

Independent views, made to connect

near/by film

near/by film produces short, midlength and feature films, as well as installations and exhibitions. The focus is on creative documentary and formally exceptional, author-driven fiction, bringing to light underexposed stories and experiences. near/by film provides an environment for collaboration, taking risks and curiosity.

Manon Bovenkerk

Manon Bovenkerk founded near/by film in 2018. As a creative producer she is actively involved in the conceptual and formal development of the projects. Her aim is to support filmmakers using forms of cinema that cross genres and formats, with the objective to develop modes of production that nurture the process of artistic filmmaking.

Her latest short documentary, *In Flow of Words* directed by Eliane Esther Bots won prizes worldwide, amongst others Best Direction - BONALUMI Engineering at Locarno Film Festival, Best Documentary at Hamptons International Film festival, Best Documentary at Clermont-Ferrand Short Film Festival and Gouden Kalf at Netherlands Film Festival, was shortlisted for DOC NYC and received nominations for the International Documentary Awards and the Cinema Eye Honors.

She worked as a mentor at the Master of Film at the Netherlands Film Academy and is currently an advisor for the Flanders Audiovisual Fund.

She participated in Eurodoc2022 with the documentary *The Listeners*, by Misho Antadze and Peter Hammer, which is currently in development with support of Netherlands Film Fund. This year she will take part as emerging producer in Jumpgate, the new Nebulae program of DocLisboa IFF.

Projects near/by film - upcoming releases



Wild Fruits / Bernardo Zanotto

Wild Fruits is a historical farce created around Michel de Montaigne's essay, *Of Cannibals*. The film portrays a period of Montaigne's life in the 1500s with his fictional servant, Jean. Their story is told from Jean's perspective, against the backdrop of the French religious wars and colonial expansion; moving through different film genres, exploring the frictions between theatrical and cinematic modes, and tensions between the domestic and feral.

Release: 2024

Shot fiction, 35 mins

Direction & script: Bernardo Zanotta **cinematography:** Ville Piipo **sound:** Sergio Gonzalez Cuervo **production design:** Esther van de Pas **support:** AFK, Vevam Steunfonds, Netherlands Film Fund **co-producers:** Yann Gonzalez, Flavien Giorda, Venin Films (FR)



City of Poets / Sara Rajei

Through a collage of personal archive footage and photographs, the history emerges of a semi-utopian, metaphorical city, where all the streets are named after poets. When war begins and new neighbourhoods are built to accommodate the refugees, abrupt and sweeping upheavals lead to mental confusion among the city's residents.

Direction & script: Sara Rajei **editing:** Nathalie Alonso Casale **sound design:** Milna Gataric **support:** Netherlands Film Fund, DKC Rotterdam, Mondriaan Fund, Vevam Fund

Release: 2024

Short essay film, 20 mins



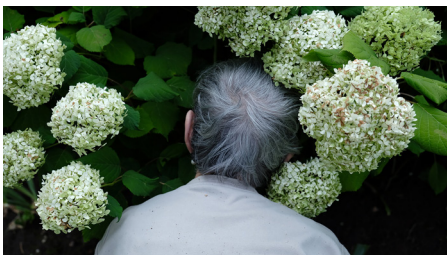
Call me Agnes / Daniel Donato

Call me Agnes combines documentary, fiction and musical elements to tell the story of Agnes Geneva, an Indonesian trans woman living in The Netherlands. This story deals with questions about gender, family and migration. Above all, Agnes' story is a musical tale about the right to be accepted and loved.

Direction Daniel Donato **script & editing** Daniel Donato & Lucas Camargo de Barros **camera:** Lamis Al Mohamad **sound design:** Kamila Wójcik **composer:** S'yo Fang **with:** Agnes Geneva, Rini Mak, Gianluca Koeswanto and Fernando Belfiore **Dutch cinema release:** Periscope Film **support:** Netherlands Film Fund, Municipality The Hague, AFK, Fonds ZOZ, Vevam Fund

Release: 2024

Hybrid feature film, 90 mins



Unreal Estate / Ksenia Galiaeva

In the seemingly paradisiacal surroundings of their Russian summerhouse, the filmmaker turns her parents - Holocaust and labor camp survivors - into willing actors in their own stories. For over 25 years she has attempted to influence their memory and family history through the power of image and wishful thinking, to create a family myth that could be healing. The summerhouse has become a collection of metaphors where time passes at a stretchable speed - like mythical time where the story continues but is repeating itself at the same time.

