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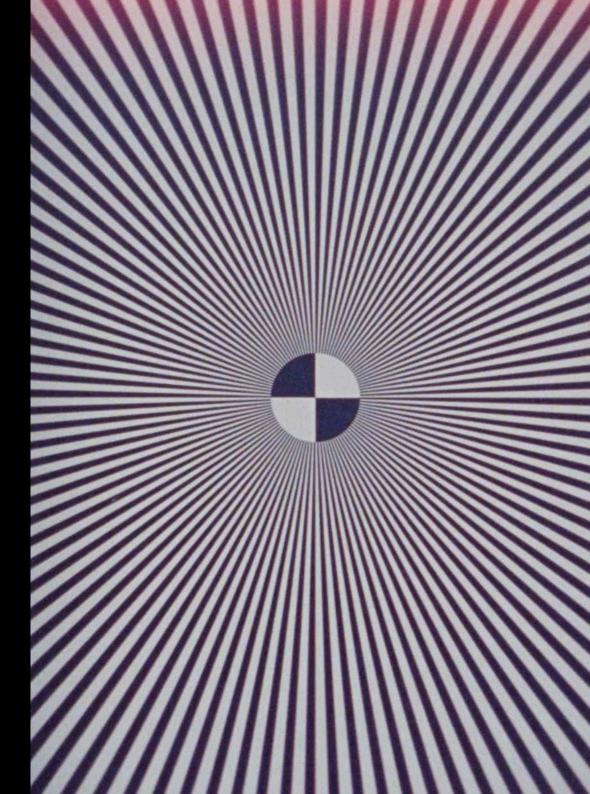


Fundamental Errors

Documentation of Fundamental Errors in Early History (performance) and Limpia con huevo / Mal de ojo (film, 2025) Mauricio Freyre, Crudo #1, Museo Reina Sofía, Madrid, June 5 2025.



With the support of MNCARS Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, L'Internationale, Museum of the Commons, inisterio de Cultura de España, Ayudas para la producción e investigación artístic



'Fundamental Errors' is a film installation that explores how fictions, omissions, and distortions have shaped Western natural and scientific history by tracing four foundational narratives of an Andean tree that unknowingly molded global geopolitics. Through the genealogy of the quina (cinchona) tree, a species native to the Andes once exploited as a colonial weapon for its anti-malarial bark the installation examines how a plant became a strategic resource for imperial armies, enabling European expansion across tropical territories in Asia and Africa. Its use persisted until World War II, when synthetic substitutes replaced it.

Combining diaries, travel notes, fables, and testimonies spanning four centuries (1663, 1798, 1857, 1952), the project weaves together a ¹ condesa miraculously cured of malaria in Lima; a ² Shuar man transformed into a jaguar devouring a colonial soldier; a ³ Bolivian watercolorist traveling with an English trader of alpacas and quina; and an ⁴ encounter between an Amazonian community and a U.S. botanist during the largest search for a medicinal plant in history. These narratives intertwine with fragments from the artist's own research, which began with unclassified botanical archives at Madrid's Royal Botanical Garden and extend to contemporary testimonies from Kañari (Peru), one of the quina tree's last habitats, now threatened by copper mining.

Conceived as a scenario rather than a fixed form, the installation unfolds as a stage set, a backdrop where a triptych of off-screen voices interlaces historical and contemporary fragments around the quina tree. Foundational texts, archival traces, and field notes converge with a present-day voice that speaks from lived experience. Their narrative spans from seventeenth-century writings to contemporary testimonies, ultimately closing with those of the Kañari community in Lambayeque, one of the last remainiang habitats of the cinchona.

Presented as a single-channel film or a multi-screen installation, the work can be activated through live performance and an accompanying soundtrack in which readers, voices, synchronized lighting, and sound intervene. The projected images operate as short loops, generating visual rhythms in dialogue with the spoken word and the soundtrack. These images draw from diverse sources, including the documentation of research journeys and refilmed archival material of varied nature.

The sound design, conceived specifically for the installation, interweaves music, field recordings, and studio takes in which the dialogues are performed.

Bado, Sebastiano. Anastasis Corticis Peruviae, seu Chinachinae defensio. Genuae, (1663), Caput II, Liber I, pp. 22-24.

² Humboldt, Alexander von. Tagebücher der Amerikanischen Reise VI (1798–1805), p. 148r. Manuscrito original. Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, MS germ. quart. 298.

³ Savage, Santiago (1857-1858). Series 01: Annotated watercolour sketches by Santiago Savage. Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales.

Camp, W. H. (1952). Plant hunting in Ecuador. Memoirs of the New York Botanical Garden, 8(1), 1–84.

