



Wool and deer hair paintbrushes

I AM FOREST

ELIDA MAIQUES | ANNA SOLER CEPRIÁ

MAY 4TH - JUNE 28TH 2024

Opening at 12h

The project *I Am a Forest* upholds an ethic of interdependence across generations, cultures and species. It aims at weaving together art, territory, living trees and human community.

The forest of the title is a creature made of many: insects, fungus, trees, birds, humanbirds... The forest is not a collection of trees, but the relationship among its beings. It is the interdependence of all creatures in a forest that interests the film makers here, as a reality and a metaphor. A forest is a collective being.

The Project started in 2015 with botanical drawings, since 2017 this project has involved seed-gathering, tree propagation and wildlife/art workshops with the local school and other communities. In 2021 Elida Maiques' long-term project *I Am a Forest* focused on birdsong, music anthropology and archaeology. She transcribed the song of Irish birds (blackbirds, sparrows and robins), made the tlapitzali (Mesoamerican little ceramic flutes) and played in the film and sourced the other instruments: AfroCaribbean claves and Irish bones. With these elements, she invited a group of professional musicians and others to play it in the forest; it became a trans-species performance. This is the basis of the film. When the cast started playing birdsong music in the forest, birds answered. We recorded this and transformed it into the short film *I Am a Forest*.

Filmed on Ceann Bhré (Bray Head), County Wicklow, Ireland, over four days. This is a Mexican-Irish-Spanish co-production with support from Instituto Cervantes Dublin, the Arts Council of Ireland, the IADT (Institute of Art, Design & Technology (Ireland) and its ARC MA programme.

In this film, there are patterns of birdsong played by humans, as well as patterns of traditional music incorporated into a bird-human conversation in the middle of the forest.

It is a film co-directed by two artists and it is a contemporary art project. One of the directors, Anna Soler Cepriá, has a great film trajectory, while Elida Maiques is dedicated to art research, especially through drawing which in the last decade she articulates with other art disciplines. This short film has a place in a movie theatre as much as in an art centre, contextualised and accompanied by other works.

Multi-award winning film maker Anna Soler Cepriá joins forces with emergent artist Elida Maiques to show us the interdependence of living beings. A diminutive, universal story. Combining Anna Soler Cepriá's magic eye and verve with Elida Maiques' idiosyncratic vision, this 9-minute film is a display of creative freedom and rhythm.

Anna Soler Cepriá Film maker, Director of Photography and Film Editor. She graduated from the School of Photography and Image of Valencia (Spain). She began her professional career as a photographer in the newspaper Castellón Diario. In 2000 she co-founded Fábrica de Imágenes School of Photography, Morelia, Michoacán (México). Since 2003, she has worked as a still & making of photographer. Since 2010 she specialises in Direction of Photography, Documentary Film Direction and Film Edition. She has been awarded grants from the Estate of Michoacán (México) on three occasions (2022, 2005, 2010). A member of the judging panel in numerous festivals, she has been selected for the XVIII Photograph Biennale (2018) and her work as a cinematographer and director has been awarded multiple times. She is a member of Aperturadop, the Mexican Association of Female Cinematographers. Her work as a lecturer has been crucial for the evolution of these disciplines in the Estate of Michoacán (México). Best Documentary “Los días sin Joyce” in the Baja California Film Festival, 2008 and Special Mention in the Morelia Film Festival, 2007; Best Film Photography with short film “Sobre Ruedas” in Feratum International Fantastic Film Festival, 2016; Best Film Photography with feature film “Día Seis” in the Tequila International Film Festival, Mx, 2017 and in Queens World Film Festival, USA, 2018. For the Cinematography of the feature film “Almas Rotas”, in 2020, she receives the Best Director of Photography Award in TUFILM (Tulum International Film Festival), and in 2021 at the CWIFF (Cinema of the World International Film Festival), in FICT (Tequila International Film Festival), in the Pantalla de Cristal Festival and in Cannes International Independent Film Festival.

Elida Maiques is an Ireland-based artist with roots in Guatemala and Spain. Her work, often in collaboration with different groups, has been exhibited in museums and art centres like CentroCentro Cibeles (Madrid, Spain), IVAM (Valencian Museum of Modern Art), (València, Spain), the LAB Gallery (Dublin, Ireland), Alliance Française (Dublin, Ireland), and others. Her work has a strong line in drawing and comics and has co-edited award-winning publications with collectives Polen (Spain) and Stray Lines (Ireland) among others. In 2009 she co-directed with Simon Kinane and Eoghan Carroll a stop-motion microfestival, generating a short film weekly. In recent years she has explored the boundaries of drawing with other disciplines such as dance and music. Since 2015 her long-term project I Am a Forest includes botanical drawings, seed-gathering, tree propagation and art/wildlife workshops with her local school and other communities. In 2021 her research focused prominently on birdsong, music anthropology and archaeology. It became a non-hierarchical forest performance by professional musicians and others. The filmed performance was made into short film I Am a Forest, in the Official Selection of the Morelia Film Festival (México), 2022. Arts Council Agility Award 2021-2022; Selected for IMMA Earth Rising Festival 2022, Transform Associate Artist Mermaid Arts Centre, Ireland 2022-2023.