Direction: Ksenia Galiaeva **editing:** Katarina Türlér **sound design:** Sergio Gonzalez Cuervo **composer:** Joachim Badenhorst **graphic design:** Jan Dallae & Park Woohyuk **support:** Mondriaan Fund, Prins Bernhard Cultuur Fonds

Release: 2023

Film installation (40 mins, looped), single screen (57 min), documentary/autofiction



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Projects near/by film - realized



Realized

2022, 37 mins, experimental mid length film

Insieme, Insieme / Bernardo Zanotta

A co-production between Venin Films (FR) and near/by film

An unusual bandit trio spends autumn in a village by Lake Maggiore. In their holiday apartment they create a parallel world, which little reflects their surroundings. As the pressures of the outside world begin to weigh in on them, they kidnap a tourist in order to give their lives a purpose.

Direction & script: Bernardo Zanotta **with:** Jun Ortega, Lydia Giordano Gustavo Jahn, Leandro Lefa **cinematography:** Ville Piipo **sound:** Sergio Gonzalez Cuervo **distribution** EYE Experimenteel **co-producers:** Venin Films, Yann Gonzalez, Flavien Giorda **world premiere:** FIDMarseille, French Competition



Realized

2021, 22 mins, documentary short

In Flow of Words / Eliane Esther Bots

Three interpreters working for the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia find themselves in the surreal position of having their own personal memories confronted with conflicting narratives from both sides of the conflict, of perpetrators and victims.

Direction & script: Eliane Esther Bots **cinematography:** Daniel Donato **sound:** Sergio Gonzalez Cuervo **support:** Stroom Den Haag, Gemeente Den Haag, Netherlands Film Fund **distribution** Square Eyes **World premiere:** 74 Locarno Film Festival, International Competition, winner Pardi di domani Best Direction BONALUMI Engineering **screening selection:** New York FF, Vancouver Int. FF, Hamptons Int. FF (Best Short Documentary), GwangHwaMun Int. Short FF (Special Jury Award), Aguilar FF (Honourable Mention Best Short Film), Internationale Kurzfilmtage Winterthur, Clermont-Ferrand (winner Best Documentary), DocAviv (winner Best Short Film).



Realized

2020, Performance/installation

The Channel / Eliane Esther Bots

In a dark space with a translation cabin in the center, the interpreters Alma, Besmir, and Nenad talk about their work for the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Video documentation is used to augment their stories, but this performance revolves around the voice, as do the experiences of these essential cogs in the judicial machine.

Commissioned by: IDFA on Stage 2020. **support:** IDFA, Stroom The Hague, Municipality The Hague.



Realized

2020, 19 mins, experimental short

In His Bold Gaze / Bernardo Zanotta

A well-known cannibal drama in which the actors play unfinished characters, often unsure of who they are on and off screen: a closeted gay man, his mother and his lover - caught between the anxiety and pleasure of castration.

Direction, script & editing: Bernardo Zanotta **cinematography:** Raydrick Feliciano, Bernardo Zanotta & Anna Moreno **sound:** Sergio Gonzalez Cuervo **support:** Amsterdam Fund for the Arts



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Projects near/by film - realized



Realized
2020, Installation

PUK* System / Floris Schönfeld

PUK* is a chaotically creative, irrational and possibly schizophrenic artificial intelligence. The project creates a visceral and complex portrait of this illusive character by creating a narrative around it. The installation offers an embodied experience of a meeting with PUK*

Direction & artworks: Floris Schönfeld **cinematography:** John Treffer **sound:** Ruben Samama **algorithmic programming:** Misa Skalsis
Exhibition: Beautiful Distress House, 2020 **support:** AFK, Mondriaan Fund.



Realized
2019, 18 mins, documentary short

Cloud Forest / Eliane Esther Bots

Five Dutch girls take us on an imaginative journey through the memories and images of their parents' experiences of the war in the former Yugoslavia. It is in the intimacy of darkness, in the shadow, where these events unfold.

Direction, script & editing: Eliane Esther Bots **cinematography:** Herman van den Bosch & Daniel de Oliveira Donato **sound:** Sergio Gonzalez Cuervo **support:** Stroom Den Haag, Netherland Film Fund **distribution:** EYE Film
Screenings 2019: Nederlands Film Festival, Uppsala ISFF, Document Human Rights Festival Glasgow, Kassel Dokfest, Eastern Neighbours Film Festival
screenings 2020: Glasgow International Short Film Festival, Movies that Matter Festival, Go Short IFF, Filmfest Dresden, Open City Documentary FF London, Reykjavik IFF, Valladolid IFF



Realized
2018, Exhibition

Expeditie Eisinga / Jeroen Eisinga

Production & program: Electriciteitsfabriek Den Haag
Conceptual, technical and program advice: near/by film

The film work of Jeroen Eisinga is like a search for unknown territory, the success of which depends on the proper preparation and the capacity of the filmmaker to endure physical and mental exhaustion. Focal point of the exhibition was Eisinga's new 60 minutes film work Nightfall.

