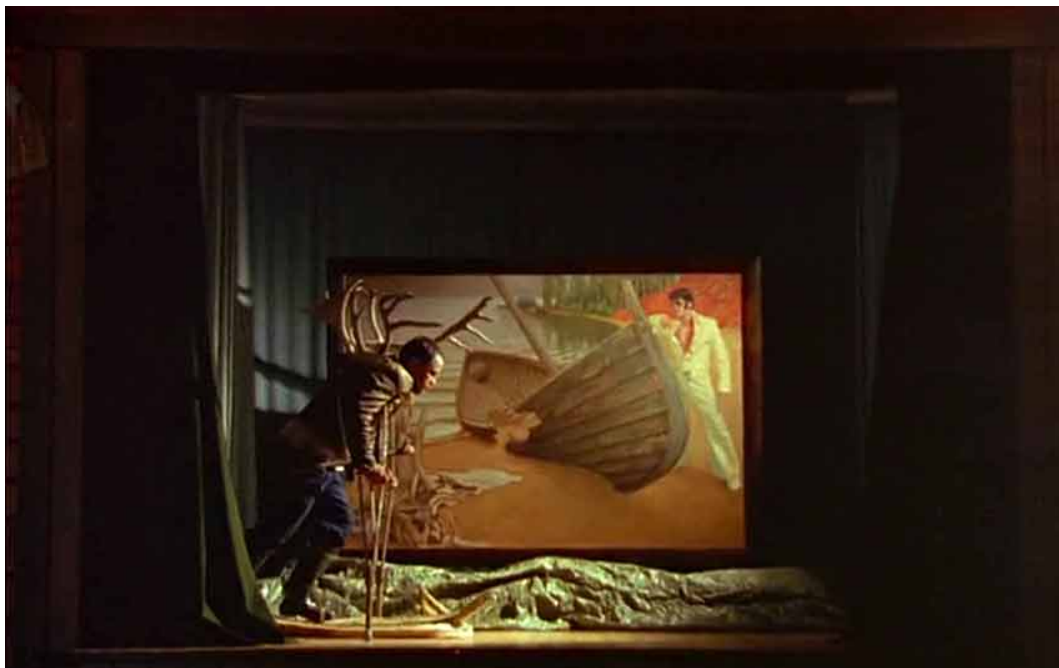
Liisa Helminen & Hanna Hemilä / Lumifilmi & Handle Productions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cp7qRBzoYZc>

UKKOSRUMPU / THUNDER DRUM (2000, Finland)

documentary film

Dokumenttielokuva toisinajattelijasta ja toisineläjästä, kansantaiteilija Tapani Hietalahdesta.



KÄSIKIRJOITUS / OHJAUS:

Katariina Lillqvist

KUVAUS:

Mika Mattila

TUOTTAJA:

Markku Mäkiranta

TUOTANTO:

Camera Cagliostro

YHTEISTUOTTAJA:

YLE / Eila Werning

<https://vimeo.com/23679643> / PW: sample2006

ARVOISA HERRA TARZAN (2003, Finland/Czech Republic)

documentary film

Dokumenttielokuva legendaarisesta suomalaisesta sirkustaiteilijasta Kalle "Caru" Nymanista.



KÄSIKIRJOITUS / OHJAUS:

Katariina Lillqvist

KUVAUS:

Mika Mattila

TUOTTAJA:

Jyrki Kaipainen / Victor Mayer

TUOTANTO:

Camera Cagliostro

YHTEISTUOTTAJA:

YLE / Eila Werning

SUOMALAINEN KUOLEMA (2006, Finland)

documentary film

Suomessa kuolee vuosittain 50000 ihmistä, silti valtaosa meistä ei ole koskaan nähnyt kuollutta. Miten suomalainen yleensä kuolee? Mitä kuolevalle tapahtuu? Mitä kuolemasta voi kertoa, kun sitä ei voi näyttää?



KÄSIKIRJOITUS & OHJAUS:

Nina Stenros & Anu Valve

KUVAUS:

Mika Mattila

MUSIIKKI:

Tuomari Nurmio

TUOTANTO:

YLE TV1

<https://vimeo.com/user5744621/deathinfinland> / PW: sample2006

FACING CHANGES / KASVOT (2008, Finland/Denmark)

documentary film

Beijing is preparing for Olympics. It's changing faces both symbolically and literally – the middle class invests in plastic surgeries to look more beautiful and more westerner.