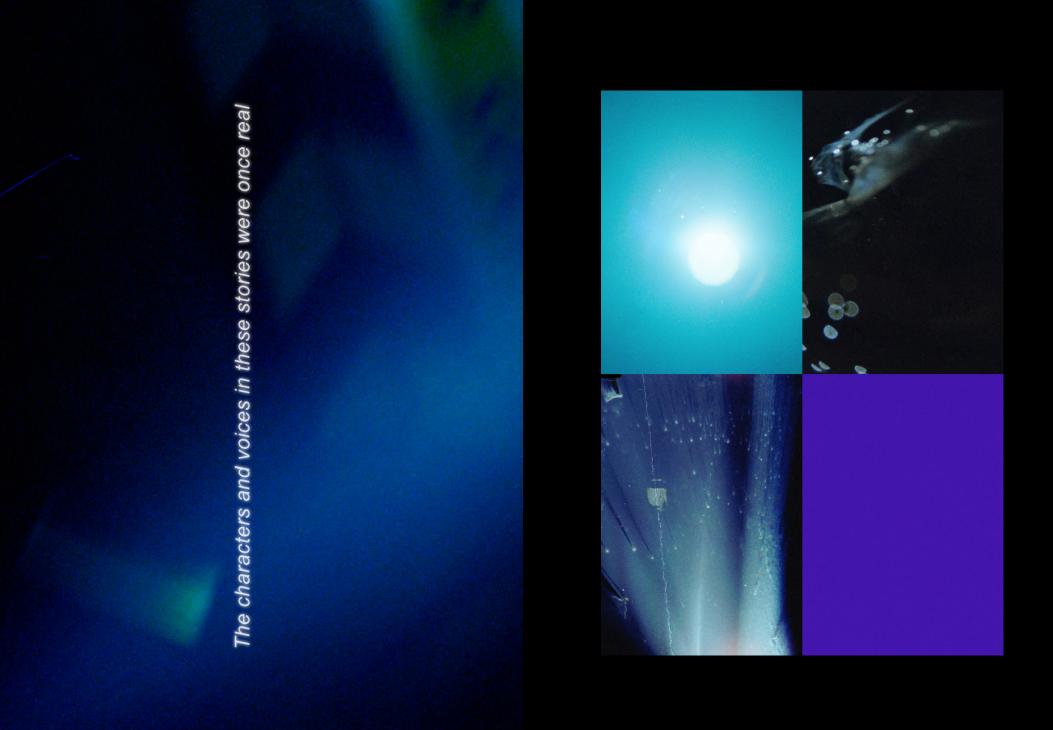


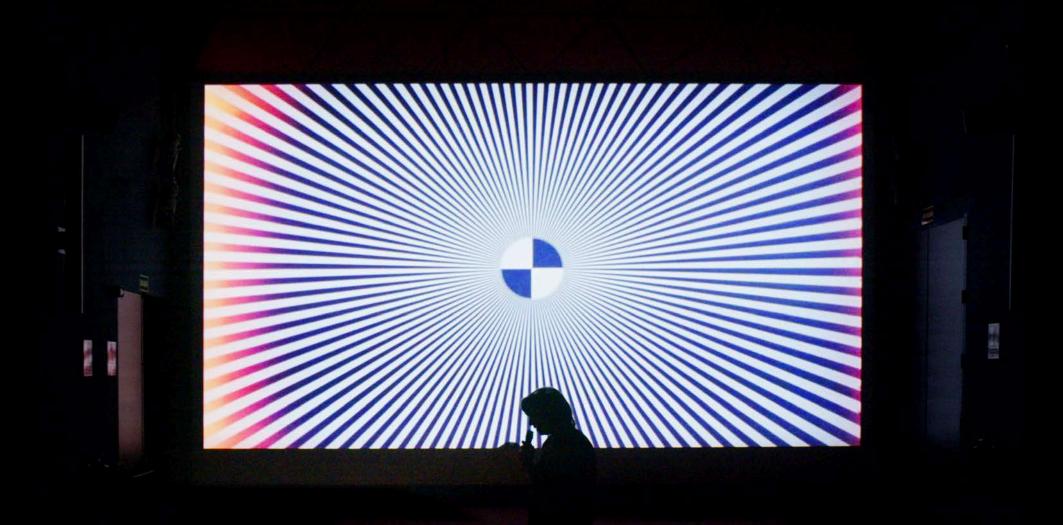
The project originated as a reading and writing group held at the Museo Reina Sofía, bringing together scientists, historians, writers, and activists to reflect on the intersections of nature, colonial history, and fiction. Participants in the group and collaborators on the project included, among others:

- -Nataly Allasi Canales Evolutionary biologist at Kew Gardens, Indigenous rights activist
- -Nicolás Cuvi Biologist and historian, epistemologies of the South, FLACSO Ecuador
- -Alejandro Gómez Silvera Forest engineer, INIA Perú
- -Tilsa Anahí Otta Vildoso Experimental writer, poet, and artist
- -Emanuele Fabiano Anthropologist, specialist in Indigenous cosmologies and extractivism, EHESS
- -Saló Musician, DJ, producer, activist, and Peruvian cultural manager
- -Laura Pacas Actress, director, theater as a tool for social transformation















Estados generales

Festival Int. de Cinéma de Marseille FIDMarseille

Premier Film Comp., Première Mondiale

Ji.hlava International Documentary
Film Festival, Ji.hlava IDFF
Testimonies Competition





With the support of:
ICAA Ayuntamiento de Madrid, DAFO
Hubert Bals Fund + Europe programme of International Film Festival Rotterdam
Real Jardín Botánico de Madrid
CSIC Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas
Centro Cultural Amador Ballumbrosio

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A few seeds preserved in Madrid's Botanical Gardens are sent back to the south coast of Peru, where they were collected centuries ago. A sensual imaginary journey, a counternarrative to colonial despoilment.

Since the colonial system, different polymorphous regimes of power extend and feed each other: colonialism, European modernity, anthropocentrism and Western technoscience. The film is conceived as a counter-narrative that explores the spectral capacity of the archive, offering a critical perspective to examine the continuity of contemporary neocolonial structures.

