

(Re)connect  
12.01 – 26.01.2025

Ursula Biemann  
Juliana Curi  
Patricia Domínguez  
Dorota Gaweda & Egle Kulbokaite  
Laura Huertas Millán  
Katarzyna Machalek & Lukasz Machowski  
Shirin Neshat  
Rachel Rose  
Tai Shani  
Hylozoic/Desires (Himali Singh Soin & David Soin Tappeser)

Curated by Olga Generalova

Saturday, January 11, 18:00  
Opening

Friday, January 17, 18:00 – 02.00  
Museum Night

20:00  
Guided tour with curators Olga Generalova and Alexander Brust, in cooperation with Museum der Kulturen Basel

21:30 und 23:30  
Performance by Saadet Türköz (live)

The exhibition is supported by SüdKulturFonds and the Kanton Zürich Fachstelle Kultur.

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*(Re)connect* presents ten films by artists and filmmakers with practices that consider historical narration and constructed collective memories. Their works explore the traditional and vernacular knowledge enshrined in oral histories, myths, and songs which inform a contemporary audience of the crucial but dwindling memories of the past – all while opening our eyes to new possible paths toward the future.

From its inception, moving image and the evolution of cinema continue to play a decisive role in representation throughout history and everyday perception across cultures. The depiction of time and space has become a critical component in storytelling, as cinematography is now a language that navigates our understanding of real and imagined moments. Here, the artists blur the boundaries between fiction and non-fiction, expanding striking visuals and vast soundscapes that intersect the genres of sci-fi, experimental cinema, documentary, and video art. Doing so enables their audience to create awareness about complex histories and oft-overlooked legacies, fostering a sense of community and a collective narrative.

The supernatural and slippage of reality also come into question throughout the films, allowing stories to unfold where animism and illusion permeate the landscapes. For artists like Patricia Domínguez, Ursula Biemann, and Dorota Gaweda & Egle Kulbokaite, the boundaries are also crossed between spiritual and parallel worlds (quantum realms), merging ancestral knowledge with contemporary science, where lives unfold on the cusp between the living and the dead. Others, like artists Tai Shani and Laura Huertas Millán, look to botany to reimagine plants and fungi as new visions of society and futures can emerge.

Nature is both stage and character across the ten film and video works screened for *(Re)connect*. Traditional narratives—varying here from Indigenous communities, ancient mythologies, or Slavic folkloric traditions—portray how people across cultures relate to their landscapes. But the land isn't simply scenery, but rather a character with its own agency, that shapes the plot of these cinematic works. Meanwhile, the protagonists of these films navigate and confront the past and their inherited trauma; challenging the prevailing but reductive relationships between nature and culture, men and women, ecology and technology.

Ursula Biemann – *Forest Mind* (2021)

31 Minutes

Set in the Amazonian forests of Colombia, *Forest Mind* explores the intelligence of nature through both scientific and indigenous perspectives. The film examines plant-human relationships, the metaphysics of plants, and how life stores information, blending modern science with shamanic knowledge. By bridging these worldviews, it challenges colonial histories and highlights the importance of decolonizing indigenous knowledge, connecting it with fields such as plant neurobiology, ethnobotany, and quantum biology.

\*Screening Dates: Sat 11.01 – 18:50 & 20:30, Sun 12.01 – 13:55 & 15:30, Fri 17.01 – 20:40 & 22:00, Sat 18.01 – 13:55 & 15:30, Fri 24.01 – 15:00 - 17:48, Sat 25.01 – 13:55 & 15:30

Patricia Domínguez – *Three Moons Below (Tres Lunas más Abajo)* (2023/24)

53 Minutes 53 Seconds

*Three Moons Below* explores the space between the spiritual and parallel realities, blending ancestral knowledge with modern science. The film follows a protagonist and her robotic bird companion as they journey through mystical portals created by the convergence of CERN experiments and ancient petroglyphs found in the Atacama Desert. Along the way, they encounter various beings and gain abilities inspired by celestial and earthly energies. The film reflects Domínguez's research into ethnobotany and South American plant-healing traditions, offering a vision of interconnected existence.

