



THE CFI PRESENTS
CANADIAN INDEPENDENT
EXPERIMENTAL FILM

CAFÉ EX

ALEXANDRA GELIS

JUN 7, 2023 • 7:00PM • CLUB SAW • PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN • CFI-ICF.CA/CAFEEX22

Alexandra Gelis is a Colombian-Venezuelan-Canadian media artist, curator and researcher. Her practice is research-based, process-oriented and multi-disciplinary, including film, photography, drawing, and new media installation with custom-built interactive electronics and sound.

She is known for single-screen film works and modular immersive non-fiction-based installations. Her projects incorporate personal field research as a tool to investigate the ecologies of various landscapes by examining the traces left by various socio-political interventions.

Gelis has worked collaboratively with communities around the globe, especially under the name of conSECUENCIAS, a collective that takes different forms and members according to the context and territory needs. She has large research on the relationship between plants/people and power in the context of colonization and globalization. From her plant-based research-creation, she explores documents and spaces to unveil the relationships or correlations between plants and people in communities and between plants and their multi-species interrelationships.

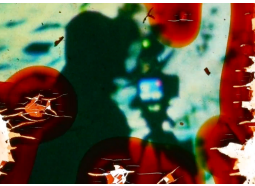
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English for Beginners | 2:30 | Digital Video | 2009

An experimental work dealing with dislocation, fragmentation loss of contact and the regaining of foreign speech in a foreign land.

The work articulates the difficult and comic experience of learning a new language.



Rhizomatic Directed Simulation | 6:00 | 16mm Film | 2014

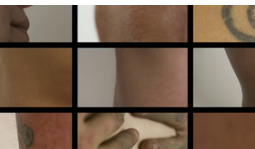
The best imitation consist of the original's destruction and the creation of a self referential text. (J.L Borges)

Commissioned film for The 8 fest 2014 – 7th ANNUAL FESTIVAL



La casa de Olga/The House of Olga | 12:00 | Digital Video | 2010

The roots of invasive vines threaten the preservation of Casco Antiguo's declining heritage buildings in the historic district of Panama City. While the area continues to gentrify rapidly, Olga quietly tends to the plants amidst her home of ruins. THE HOUSE OF OLGA documents an unorthodox traveler in search of the perfect dwelling.



Borders | 03:13 | 3000 stills photographs | 2009

Borders is an intimate photographic exploration of the bodies belonging to six queer individuals. This animation, made up of hundreds of high-resolution photographs, unabashedly examines the evidence of physical change and transformation: surgery scars, tattoos, and other traces. The bodies are fragmented, as are the stories affiliated with these traces, and identities remain delightfully elusive.



One Dollar Click | 02:00 | Digital Video and Animation | 2010

One dollar click is an experimental animation that recreates a walk through Carti one of the biggest Islands of the Kuna, indigenous people from Kunayala, San Blas Islands in Panama. One dollar click is the phrase that little kids say when they want to get pay for the pictures taken by tourists.



San Raphael | 04:00 | Digital Video | 2010

The apparition of Saint Raphael at a laundromat in Panama City.



Walking in Circles | 3:55 | Super 8mm Film | 2015

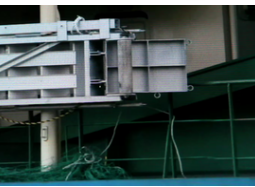
Experimental documentary based on the circles at York University Strike 2015



Estera. (mat) | 2:30 | Super 8mm Film | 2009

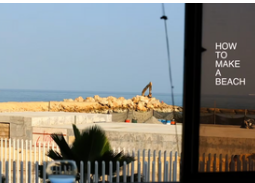
As part of my investigation on the use of weeds for medicinal purposes I asked Alejandro a traditional mat maker in San Basilio de Palenque (Colombia) to make one using weeds. These plants are commonly used to shield children from wicked witches – the Mohana's kidnappings, bad eye and other forms of evil spirits. The film registers the making of the mat and the activities going on around its making.

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Puente de las Américas / Bridge of the Americas | 2:50 | Digital Video and Animation | 2015

Part of an ongoing series of works made in Panama. Live animations re-animate this international bridge and border. The persistent background of life in the Panama Canal Zone are these passing ships crammed with waving travelers, the most temporary of citizens, their eyes like rain.



How to Make a Beach | 4:13 | Digital Video | 2019

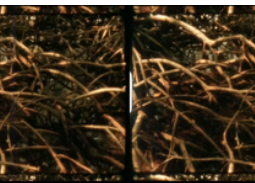
Made In collaboration with Jorge Lozano.

A poetic exploration of how to build a beach in your own home. A study about the business of sand and its destruction of ecosystems. Recorded to four cameras during a process of three recordings in a period of one year.



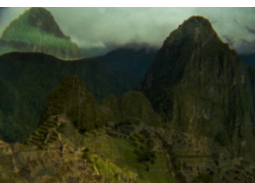
The Island | 6:09 | Super 8mm | 2018

A garden between Oakland and Berkley where its inhabitants, marginalized by gentrification, plant fruit trees and flowers to pay homage to their loved ones who died in battles against poverty. This is a space of love and freedom cared by Brian for the last 25 years. The island resists, as a living legacy of the Black Panthers who were the first to organize the neighbourhood.



Raíces Fúlcreas/Prop Roots | 4:50 | Super 8mm | 2019

Mangroves have always been part of my life since childhood. I was born and grew up by the ocean, and now I live in Toronto by Lake Ontario. Mangrove's "PropRoots" are ramified curve and arched to resist the strength of ocean tides, wind currents and the continental flow of fresh and polluted water. I made this film walking through a sandy path filled with butterflies, palm trees, vines and shadows looking for the mangroves fields. While making the film, I was thinking about my life as an immigrant and how Mangroves inhabit spaces where the salt and sweet water meets like me. The sound is from an Afro-Venezuelan instrument called "Quitipla" played on a hard surface such as sidewalks.



in -between- the lines | 8:28 | Super 8mm | 2022

It is a super 8mm trip in three parts in Peru. It refers to structures made through the years by human intervention and nature.



ALERTA . ALERTA . ALERTA | 1:40 | Digital Video | 2020

Marching politics: a tribute to the feminist struggle in Latin America. Recorded at the Women's March in Lima, Peru, 2019.



Entradas y Salidas/Exits and Entries | 10:30 | 16mm | 2020

Entries are Exit points to more complex Entries. Exits and Entries is a visual exploration, an assemblage of forces. The doing an undoing's of my mother: a warrior.