Estados Generales opens with a sensual kiss exchanged in the midst of lush vegetation in Madrid's Botanical Garden. Besides plants and trees from Europe, America and the Pacific, the garden also holds archives of scientific expeditions to former colonies, drawings and herbariums, some of them containing unidentified and uncatalogued specimens, gathered in a mysterious room in the shade of History. This is where Mauricio Freyre chooses a sample of seeds to imagine their journey in reverse, from the colonizing to the colonized country. While during the day, the life of the Garden quietly goes on, at night, two archivists secretly prepare the return trip. Divided into several envelopes, the seeds embark for another continent. Until then fixed, the camera now follows the movement of the waves in the depths of the night, before resting on a beach in Chincha valley, Peru. There, a young woman opens her mail. A guided tour in a museum reminds us of the atrocities of slavery. Then, we come face to face with a nature dominated by man.

From pesticide fumigations along clementine fields to the processing of the fruits in a factory in accordance with norms imposed by giant corporations, it appears that the colonial order lives on through capitalism. But even though the film makes this sad observation, it also offers a counter-narrative, at the opposite end of hegemony, that challenges the order of things. Such is the case with the spectral presence, embodied by a mutating subjective camera, that in turn disturbs perception. If night is the place where anything is possible, it is in that moment, at the break of dawn, that the conspiratorial hands of two kids plant one of the seeds that have just come back in the middle of a cornfield. With this tiny gesture, they repair a little of the colonial dispossession and offer the beginning of an answer to the question asked by two botanists on the other continent—can a hundred-year-old seed still germinate?

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Louise Martin Papasian FIDMarseille





Interview by Louise Marie Papasian to Mauricio Freyre

Estados Generales imagines the return journey of a sample of seeds from Madrid's Botanical Garden to the southwest coast of Peru, in an Afro-Peruvian village. How did the project come about?

The project began as I was completing my previous film, Interspecies Architecture, commissioned for the Taiwan Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale. During production, I spent time in Taipei's forest, researching relationships between architectural layers: membranes, and the erasure of visible and invisible boundaries. In Taiwan, I'd research on different parallels with Peru: colonialism, systems of power, overlapping historical layers... That film unfolded as a journey, in the forest following characters who gradually merged with their surroundings. I explored human dissolution into the environment, blurring limits through the concept of opacity. Back in Madrid, I started writing Estados Generales, transposing these ideas to a more personal context. Madrid's Botanical Garden had always attracted me, and I was drawn to connecting two seemingly unrelated territories and timelines through an inverted journey.

The particularity of this sample is that the seeds are unidentified and therefore not catalogued. Why did you choose these particular seeds? Could you comment on this aspect? for restoration, discards stored in Deposit S59, a 15m² basement room housing unarchivable items.

Gaining their trust, I secured keys to visit S59 twice weekly that summer. I photographed contents, even discovering unopened boxes dating to the 1800s. When asked when this material couldn't be archived, reasons varied: missing data, contamination, or simply lacking "scientific value", yet it couldn't be discarded as Spanish state heritage. The oldest specimens were turning to dust. I documented this, cataloguing particulate matter using grids to quantify and scale it

This non-archive materialized the contradictions I was investigating: the fusion of modernity's scientific method and colonialism's flattening gaze, which discards anomalies through a paradoxical process. As the herbarium director states in the film, "Archiving is the way we order the world's complexity." Here, the archive operates by producing dead artefacts: it extracts and destroys agency in the name of preservation, thereby erasing alternative futures and eliminating the capacity to conceive that the past could have been different. Its hegemonic narrative sells us the idea that 'there is no alternative,' never has been, never will be.

Different narrative and visual writing styles are interwoven: the imaginary return of the seeds, documentary sequences, scientific shots filmed in macro. How did you conceive this interweaving in terms of narrative structure? What

Through the question of the conservation in Europe of goods looted from the colonies, the film proposes a reflection on neocolonialism, and offers an emancipatory counter-narrative.

How did you approach this dimension? What were your references, both textual and cinematographic?

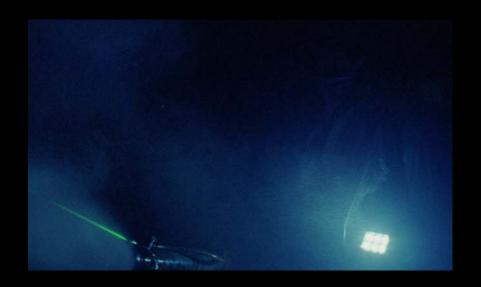
Fantasizing about the seeds' return, their latent potential to regerminate responds to our contemporary slide toward fascist-imperial revivals. The film exposes capitalism/colonialism's entwined powers. Europe's foundations are colonial; these discarded seeds propose buried alternatives. Capitalism's categorizing drive has trapped us in a dead end. The film urges recovering other visions to reimagine worlds beyond it.

Could you explain the title of your film, Estados Generales?

It references the États Généraux of May '68, a moment when unions organized protests, igniting Europe's last great utopian surge (later echoed in Spain's 15M movement). Today, as fascism coopts change, the title demands urgent rethinking of the structures hurtling us toward the collapse of alternatives futures.

1. Ruiz, Hipólito. "Memoria sobre la Vegetación de la Costa Peruana y sus Utilidades" [Memoir on the Vegetation of the Peruvian Coast and Its Uses]. 1786. Fondo Ruiz y Pavón, Carpeta 18, Documento 7. Archivo del Real Jardín Botánico, Madrid.