KÄSIKIRJOITUS / OHJAUS:

Mika Koskinen

KUVAUS:

Mika Mattila, Mika Koskinen

LEIKKAUS:

Helena Öst

TUOTTAJA:

Kaarle Aho, Sigrid Jonsson Dyekjaer

TUOTANTO:

Making Movies / SF FILM

YHTEISTUOTTAJAT:

YLE & DR

<https://vimeo.com/23637217>

PW: sample2008

RED FOREST HOTEL / PUNAISEN METSÄN HOTELLI (2011, Finland/Sweden/Norway)

documentary film

In rural China, farmers are intimidated into relinquishing their land for tree plantations. A thriller-like true story of one man's attempt to make a film of China's efforts to prevent climate change, which instead turns into a revealing review of the actions of the world's second largest forestry corporation, Stora Enso, in southern China.



KÄSIKIRJOITUS / OHJAUS:

Mika Koskinen

KUVAUS:

Mika Mattila, Mika Koskinen

LEIKKAUS:

Kauko Lindfors

TUOTTAJA:

Risto Rumpunen, Mika Koskinen

TUOTANTO:

Luxian Films

YHTEISTUOTTAJAT:

YLE/ Iikka Vehkalahti, NRK & SVT

IDFA 2011 COMPETITION

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rOUrcBmudRQ>

GESAR BARD'S TALE / SANANSAATTAJA (2012, Finland/Ireland/Netherlands)

documentary film

Sanansaattaja kertoo tiibetiläisen jumalten inspiroiman runonlaulajan uskomattoman tarinan. Dawa, 35, on myös parantaja, jota pidetään tiibetiläisten keskuudessa pyhänä miehenä. Toisaalta hän on kuin kuka tahansa kolmekymppinen mies, jota kiinnostavat autot, taloremontit ja perhe-elämä vaimon ja lasten kanssa. Kaikki muuttuu suuren maanjäristyksen myötä...



KÄSIKIRJOITUS / OHJAUS:

Donaugh Coleman & Lharigtso

KUVAUS:

Mika Mattila

LEIKKAUS:

Timo Peltola

TUOTTAJA:

Venla Hellsted & Jouko Aaltonen / Illume

YHTEISTUOTTAJA:

YLE/Erkki Astala, IRE, VPRO

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rOUrcBmudRO>**EKOPOLIS / ECOPOLIS CHINA (2013, Finland)**

documentary film

When one billion rural Chinese move to cities, our planet will change irreversibly. Finnish professor Eero Paloheimo and Chinese billionaire Zhang Yue are going to save the world by reinventing the city. Zhang plans to build the tallest and most ecological building on Earth, while Paloheimo has designed a unique clean-tech eco-village outside Beijing. Whose utopia will save the planet?



KÄSIKIRJOITUS / OHJAUS:

Anna-Karin Grönroos

KUVAUS:

Mika Mattila

LEIKKAUS:

Mikko Sippola

TUOTTAJA:

Venla Hellsted & Pertti Veijalainen

TUOTANTO:

Illume

IDFA MID-LENGTH COMPETITION 2013<https://vimeo.com/78913399>

写在灰尘 / WRITTEN IN DUST (2014, China/UK)

silent feature film

Three friends, young, rural migrants, arrive in the city seeking the new life that modern Beijing promises, but their struggle leads to moral corruption, betrayal and, ultimately, tragedy. This contemporary silent film, with a modern take on traditional Chinese music has been made to be always played with live music accompaniment.



CAST: Bin Ba, Lily Guo, Nick Ma
WRITTEN & DIRECTED: Gareth Rees
CINEMATOGRAPHY: Mika Mattila
MUSIC: Chen Ying & Richard Carciofo
PRODUCER: Ren Yun / Brownian Motion llc.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sgZpleVQ0yA>

그림자 꽃 / SHADOW FLOWERS (2019, Republic of Korea)

documentary film

The North Korean Ryun-hee Kim defects to South Korea in 2011. To the astonishment of South Korean officials and world medias, she wants to return back to Pyongyang. A disturbing story that turns our ideas about North and South Korea on their head.



