The Society for Visual Anthropology (SVA) is a section of the American Anthropological Association. We promote the study of visual representation and media. Both research methods and teaching strategies fall within the scope of the society. SVA members are involved in all aspects of production, dissemination, and analysis of visual forms. Works in film, video, photography, and computer-based multimedia explore signification, perception, and communication-in-context, as well as a multitude of other anthropological and ethnographic themes.

Founded in 1984, the Society for Visual Anthropology promotes the use of images for the description, analysis, communication and interpretation of human (and sometimes nonhuman) behavior. Members have interests in all visual aspects of culture, including art, architecture and material artifacts, as well as kinesics, proxemics and related forms of body motion communication (e.g. gesture, emotion, dance, sign language).

The Society encourages the use of media, including still photography, film, video and non-camera generated images, in the recording of ethnographic, archaeological and other anthropological genres. Members examine how aspects of culture can be pictorially/visually interpreted and expressed, and how images can be understood as artifacts of culture. Historical photographs, in particular, are seen as a source of ethnographic data, expanding our horizons beyond the reach of memory culture. The society also supports the study of indigenous media and their grounding in personal, social, cultural and ideological contexts, and how anthropological productions can be exhibited and used more effectively in classrooms, museums and television.
Welcome to the 2020 Society for Visual Anthropology Film and Media Festival!

The Festival is very different this year. It’s all virtual! Anyone will be able to access the films through this very website. We hope this will enable the films to reach a significantly wider audience than is usual at an in-person American Anthropological Association meeting.

Our programming this year centers around five core themes: (1) Territory, History, Identity; (2) Environment, Resources, Labor; (3) Movements, Borders, Identities; (4) Thinking and Creating; and (5) Health and Healing. Each cluster of films corresponding to each theme will be screened for ten days, and that ten-day period will be followed by virtual events like panel discussions and Q&A with film directors, conducted virtually (TBA).

We had 105 entries from 32 countries. Our wonderful dedicated jurors – Harjant Gill, John Bishop, and Fiona McDonald – selected 30 films from those submissions to showcase in this year’s Film and Media Festival. These 30 films include the winners in our four traditional prize categories (that all happen to come from different countries): Best Feature, Best Short, Best Student Film, and the Jean Rouch Award. Although tackling radically different topics, each of our award-winning films seems especially relevant to our current moment worldwide.

We invite you to watch and think about these films, and to engage with the filmmakers over the next two and a half months.

Veronica Davidov and Damien Stankiewicz
Festival Co-Directors

Special Thanks to:
Jerome Crowder and the Board & Executive Committee of the Society for Visual Anthropology
Jurors Harjant Gill, Fiona McDonald & John Bishop
and Lindsey Adams & Sierra Sorrentino, Monmouth University
SVA Film & Media Festival Award Winners

Jurors: Harjant Gill, Fiona McDonald, John Bishop

Best Feature Film

The Healer and the Psychiatrist
Director: Dr. Mike Poltorak

Every year, the jury chooses a long-format film as the winner of the Festival’s highest recognition, the Joan S. Williams Award of Excellence, named for the Festival’s longtime organizer who retired in 2006.

Best Short Film

People Like Me
Director: Marrok Sedgwick

Excellence in ethnographic filmmaking does not necessarily correspond to length. Every year, the jury selects a short film (30 minutes or under) to be honored with an award.

Best Student Work

Thangam
Directors: Sarai Ramírez Payá & Emma Harris

The Festival and the Society for Visual Anthropology encourages a new generation of ethnographic filmmakers. Every year, a film made by a student (at any level) is recognized with an award.

The Jean Rouch Award

The Seven Doors
Director: Mehmet Mim Kurt

Jean Rouch was a French anthropologist and ethnographic filmmaker, renowned for his collaborative approach and participatory work, represented in his prolific body of work. The Jean Rouch Award honors a film (in long or short format) that embodies the
Film Festival Schedule

Selected by Veronica Davidov & Damien Stankiewicz

“Thank god I don’t have any gardens”: Territory, History, Identity

October 1-10 Films Streaming:

*Land of My Father*
  Directed by Matthew J Koshmrl, Republic of Korea

*Imprinted*
  Directed by Linda Paganelli, Germany

*Voices in the Rainforest*
  Directed by Steven Feld, United States

*Ocak*
  Directed by Zeynep Kaserci, Turkey

*Wings of Kyrgyzstan*
  Directed by Sophie Dia Pegrum, United States

*Remaking the Pathway*
  Directed by Emma Hudson, Australia

October 11-14 Q&A and Discussion

“I’d fall asleep and start dreaming of fish”: Environment, Resources, Labor

October 15-25 Films Streaming:

*Uma: Water Crisis in Bolivia*
  Directed by Ana Llacer, United States

*The Depth Beneath The Height Above*
  Directed by Andrea Bordoli, Switzerland
“I’d fall asleep and start dreaming of fish”:
Environment, Resources, Labor (Contd.)

October 15-25 Films Streaming:

**Of the Basin**
Directed by Keely Kernan, United States

**Lencho**
Directed by Carlo Nasisse, Lencho Salinas & Geronimo Barrera, Mexico

October 26-31 Q&A and Discussion

“We are not the same kind, we are not from the same planet”:
 Movements, Borders, Identities

November 1-10 Films Streaming:

**Senegal/Sicily**
Directed by Alberto Amoretti, United States

**Capital of Mae La**
Directed by Nuankhanit Phromchanya, Thailand

**WHO IS EUROPE?**
Directed by Ian McDonald, United Kingdom

**Bon and the West**
Directed by Andrea Heckman, United States

**Wild Honey**
Directed by Lisa Palmer, Australia

**Ama**
Directed by Lorna Tucker, United Kingdom
“It was as if we were communicating with each other’s souls”:
Thinking and Creating

Films Streaming:

Society VisAnth      @SocietyVisAnth      Society for Visual Anthropology

Terra Incognita
Directed by Shirley van der Maarel, Netherlands

Naturally Free
Directed by Stella Iman Dugall, United States

November 11-14   Q&A and Discussion

“It was as if we were communicating with each other’s souls”:
Thinking and Creating

Films Streaming:

Society VisAnth      @SocietyVisAnth      Society for Visual Anthropology

5x7
Directed by Michele Citoni, Italy

Memory Beings
Directed by Sudha Padmaja Francis, India

Of Love and Artistry
Directed by Suruchi Sharma, India

The Seven Doors
Directed by Mehmet Mim Kurt, Turkey

The Modern Mambabatok
Directed by Kayla Sotomil, United States

Chasing Shadows
Directed by Roger Canals, United Kingdom

November 15-25

Terra Incognita
Directed by Shirley van der Maarel, Netherlands

Naturally Free
Directed by Stella Iman Dugall, United States

Q&A and Discussion

November 26-30

Q&A and Discussion
Health and Healing

Films Streaming:

December 1-10

*People Like Me*
  Directed by Marrok Sedgwick, United States

*The Healer and the Psychiatrist*
  Directed by Mike Poltorak, United Kingdom

*Thangam*
  Directed by Emma Harris & Sarai Ramírez-Payá, Spain

*Mong Kok First Aid*
  Directed by Mei Fong Siu, United States

*Complicit*
  Directed by Heather White & Lynn Zhang, United States

*Stories from Home Care*
  Directed by Cati Coe, United States

December 11-14

Q&A and Discussion