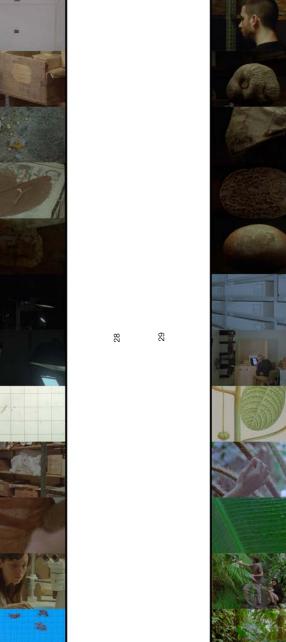
















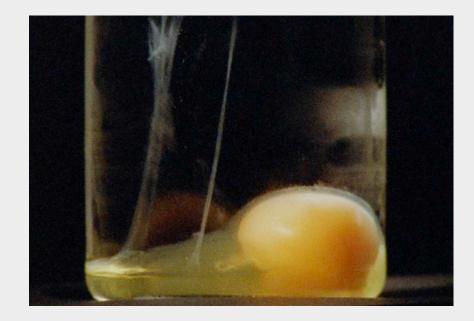




l'internationale

MUSEO NACIONAL CENTRO DE ARTE REINA SOFIA

Limpia / Mal de ojo







With the support of:

MNCARS Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid, L'Internationale, Museum of the

Commons, Ayuntamiento de Madrid

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In sixteenth-century Europe, according to humoral medicine, certain maladies were attributed to passions such as envy and were believed to be transmitted through the gaze. By contrast, in pre-Columbian worlds the same violence of looking was understood as a spiritual disequilibrium that bound body, territory, and community; healing sought to restore relations with tutelary spirits, ancestors, and the collective. Colonization imposed a universalizing European medical model that delegitimized Indigenous knowledge and persecuted local purification rites as superstition—despite analogous popular practices in Europe that were themselves policed by Church and state.

Conceived as a staged composition, the work juxtaposes the imagery of the 'evil eye' (mal de ojo) with gestures of the 'limpia', not to illustrate ethnographic content but to rehearse ways of seeing. This friction unsettles the hierarchy between observer and observed, and with it the authority of the filming position: the camera does not claim to speak about but to speak nearby, refusing a didactic voice and allowing meaning to emerge from relation rather than mastery. In this sense, looking is treated as a practice with consequences—capable of wounding, but also of repair.

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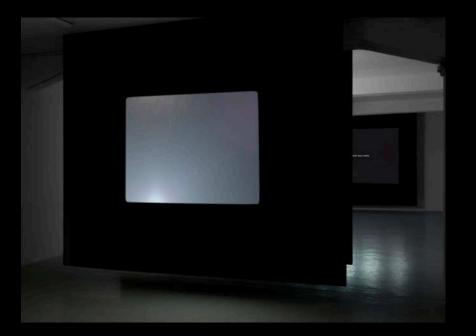
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Operating as a gesture of symbolic and epistemological resistance, the piece understands shamanic healing as cultural survival amid colonial violence. Ritual actions point beyond the expulsion of an external harm toward the reconstitution of bonds—with place, with the dead, with others. Historical traces—such as inquisitorial persecutions of the 'evil eye' in the Americas or manuals like Extirpación de la idolatría del Pirú (1621)—are not presented as sources of authority, but as documents of epistemic violence that the work counters by enacting another ethics of attention. Rather than translating or absorbing alterity, the installation opens a space for other modes of perception, recognition, and narration, where vision is accountable to the relations it activates.







