The goal of the Society of Visual Anthropology Film and Media Festival (SVAFMF) is to provide the anthropological community with films that engage scholars, researchers, educators, and students. The 2018 SVAFMF program showcases what the 2018 jury considers to be the best works in anthropological filmmaking and related documentary film that contribute a deeper understanding of cultural diversity, human experience, and everyday life around the world.

Films featured in this year’s program address a range of topics, geographical areas, and issues of interest to anthropologists and broader publics. We are excited to offer multiple awards including best student film, our prestigious Jean Rouch award, and best interactive media. In the era of #metoo, feminism has re-entered our public culture with a renewed force. This year we are thrilled to present a series of award winning films by women filmmakers making important contributions to discussions on feminism, gender, and colonial legacies: Solitary Land by Chilean filmmaker Tiziana Panizza, Yours in Sisterhood by Santa Cruz-based filmmaker Irene Lusztig, and our best feature award winner Heartbound by anthropologist Sine Plambech. Working to create ties with the local community, we partnered with the Watsonville Film Festival (WFF) to present a showcase of local films by local filmmakers. The films will be followed by a conversation with festival organizers and filmmakers about collaborative and community filmmaking, and how cinema can inspire and engage our communities.

SVAFMF began in 1986 as a space to showcase ethnographic film during the Annual AAA meetings. Over the last 30+ years, the festival has grown significantly in size, scope, and diversity of submissions. The 2018 SVAFMF takes place in the Hammer Theater alongside other SVA events as part of the 117th AAA annual meeting. We hope that our audiences in San Jose will join us in the ongoing conversation about the means and ends of ethnographic film and media and about the changing field of visual anthropology.
Wednesday, November 14th

**Marriage, Marriage, Marriage!**

House in the Fields
Dir. Tala Hadid
5:00pm - 7:00pm
Hammer 4

House in the Fields examines cultural change and tradition through the eyes of two young sisters in an isolated Amazigh community in Morocco. *Q&A with Alice Appley from DER.*

**Snowbirds**
Dir. Mika Goodfriend
7:00pm - 8:00pm
Hammer 4

Each winter, 1800 retirees from Quebec migrate to a trailer park in Pompano Beach, Florida. Lawns freshly mowed, trailers without a sign of rust. These snowbirds live out their version of paradise, beneath the palm trees and eternal sunshine of Breezy Hill RV Resort – where time has lost its bite.

**Heartbound - Best Feature**
Dir. Sine Plambech
8:00pm - 10:15pm
Hammer 4

Heartbound is a cultural study of migration, sex work and love, chronicling the lives of women leaving their homes to find husbands and provide for their families. (Denmark/Thailand). *Q&A Sine Plambech.*
Since Kyrgyzstan gained its Independence in 1991, there has been a revival of the ancient practice of Ala-Kachuu, which translates roughly as “grab and run”. More than half Kyrgyz women are married after being kidnapped by the men who become their husbands. Some escaped after violent ordeals, but most are persuaded to stay by tradition and fear of scandal.

**Thursday, November 15th**

**VR Ethnography**

Lost but Not Forgotten  
Dir. Bryce Leisy & John Ehlers  
9:30am - 10:00am  
Hammer 4

Swim Virtually back in time to see what the “Queen of the Coast” Long Beach, CA looked like in the early 1900’s.

Presentation with directors Bryce Leisy and John Ehlers.

**Interactive Documentary**

Tajen: Interactive  
Dir. Robert Lemelson & Briana Young  
10:00am - 11:00am  
Hammer 4

Swim Virtually back in time to see what the “Queen of the Coast” Long Beach, CA looked like in the early 1900’s. Presentation with directors Bryce Leisy and John Ehlers.
What is the most heavily bombed country in history? A country that never formally entered a war, Laos. Between 1964 and 1973, during the Vietnam war, the American air force carried out over 500,000 bombing missions over Laos, dropping more than 2 million tons of explosives over the country. Forty years later, everything has changed in Laos, but people’s lives are still deeply affected by the omnipresence of war remnants. Conflict itself. The unexploded ordnance now represents a danger and a resource. The film is a journey into the legacy of contemporary wars, in which the remains of the conflict outlive the conflict itself.