DIRECTOR: Yi Seung-Jun (2020 Academy Award Nominee / IDFA Best Feature 2012)
CINEMATOGRAPHY: Yi Seung-Jun, Mika Mattila (North Korean parts)
PRODUCTION: Kam Byung-Seok, Yi Seung-Jun / Bluebird Pictures

IDFA 2019 FEATURE COMPETITION

<https://vimeo.com/368733068>

ORKESTERIN EDESSÄ / CONDUCTIVITY (2020, Finland)

documentary film

Orkesterin edessä seuraa kolmen lahjakkaan muusikon opintoja Sibelius-Akatemian kapellimestariluokalla, joka on alallaan yksi maailman arvostetuimmista. Kuinka vakuuttaa orkesterin soittajat siitä, että tietää mitä tekee, kun oma mieli on täynnä epävarmuuksia?



OHJAUS: Anna-Karin Grönroos
KUVAUUS: Mika Mattila
LEIKKAUS: Okku Nuutilainen
TUOTANTO: Venla Hellsted & Elli Toivoniemi / Tuffi Films.

TAMPERE FILM FESTIVAL GRAND PRIX 2020

<https://youtu.be/UvA7qQLR8oQ>

PARLER AVEC LES MORTS / TALKING WITH THE DEAD (2020, France)

documentary film

Twenty-five years after the war, a mass grave was discovered in northern Bosnia. Darija Vujinovic travels around the country searching for families of the missing. She gathers their memories and the four drops of blood needed to identify the bodies...



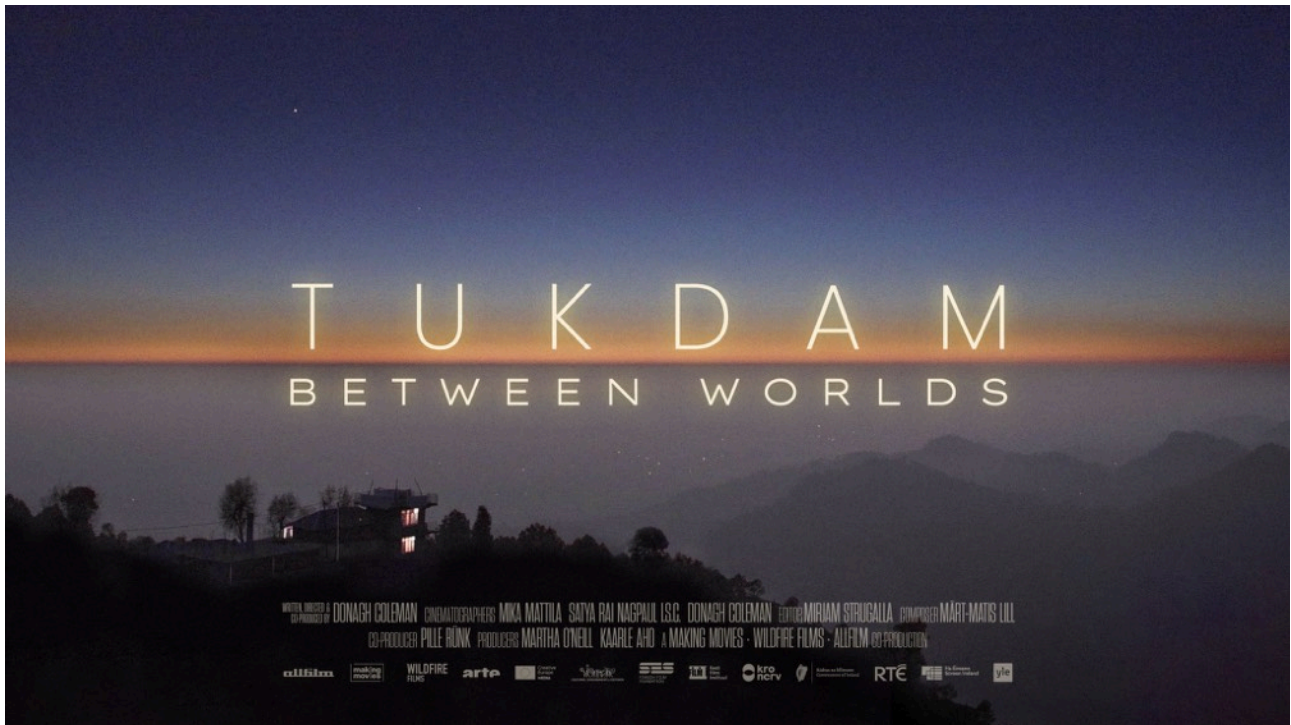
DIRECTOR : Taina Tervonen
CINEMATOGRAPHY: Mika Mattila
EDITING: Amrita David
PRODUCTION: Delphine Morel / TS Productions

SELECTION OFFICIELLE CINEMA DU REEL 2020

TUKDAM - BETWEEN WORLDS (2022, Ireland, Finland, Estonia, France)

documentary film

Feature documentary on Tibetan death meditation practice that raises questions that blur division between life and death to an unprecedented degree.