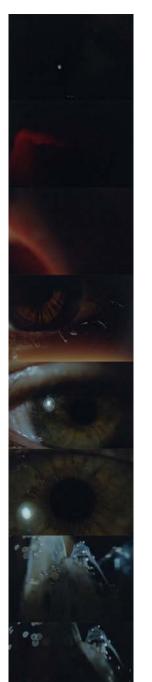


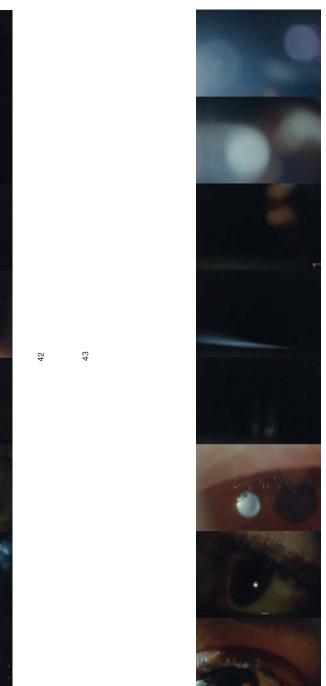






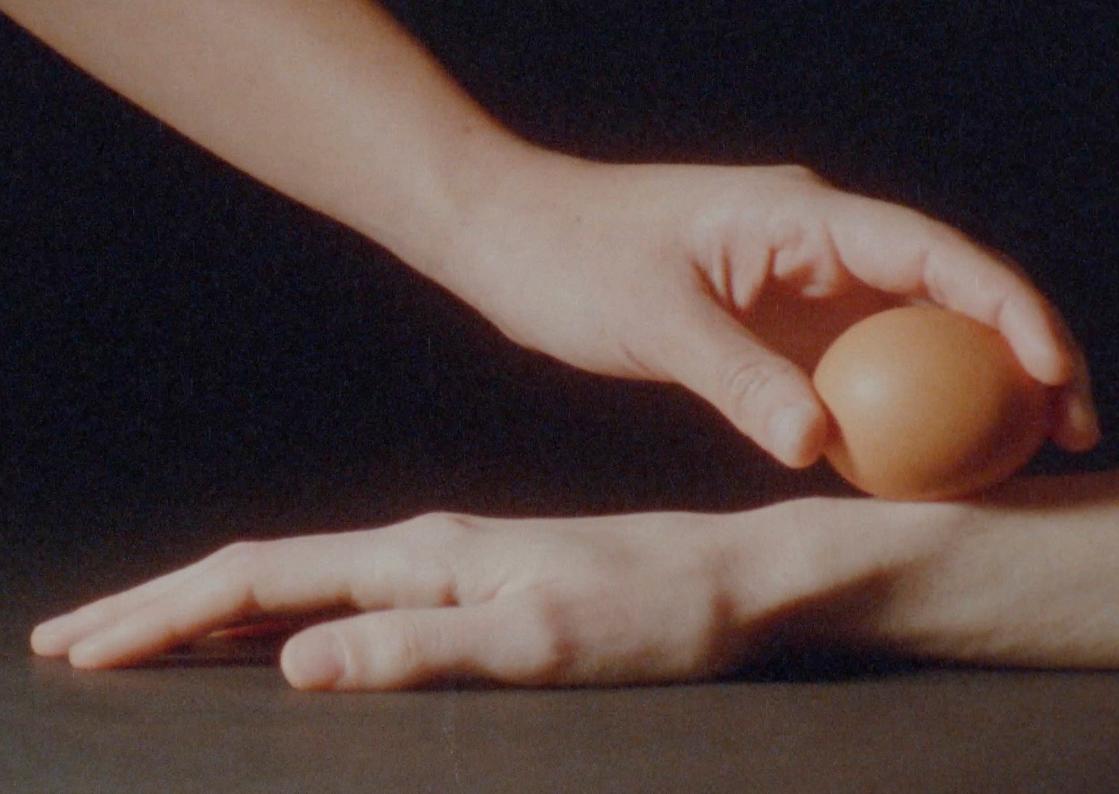


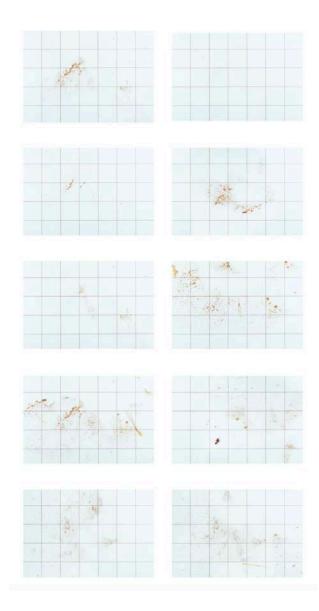








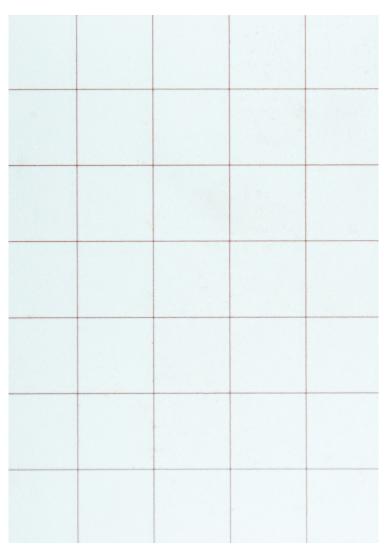




With the support of: Ayuntamiento de Madrid Late Idea Dice, Madrid

Ghost Seed





Series of photographs at scale 1:1 drawer 68, 69 and 70 "Fruits without name", unclassified colonial archive of the Herbarium of the Botanical Garden of Madrid, S59 - C-print 71 x 90 cm

Intervention on Graphic Archive Pieces in Storage S59 of the Unclassified Colonial Herbarium at the Royal Botanical Garden of Madrid

Developed from research within Storage S59 of the Unclassified Colonial Herbarium at the Royal Botanical Garden of Madrid, this work engages with a range of materials found in the archive—graphic fragments, scientific records, botanical residues, and the traces of preservation processes accumulated over time.

The process begins with the cataloguing of dust and minute particles of degraded botanical material—mostly dried seeds and fruits brought from the former colonies. The material comes from a drawer associated with the Celestino Mutis expedition in Colombia, labeled "Unnamed Fruits." These remnants were photographed using a scientific grid-based system that establishes a comparative scale and enables the counting and classification of material.

50

21

Slides from the personal archive of an ethnobotanist at the RJBM—documenting a 1989 botanical expedition—were later re-photographed. The resulting images, reinterpreted as contemporary prints, enter into dialogue with the previously intervened materials.

Newspapers once used by plant collectors to press and dry specimens—typically discarded after the classification process—are also revisited. Having absorbed the presence of the plants over time, the fibers retain their volume and imprint, merging with the printed narratives and imagery. These botanical traces are documented and treated with fluorescent pigment, inspired by fluorescence microscopy techniques, to reveal biological processes that ordinarily remain unseen.