The observational documentary Goli: A Tale of Threads portrays handloom textile weaving and tinting workshops in Kashan, Iran and recent changes they are going through. Q&A with Sara Naimpour.
Archives of Colonialism

Solitary Land
Dir. Tiziana Panizza
12:45pm - 2:45pm
Hammer 4

A cruel colonization caused the escape of many people to the open sea on Easter Island almost a century ago. There are 32 documentaries of that period and they contain more images of the moai than inhabitants. Solitary Land tells this story together with a register of its current prison. Where would a fugitive go on the planet’s most remote island?

Skype Q&A with Tiziana Panizza.

Research/Souvenir (Dialogues)
Dir. Roger Horn
2:45pm - 3:04pm
Hammer 4

Research/Souvenir (Dialogues), utilizes found footage from Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and audio from 2014-2017 among Zimbabwean migrant women in Cape removal.

The Dust doesn’t want to come out of the Esqueleto
Dir. Daniel Santiso & Max Willa Morais
3:04pm - 3:24pm
Hammer 4

Four inhabitants are part of the removals happening now in the Metro-Mangueira community in Rio de Janeiro and tell us stories. These narratives arise from the encounter with the images of the removal of favela Esqueleto, in that same place five decades earlier.
Thursday, November 15th

**A Place in the Sun - Best Short Film**
Dir. Christian Zipfel
3:24pm - 3:45pm
Hammer 4

The German genocide on Ovaherero and Nama happened 110 years ago. It was acknowledged as such by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2015. The film shows drawn historic footage, which illustrates the former German perception of the Ovaherero and Nama and finally leads to the Hereroday. The genocide and the trauma of the German colonial rule are still present and influence the culture and identity of both tribes to the present day.

**Native Voices**

**Haida Now: Corey Bulpitt**
Dir. Jay Tseng & Brandon Hoare
3:45pm - 4:08pm
Hammer 4

Corey Bulpitt, a Vancouver based Haida artist, explores what it means to be Haida in the modern day through his art and experiences. *Q&A with anthropologist and film advisor Kate Hennessy.*

**Tribal Justice**
Dir. Anne Makepeace
4:08pm - 5:45pm
Hammer 4

Documents a little-known, under-reported criminal justice reform movement in the US: the efforts of tribal courts to create alternative justice systems based on their traditions.
**PLACE AND INFRASTRUCTURE PART 1**

Green River: The Time of the Yakurunas  
Dir. Diego Sarmiento & Alvaro Sarmiento  
7:30pm - 8:45pm  
Hammer 4

Guided by ayahuasca chants, Green River: The time of the Yakurunas is a poetic journey into the depths of the Amazon. The film explores the perception of time in three small villages intertwined by the flowing waters of the Amazon river, immersing the viewer in a landscape inhabited by shamans and archetypal societies. This hybrid narrative depicts the bodies of native elders to evoke the ghosts of rubber colonialism at the end of XIX century, the memory of ancient indigenous cultures still alive, but in danger of disappearing as a consequence of global capitalism.

**TRANSGENDER VOICES**

The Bony Lady  
Dir. Thiago Zanato & Adriana Barbosa  
8:45pm - 9:05pm  
Hammer 4

Arely Vazquez is a transgender woman and leader of the Santa Muerte Cult in Queens, NY. During her yearly celebration to “La Flaca”, Arely faces a lot of challenges to fulfill her promise.