Expeditie Eisinga took place in the series Winterwerkplaats at Electriciteitsfabriek. **support:** Stroom Den Haag, Fonds 21, Mondriaan Fonds, Gemeente Den Haag, EYE Film

Projects near/by film - in production



In production
Mid-length creative documentary

Consider a Tomato / Marina Sulima

High-tech greenhouses dominate the imagination of the future of agriculture. In that future, between the glass walls, the climate is monitored and controlled to precision and rock-wool replaces soil. A quest to enter a Dutch tomato greenhouse transforms into a trip to Moldova, homeland to many greenhouse workers and to a family cookbook. Can the reading of a manuscript cookbook overlap with the industry of greenhouse tomatoes?

Direction, script & animation: Marina Sulima **editor:** Albert Elings **composer:** Sanam Tabaseni **support:** Wildcard Netherlands Film Fund

Projects near/by film - in production



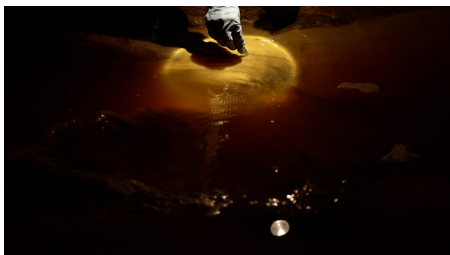
In production

Experimental feature length documentary

Missing Scenes / Sabine Groenewegen

Forensics, poetry and speculation entwine in this experimental documentary. Driven by an investigation around vanished scenes from a Dutch pre war film set on an Indonesian Rubber plantation, and the actress who disappeared together with the scenes of her fictional character, the search for answers unfolds into an interrogation of omitted maternal ancestry.

Direction & script: Sabine Groenewegen **cinematography:** Juan Palacios **sound design:** Malu Peeters **co-editor:** Diana Toucedo **partners:** EYE Filminstitute, Netherlands Institute for Sound & Vision **support:** Netherlands Film Fund, Municipality of The Hague, Amsterdam Fund for the Arts



In production

Experimental feature length documentary

Como todo mortal / Maria Molina Peiró

In a strange landscape akin to a far away planet or an apocalyptic nuclear disaster site, miners and astrobiologists dig the soil for what seem very different purposes: to fuel the technological revolution and to search for life in the Universe.

Direction & script: Maria Molina Peiró **camera:** Juan Palacios **sound design:** Sergio Gonzalez Cuervo **editing:** Diana Toucedo **composer:** Natalia Dominguez Rangel **vsupport:** Netherlands Film Fund, Amsterdam Fund for the Arts, Fonds21, Film and Audiovisual Arts Institute (ICAA). **co-producer:** 15L Film, Carlota Coloma (SP)

Projects near/by film - in development



In development

Fiction feature

Headless Trees / Sara Rajaei

In **Headless Trees**, fear forms the main plot, as a catalyst resulting each story to develop into another, connecting the characters living in different periods of time in unsafe contexts filled with intolerance, submission, and suspicion. In order to deal with their traumas the protagonists escape their actual settings and take refuge into imaginary worlds.

Direction & script: Sara Rajaei **DOP & VFX:** Reineir van Brummelen **sound design:** Milan Gataric **support:** Mondriaan Fund, Netherlands Film Fund through De Verbeelding 2022 **co-producer:** Laydbirds Films (FR), in collaboration with Alambic (FR)



In development

Fiction feature

The Listeners / Misho Antadze

As the Doomsday Clock shows 90 seconds to midnight, nuclear war becomes ever more likely. Shopkeepers and electricians, students and retirees in remote parts of the globe maintain a network of sensitive monitoring devices that acts as the ears of a network that might be preventing the end of the world.

The Listeners is a poetic, observational film about unlikely civilians who might be preventing the apocalypse, and the invisible legacy of nuclear testing.

Direction: Misho Antadze **script:** Misho Antadze & Peter Hammer **camera:** Roy van Egmond **sound design:** Ted Krotkiewskie **development support:** Netherlands Film Fund **supported within the framework of Eurodoc2022**



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