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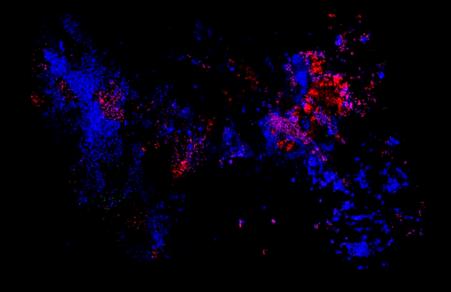
Interspecies Architecture



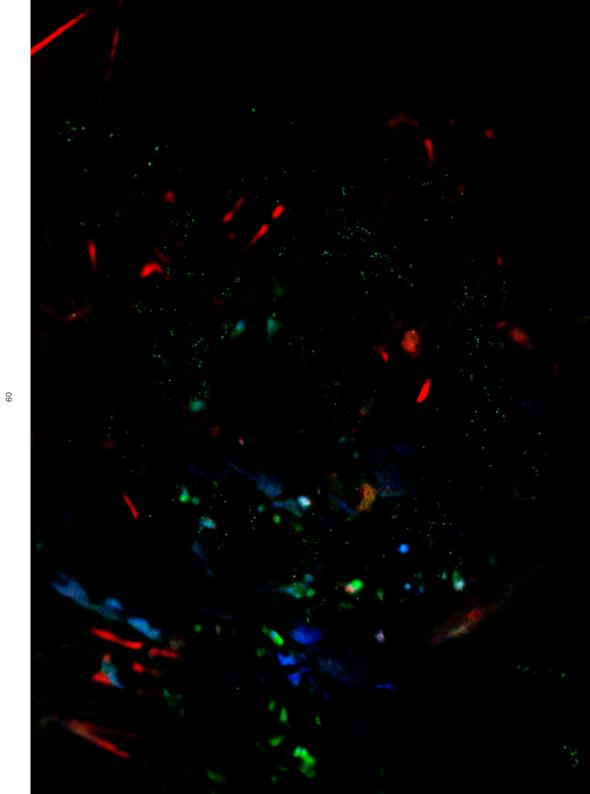
17th Venice Architecture Biennale, Taiwanese Pavilion, Venice, 2021

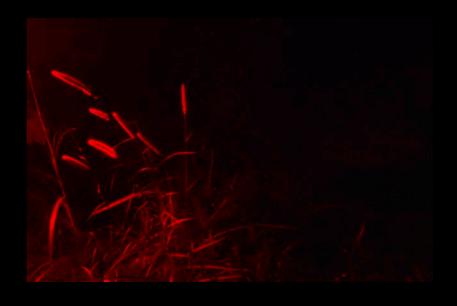
'Un lago de jade verde', Centro centro, Madrid, 2022
'XXL Dreams', Laak, Den Haag, 2024
Mostra Internazionale del Nuovo Cinema, Concorso Pesaro, 2022
'Hybrid Spaces', Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin, Louvre auditorium, Paris, 2021
Collectif Jeune Cinéma, Compétition Internationale, Paris, 2021
Festival des cinémas différents et expérimentaux de Paris, Collectif Jeune Cinéma, Paris, 2021





A group of characters travels on foot to the outskirts of Taipei without a determined destination. The path chosen by both the characters and the film is one of wandering—of tracing a trajectory in which signs accumulate and overlap: the effects of climate change, environmental disaster, armed conflict, political repression, economic crisis, the mutation of an unknown organism, continuous collapse. The journey focuses on evading any possibility of a fixed point, favoring opacity—camouflaging and at the same time permeating what was initially framed at the margins of the image: the non-human dimension.

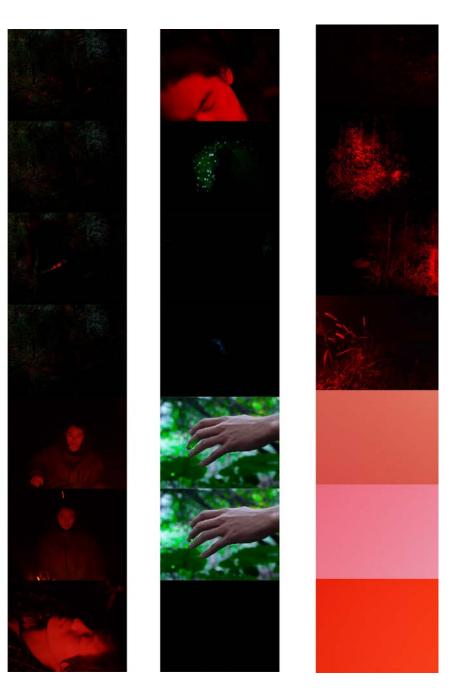


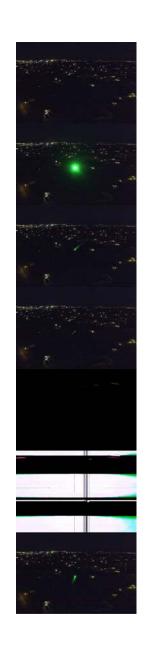
















INTERSPECIES ARCHITECTURE, Channel 1, 17th Venice Architecture Biennale, Taiwan Pavilion, 2021



Movimiento continuo

12th STRANGLOSCOPE, Florianópolis, 2019
'Minor, rethinking the narrative', OMI, Rotterdam, June 2022
'L'architecture du film', Les saisons, Marian Goodman bookstore, Paris, 2019
'Peripheral Exhibition', Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin, Paris, 2019
L'Alternativa, 26×, Sección Oficial Nacional, CCCB, Barcelona, 2019
From the South, Fix in Art, Thessaloniki, 2019
MUTA, Festival Internacional de Apropiación Audiovisual, Lima, 2020