Leitis in Waiting  
Dir. Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu, Dean Hamer & Joe Wilson  
9:05pm - 10:16pm  
Hammer 4

The story of Joey Mataele and the Tonga leitis, an intrepid group of indigenous transgender women fighting a rising tide of fundamentalism and intolerance in their South Pacific Kingdom.
Thursday, November 15th

**Midnight Movie: Anthropology of UFOs**

**Calling All Earthlings**
Dir. Jonathan Berman
10:16pm - 12:00am
Hammer 4

Flying saucers, FBI agents, and a time machine meet up at the Integratron, a mid-century mystery dome in the desert that serves as a touchstone for all things alternative. *Q&A with Jonathan Berman.*

Friday, November 16th

**SVAFMF VR and Interactive Documentary Installation**

10:00am - 11:00am
Lost but Not Forgotten and The River Runs Red
Mercury News Lounge

**Rituals**

**Kitani, My Son Returns from the Groves**
Dir. Marie Lorillard
10:00am - 10:47am
Hammer 4

March 2013, Northern Ivory Coast… in the village of Fonnika-ha. We are awaiting the return of Kitani, the youngest son of a family from the village, who left to undertake his initiation rites in the sacred groves. Men and woman alike wait with bated breath for the moment when the tchélé, those undertaking the initiations, ‘return from the groves’ and rejoin the community. Are they still alive?
Every couple of years, Ram Nath leaves his fields and buffaloes to play the part of human sacrifice in a hitherto undocumented mysterious ritual of purification in the Hinalayan Valley of Kullu, North India. During the ritual, Ram Nath transforms from a highland peasant into the master of ceremonies, a powerful redeemer who cuts holes (chidra) in the fabric of society, collecting sins into a cosmic trap that only he can operate. Chidra follows Ram Nath through the ritual, revealing how men, gods, and mediums handle the dangerous substance of actions (karma) at the frontier of the Hindu cultural sphere. Q&A with co-director Arik Moran.

INTERGENERATIONAL VOICES

After Prayers
Dir. Simone Mestroni
11:45am - 12:46pm
Hammer 4

In Indian Kashmir, between a call for prayer and the other, daily life intertwines with separatist politics, Islam and routine violence.

GAMAN
Dir. Nicole Suganuma
12:46pm - 1:13pm
Hammer 4

A short documentary on two Japanese-Americans who recount their experiences during the American internment camps of the 1940s. Q&A with Nicole Suganuma.
Friday, November 16th

Their Generation, Our Generation
Dir. Quifan (Wyatt) Zhu
1:13pm - 1:30pm
Hammer 4

I am 22 this year. Back to June 4th, 1989, my father was also 22: he was one of those Chinese college students there, protesting in Tiananmen Square in Beijing. This is a conversation between a father and a son, between two generations, on the Tiananmen Square incident on June 4th, 1989.

Embodied Communication

Kalaripayattu
Dir. Anal Shah
1:30pm - 2:13pm
Hammer 4

Woven from observational footage shot at various Kalaris (martial arts gyms) in northern Kerala, Kalaripayattu is an ethnographic portrait of the ancient south Indian martial art – Kalaripayattu, which is often regarded as the ‘mother of all martial arts’. The film offers not subtitles to its Malayalam language, not provides any explanation via narration, thus encouraging the viewer into an unfiltered sensory experience. Ultimately, the film becomes an immersive mediation on the human body in motion. Q&A with Anal Shah.

Hallelujah!
Dir. Steven Feld
2:13pm - 3:15pm
Hammer 4

Hallelujah! presents an African talking drums version of Handel’s Hallelujah chorus, as staged and performed by legendary drummer Ghanaba together with the Winneba Youth Choir.
**Best Interactive Documentary**

The River Runs Red -  
Best Interactive Documentary  
Dir. Isabelle Carbonell  
3:15pm - 4:15pm  
Hammer 4

The River Runs Red is an interactive documentary exploring the world’s largest tailings disaster in Brazil and the more-than-human livability possible in the Anthropocene. *Presentation with filmmakers Isabelle Carbonell.*