DIRECTOR: Donagh Coleman

CINEMATOGRAPHY: Mika Mattila & others

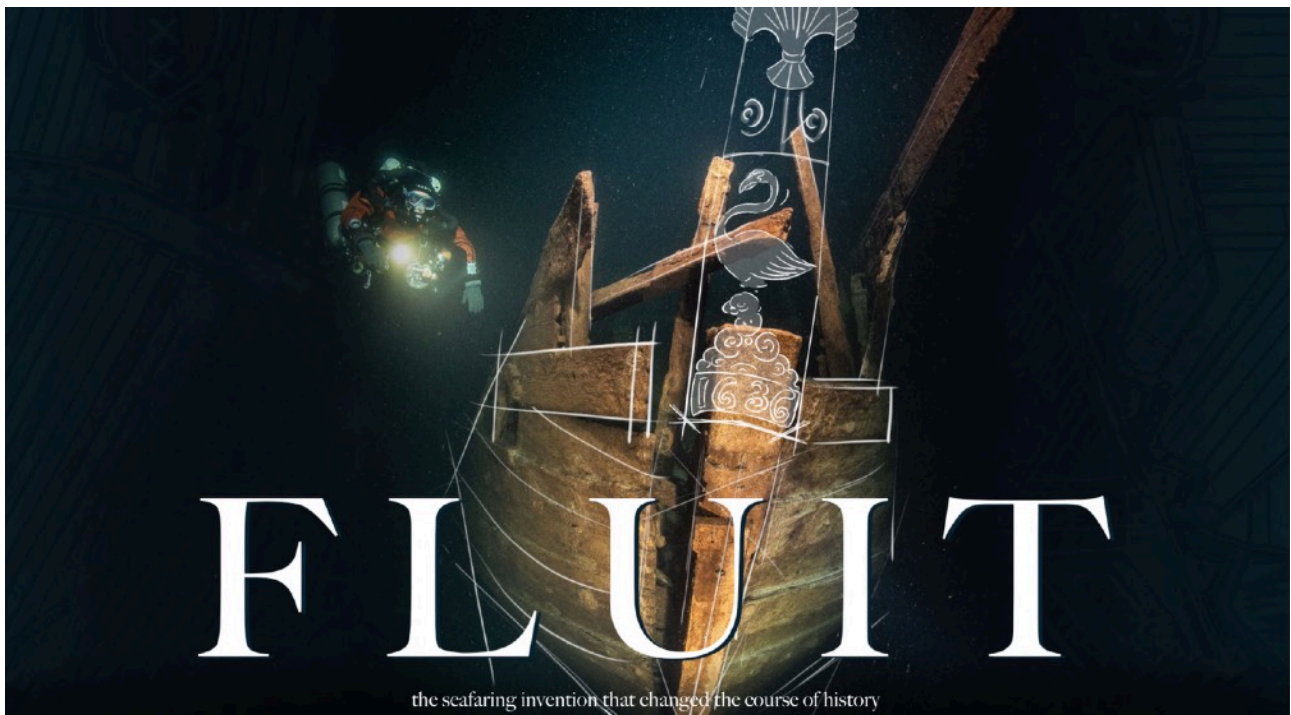
PRODUCTION: Martha O'Neill/Wildfire Films & Kaarle Aho/Making Movies & Pille Runk/Allfilm

FINNISH PREMIERE: LOVE & ANARCHY HELSINKI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 2022

FLUIT (2024, Netherlands, Sweden, France, Finland)

documentary film

17th century wreck found lying at the bottom of Baltic Sea leads to a revelatory exploration of a seafaring invention that changed the course of history and laid foundations on the globalised world.



DIRECTOR: Hanna Hemilä

SCRIPT: Beata Harju

ANIMATION: Xavier Picard

CINEMATOGRAPHY: Mika Mattila

PRODUCTION: Hanna Hemilä/Handle Productions (FIN), Annemiek van der Hell/Windmillfilms (NL), Xavier Picard/Pictak. (FRA) & SVT (SWE)