Movimiento continuo, video still, installation at YMC, Taiwan, 202

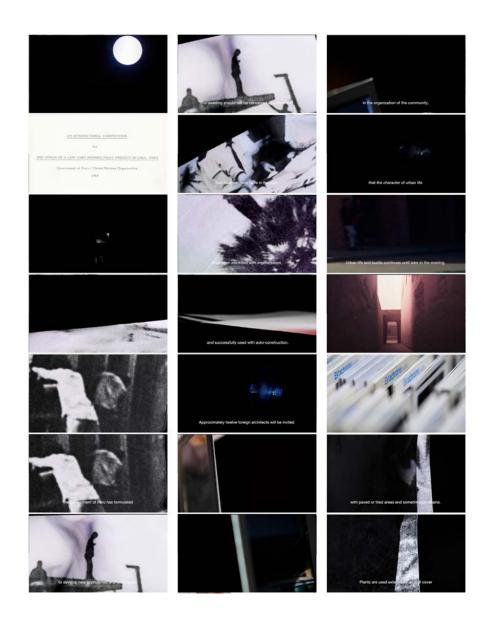
Architecture and cinema understood as transfers, from systems of ideas to material structures. Both as supports for unstable and diffuse structures, models that move on different scales of the real. The film studies the processes of transfer, transformation and hybridisation in the context of the project of modernity in Latin America. Taking as a case study the history of PREVI, an experimental housing project in Lima, projected in the late sixties with the utopian zeitgeist, it brought together the architectural avant-garde of the time. Built at an early stage, interrupted by a coup d'état and radically transformed over time, the project brought together the most radical architectural avant-garde of the time in Lima.







Movimiento continuo , Nr.2, transfer print on paper, 100.5 x 76.5 cm, 202



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ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SUBJECTIVE ON THIS SIDE OF THE OR JECTIVE print on semi-transparent textile, 706 x 1353 cm, 2021



with the support of National Award for Experimental Works, Ministry of Culture of Peru DAFO, Lima, 2019 Ses dotze Naus, residency, Ibiza, 2016

Nomadica, Exhibition, Bologna 2018
Unforseen Festival, Official selection for the Cine-Scope competition, Belgrade, 2017
Salón, Madrid, 2019

A IS CID





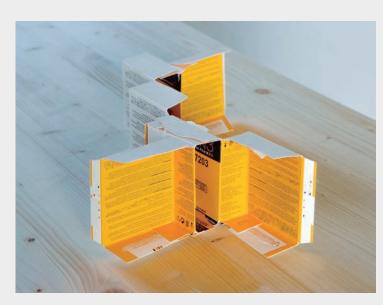
A IS CID re-examines the history of Instant city, an architectural prototype of a nomadic city that existed briefly for a few weeks in 1971 in Ibiza. Built in community, it was a redoubt of the counterculture of the time. The project and its revolutionary ideas went unnoticed by the repression of the Franco dictatorship. The architecture of the Instant City linked psychedelic ideas and altered states with the drop out movement. Its designer, the architect José Miguel Prada Poole, was interested in the link between technology, ecology, spiritualism and architecture.

Taking as its object of study two places related to this story, on the one hand the architectural offices where the prototype was designed, and on the other the natural landscape where the project was built, the film combines an ethnographic and fictional approach. The film superimposes different time scales to speculate on other critical ways of transcribing history in a present of forms without utopias.









A IS CID VISION, series of paper sculptures, variable dimensions, 2021







SET OUT 1



SET OUT 1, 16mm film transferred to digital video, 2021

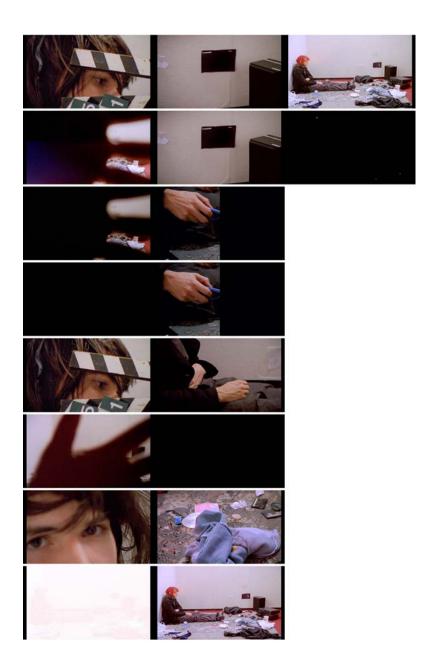
International Film Festival of Valdivia – "23 Nuevos Caminos," Valdivia, 2016
Ibero-American Biennial of Architecture and Urbanism, Havana, Cuba, 2019
La Verdi, Buenos Aires, 2016

Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin – La Ga×té Lyrique, Paris, 2017 Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin – Haus der Kulturen der Welt (HKW), Berlin, 2017



When does the fiction of a film begin? Where do the characters go when the film is finished? A story made up of fragments and pieces not used in the making of a film, a film is constructed with images, from processes between capture, recreation, documentation and representation. In a film shoot, the camera captures absent images, in complex processes involving a variety of factors, many of them random.

SET OUT 1 investigates these ideas, where the architecture of the film set and of the mise-en-scène itself is the main theme of the film, constructed entirely from discards, false takes, camera errors, blurred shots and screen tests, from a previous film, a film that was never finished, a test of a shooting, an unresolved story, etc.





PREVI/RUMIQOLCA, Channel 1, Channel 2, Super 8 film transferred to digital video, 2018

Previ / Rumiqolqa





PREVI/RUMIQOL CA. Channel 1. Channel 2. Super 8 film transferred to digital video. 201



PREVI/BUMIQOL CA. Channel 1. Channel 2. Super 8 film transferred to digital video. 2018

101

A non-linear journey dislocated in time. On the one hand, the ruins of Rumiqolqa in Cuzco, an abandoned Inca quarry and quarry, where part of the architecture was built. On the other hand, PREVI, an unfinished experimental housing project in Lima, between 1967 and 1978, interrupted by a military coup.