**Celebrating 50 Years of Ethnographic Film:**

**Documentary Educational Resources and The Society for Visual Anthropology**

**4:15pm - 6:00pm**

For the last 50 years Documentary Educational Resoures (DER) has become synonymous with the conveyance of anthropological knowledge through ethnographic media. Originally the brainchild of ethnographic cineastes John Marshall and Timothy Asch, the catalogue reflects the organization’s central role in establishing and promoting visual anthropology as a sub-discipline and a pedagogical tool. As part of the 50 year celebration of DER, the Society for Visual Anthropology will convene a panel of legendary ethnographic media creators including John Bishop, Sarah Elder, and Allison Jablonko to discuss their ethnographic media projects and work with DER over the years. Jake Homiak will provide an overview of this work from the vantage point of the Smithsonian Institution where he has been an archivist for decades. Alice Apley will provide context as director of DER. Kathryn Ramey and Matthew Durington will provide additional context as academics in visual anthropology.
This panel will also provide a critical overview of the half-century history of ethnographic film and visual anthropology that runs parallel to the existence of DER. From the work of Robert Gardner to David MacDougall and dozens of other filmmakers and media creators, DER has been at the center of the academic dissemination of both in the anthropological classroom and the viewing public for ethnographic film.

**Language Politics**

**Letter to a Professor In Delaware**
Dir. Carlos Sánchez Giraldo & Sofia Velázquez Núñez
10:15pm - 10:24pm
Hammer 4

An English and Quechua teacher goes abroad. Through a letter addressed to the professor with whom he will work for a while, he reflects on his and his country’s identities.

**Colours of the Alphabet**
Dir. Alastair Cole & Nick Higgins
10:24pm - 12:00am
Hammer 4

Colours of the Alphabet examines the complexities of a multilingual Zambia through a charming portrait of students, parents, and teachers in a rural elementary school.
Saturday, November 17th

**Migrant Families**

**Talk To My Son**
Dir. Sangsun Choi
9:00am - 9:14am
Hammer 4

Kyung-hee, a barista in South Korea, is a North Korean defector and she left her son in China 13 years ago. With the help of a filmmaker, she records her voice for her son to explain the story of his birth and why she had to leave him.

**Together Apart** - **Honorable Mention Best Student Film**
Dir. Maren Wickwire
9:14am - 10:30am

Together Apart is an intimate family portrait of two indigenous women from the Philippine highlands, who let their families behind to seek work in Europe. Guli Ann, a twenty-five-year-old woman follows her mother’s footsteps to work as a live-in domestic helper in Cyprus. Being separated for most of their lives, mother and daughter reunite for the first time in years, only to be separated again when Carren gets unexpectedly arrested by the immigration police. Shifting between the temporary present and future imagination of serial migrants, the film is contemplating notions of self-hood, belonging and transnational motherhood, sharing insights into the complex web of global care chains beyond stereotypical narrative of victimization and sacrifice. **Q&A with Maren Wickwire.**

**SVAFMF VR and Interactive Documentary Installation**
9:45am - 12:45pm
Lost but Not Forgotten and The River Runs Red
Mercury News Lounge
At the Crossroads- **Best Student Film**
Dir. Savyasachi Anju Prabir
10:30am - 11:18am
Hammer 4

At the Crossroads (Khan Ka Raasta) is an immersive journey into the everyday reality of Kalap village. It transpires at the pace of the village life, to unveil its many facets.

**Niishi Night Worlds**
Dir. Saranya Nayak
11:18am - 12:15pm
Hammer 4

A sensory exploration of night in a small town interweaving experience, imagination and memory from its pre-electrification years to its radically altered present state. **Q&A with Saranya Nayak.**