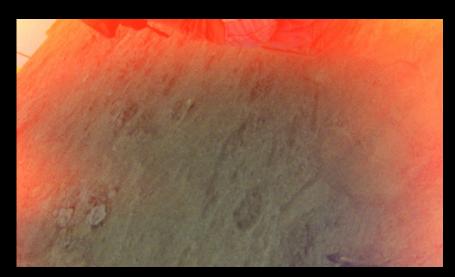


PREVI/RUMIQOLCA, Channel 1, Channel 2, Super 8 film transferred to digital video, 2018



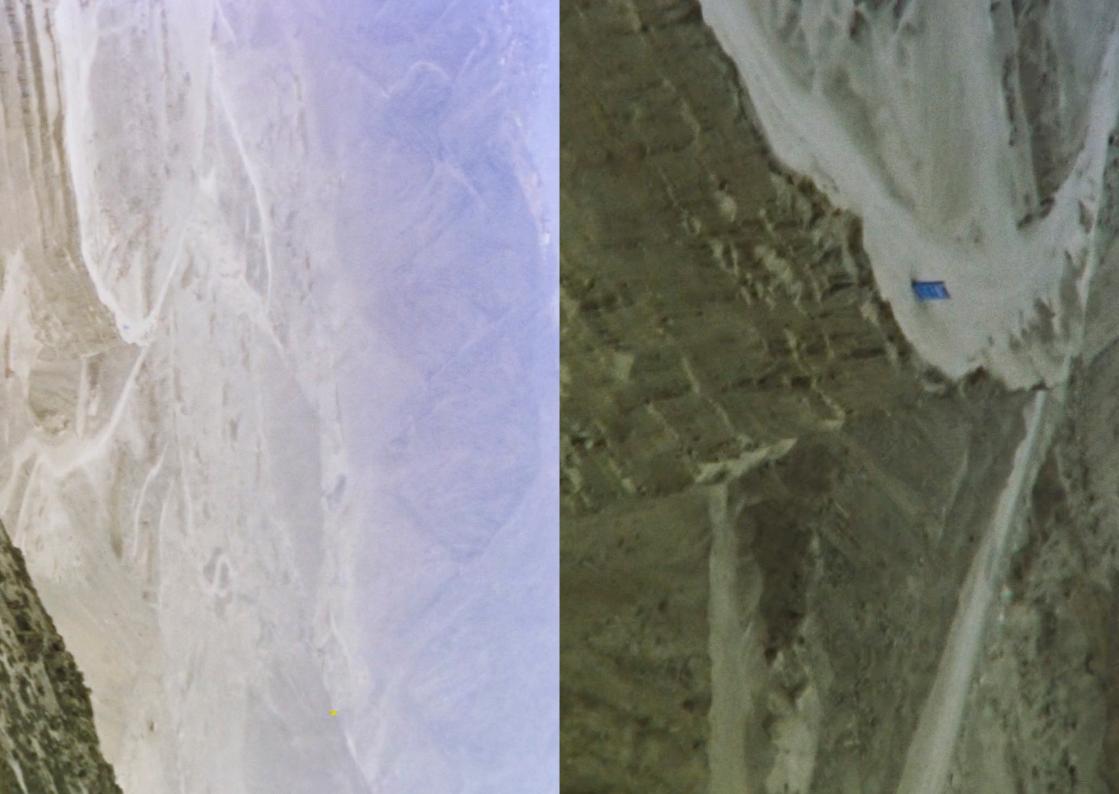
PREVI/RUMIQOLCA, Channel 1, Channel 2, Super 8 film transferred to digital video, 2018

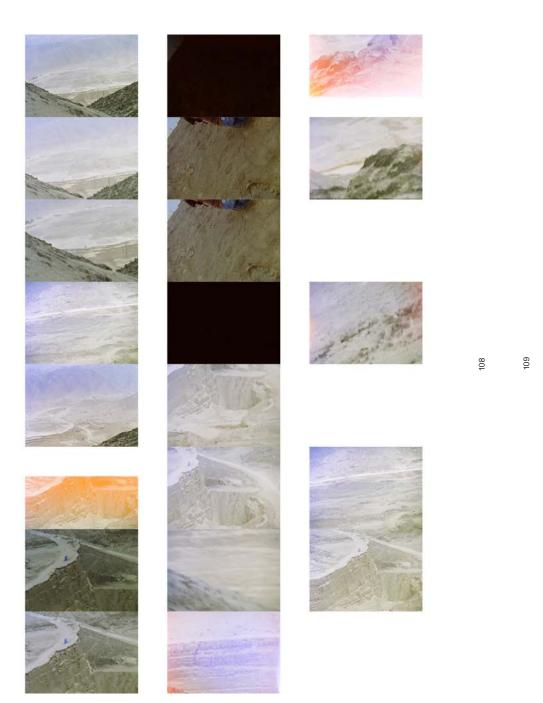
HCH



HCH, Super 8 film transferred to digital video, 2018

A visit to an archaeological site in the process of extinction, in search of an overview of its architecture. The archaeological site Huaca Catalina Huanca (200 BC - 600 AD) in Lima, consists of a central stepped pyramid, which was part of a ceremonial centre. The protected site is located within the grounds of a mining company. As the archaeological complex is protected, mining activity has carved out an artificial plateau around the archaeological complex. One of the few images of the current state of the site was taken by archaeologist Lizardo Tavera in 2008, uploading a photo to the Panoramio website with the quote: "The site you see in the photo may no longer exist".





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