**Conversations Part 1**

**Ballad for Syria**
Dir. Eda Elif Tibet & Maisa Alhafez
12:15pm - 1:18pm
Hammer 4

A ballad, narrates poetic stories in short stanzas, hence this self-reflective musical documentary mirrors’ the life of Maisa Alhafez a musician and a Syrian refugee living in Istanbul. The film is about her longing to her loved ones as she tries to make a place for herself in the world of the displaced. Her family is still in Syria, Maisa’s true love (fiancé) is in the Netherlands. As of the current EU-Turkey border regime, to unite is very challenging. Not giving up, Maisa works hard for her vision to transform the borders; by building a multicultural community “The oriental Istanbul Mosaic Choir”. **Q&A with Eda Elif Tibet.**
Saturday, November 17th

Document the Impact
Jean Rouch Award
Dir. Adreanna Rodríguez
1:18pm - 1:45pm

Document the Impact was shot in 2017 in Tanzania. It is an intimate portrait of four women who explore the crisis of climate change through participatory photography. Q&A with Adreanna Rodriguez.

Place and Infrastructure Part 3

Lukomir, My Home
Dir. Manka Filak
1:45pm - 3:00pm
Hammer 4

Lukomir is the village with the highest altitude (1472m a.s.l.) in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Despite the outward migration of the population and the increase in tourism in the last decades, transhumant pastoralism and season migration of families and their flocks of sheep characterize the life of their residents. Film that portrays a visual ethnography of an older couple’s everyday life was in the making from April 2014 until May 2017.

Conversations Part 2

Holy Chili!
Dir. Eva Weingart
3:00pm - 3:30pm
Hammer 4

India: where the caste system still divides the society, there is one thing that everyone seems to have in common: the love for chili.
Bush Hunt Hand Talk  
Dir. Willi Lempert  
3:30pm - 4:00pm  
Hammer 4

We join women elders in the Aboriginal Australian community of Balgo as they communicate through Kukatja hand signs while hunting for bush food. **Q&A to with Willi Lempert.**

**WATSONVILLE FILM FESTIVAL:**  
**COLLABORATIVE AND COMMUNITY FILMMAKING**  
**4:00PM - 6:15PM**

Collaborative screening co-organized with the Watsonville Film Festival (WFF). Featuring films about communities in the central coast of California (San Jose, Watsonville, Santa Cruz) done by local filmmakers. The WFF is a grassroots organization that sees film as a catalyst to spark conversations between filmmakers and audiences in order to inspire and engage their diverse community.

From empowering local youth through courses on video production and film culture, to supporting a community of local filmmakers; we partner with the WFF and their collaborating filmmakers to discuss the impact of cinema as a mode of engaging issues facing a community and to celebrate its diversity. We will be discussing collaborative forms of documentary production, and ways of producing documentary from within one’s own community that speak to both local and international audiences.
Saturday, November 17th

**Watsonville Film Festival:**

**Collaborative and Community Filmmaking**

4:00pm – 6:15pm

Libertad
Dir. Brenda Avila-Hanna

Libertad is a short film that tells the story of the incredible Alejandra Santiago, a transgender woman from Oaxaca, Mexico, living in Santa Cruz, California, and whose life transcends many borders.

Midnight Warrior
Dir. Alejandro Santana Jr.

To work. To heal. To remember. A woman finds a deep connection with her late father through her late-night janitorial work.

Keiro Thursdays
Dir. Marisa Kitazaw

A story about bingo and the heart of Watsonville’s Japanese American community.
Lonche
Dir. Claire Weissbluth

A film that tells a tale of two taco trucks: Lonche weaves together the narratives of a traditional lunch truck that roams the strawberry fields of the central coast of California and a gourmet food truck serving the high-tech companies of Silicon Valley.

Xilonen: The Ceremony of Tender Corn
Dir. Consuelo Alba

Xilonen documents a beautiful pre-Hispanic rite of passage that empowers young women. The White Hawk Aztec Dancers have celebrated this ceremony in Watsonville, California for more than 30 years.

Ashley’s Story
In Production
Dir. Emily Cohen Ibañez

Ashley’s Story is a film project in production about Ashley Solis, a Watsonville teenager, strawberry picker and food justice activist who dreams of being the first in her family to graduate from high school and go to college.
What might be revealed in the process of inviting strangers to act out and respond to 1970s feminism forty years later? Between 2015 and 2017, hundreds of strangers in communities all over the US were invited to read aloud and respond to letters from the 70s sent to the editor of Ms. Magazine – the first mainstream feminist magazine in the US. The intimate, provocative, and sometimes heartbreaking conversations that emerge from these spontaneous performances makes us think critically about the past, present, and future of feminism. YOURS IN SISTERHOOD is a collective portrait of feminism now and forty years ago that is newly urgent in the aftermath of the 2016 election- a project about time travel, embodied listening, empathy, public discourse, and the lost art of letter writing. **Q&A with filmmaker Irene Lusztig.**
Screening and Roundtable Discussion: Eugenics

Eugenics: A Dangerous Idea
Dir. Stephanie Welch
9:45pm - 12:00am
Hammer 4

Examines the history of the US eugenics movement and its recent resurrection, presenting a radical reassessment of the meaning, use and misuse of gene science. Discussion to follow with filmmaker Stephanie Welch and anthropologist Agustin Fuentes.
AWARD WINNERS
SVA FILM & MEDIA FESTIVAL
2018

Best Feature Film
Heartbound
dir. by Sine Plambech

Best Interactive Documentary
The River Runs Red
dir. by Isabelle Carbonell

Jean Rouch Award
Document the Impact
dir. by Adreanna Rodríguez

Best Short Film
A Place in the Sun
dir. by Christian Zipfel

Best Student Film
At The Crossroads
dir. by Savyasachi Anju Prabir

Best Student Film Honorable Mention
Together Apart
dir. by Maren Wickwire
KATHRYN RAMEY (Co-director and Juror) teaches film and anthropology at Emerson College, Boston. Her research focuses on alternative artist practices and her book *Experimental filmmaking: BREAK THE MACHINE* (2016) is a thinly veiled ethnography in the freehand voice of a zine about contemporary experimental filmmakers in North America and Europe. She is the recipient of numerous awards including a Social Science Research on the Arts, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and Massachusetts Council on the Arts fellowship. Her films have screened and been awarded internationally.

PATRICIA ALVAREZ ASTACIO (Co-director and Juror) teaches cultural and visual anthropology at Brandeis University. Her research focuses on the Peruvian supply chain of alpaca wool garments for ethical fashion markets and the representations of indigeneity produced within fashion worlds. Her latest film, *Entretejido*, has screened in a number of national and international film festivals.
ILISA BARBASH (Juror) is a curator of visual anthropology at the Peabody Museum of Archeology and Ethnology at Harvard University. Co-director of Sweetgrass and In and Out of Africa. Her book *Where the Roads All End: Photography and Anthropology in the Kalahari* was awarded the Society for Visual Anthropology prize for best book about anthropology and

MAPLE RAZSA (Juror) teaches cultural and visual anthropology at Colby College. His research focuses on activism, contemporary social movements, social justice and injustice in the Balkans. His films *The Maribor Uprising*, *Occupation: A Film About the Harvard Living Wage Sit-In*, and *Bastards of Utopia* have screened and won awards in national and international film festivals.

ILISA BARBASH (Juror) is a curator of visual anthropology at the Peabody Museum of Archeology and Ethnology at Harvard University. Co-director of Sweetgrass and In and Out of Africa. Her book *Where the Roads All End: Photography and Anthropology in the Kalahari* was awarded the Society for Visual Anthropology prize for best book about anthropology and

**Submissions:** 226 entries from 53 countries. **Total Acceptances:** 39 entries

Thanks to: Emerson University, the AAA Executive Committee

Design: Patricia Alvarez Astacio
Film Festival Manager: Barid Campbell

SVAFMF 2018 directed by Kathryn Ramey and Patricia Alvarez Astacio --- [www.societyforvisualanthropology.org](http://www.societyforvisualanthropology.org)