\*Screening Dates: Sat 11.01 – 19:20 (Premier), Sun 12.01 – 13:00 & 16:05, Thur 16.01 – 15:00, 16:00 & 17:00, Fri 17.01 – 16:00, 17:06, 19:50 & 00:00, Sat 18.01 – 13:00 & 16:05, Sat 25.01 – 13:00 & 16:05

Dorota Gaweda and Egle Kulbokaite – *Brood (Scene 5)* (2024)

35 Minutes

*Brood (Scene 5)* is the latest video in the Brood series, featuring Isokratisses' polyphonic singing by women in collaboration with sound producer OXHY. It draws inspiration from the mirologi, a traditional form of mourning songs performed at gravesites in Epirus, a historically disputed region on the Greek-Albanian border. The main character, the Upiór—a vampiric figure from Slavic folklore said to harbor two souls—serves as a bridge between the worlds of the living and the dead, embodying songs that weave together cultural traditions, especially those preserved and passed down by women, deeply connected to their land and environment. One of the songs featured in the work, *Touti Yis Leni Mou*, reflects: *This earth, my Leni / This earth we walk on / We all enter in it...This earth with the flowers / Eats young women and girls / This earth with the violets / Eats old women like candies.*

\*Screening Dates: Sat 11.01 – 18:00 & 21:00 (Premiere), Fri 17.01 – 19:00 & 22:35, Sun 19.01 – 14:15 & 16:10, Wed 22.01 – 15:00, 15:40, 16:20, 17:00 & 17:40, Sun 26.01 – 14:15 & 16:10

Rachel Rose – *Wil-o-Wisp* (2018)

10 Minutes 6 Seconds

*Wil-o-Wisp* follows Elspeth Blake, a mystic and healer, over three decades in 17th-century agrarian England—a time of spiritual and societal upheaval. Beginning in 1570, Elspeth is a wife and mother whose daughter's actions lead to grave consequences. By 1603, she has become a mystic practicing healing through transference but faces persecution as she is accused of witchcraft. The film unfolds in a world where spiritual beliefs and mystical practices intertwine with the harsh realities of the privatization of communal land, reshaping society into the early industrial era. Through vivid tableaux, Rose explores themes of transformation, magic, and the clash between ancient traditions and a changing world.

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Tai Shani – *The Neon Hieroglyph* (2021)

57 Minutes 25 Seconds

In *The Neon Hieroglyph*, Tai Shani combines her research on ergot, a psychedelic fungus, with the mythology of the Maiara—flying witches from Alicudi, a remote Italian island. Historically, the impoverished population of the island unknowingly consumed rye contaminated with ergot, which caused hallucinations similar to those induced by LSD. The Maiara, depicted as positive and socially important witch figures, would paint their bodies and fly to steal from the rich. This narrative contrasts with typical European witch lore and offers a powerful story of resistance against hardship. The film is divided into nine episodes and features a hypnotic soundtrack by Maxwell Sterling.

\*Screening Dates: Sat 11.01 – 18:43, Sun 12.01 – 14:30 & 17:00, Wed 15.01 – 15:00, 16:00 & 17:00, Fri 17.01 – 15:00, 18:00 & 00:55, Sat 18.01 – 14:30 & 17:00, Sun 19.01 – 13:00, 14:55 & 17:05, Sat 25.01 – 14:30 & 17:00, Sun 26.01 – 13:00, 14:55 & 17:05

Juliana Curi, *UYRA – The Rising Forest* (2022)  
1 Hour 12 Minutes

*UYRA – The Rising Forest* follows Uyra, an Indigenous artist and biologist, on a journey through the Amazon. They use performance art and ancestral wisdom to empower Indigenous youth while confronting racism, transphobia, and violence against nature. Transforming into Uyra Sodoma, a being adorned with plant elements and embodying the voice of the forest, they weave art and activism to preserve the Amazon and reclaim pre-colonial values.

\*Screening Dates: Sun 12.01 – 13:00, Fri 17.01 – 16:30, 20:00 & 23:50, Sat 18.01 – 13:00, Sun 19.01 – 13:45 & 15:45, Fri 24.01 – 15:00 & 16:30, Sat 25.01 – 13:00, Sun 26.01 – 13:45 & 15:45

Laura Huertas Millán – *Jíibie* (2019)  
25 Minutes

*Jíibie* is part of a series exploring the coca plant and its misunderstood history. Originating in the Andes of South America, the coca plant is often linked to cocaine production, yet its significance extends far beyond this association. The film focuses on the Muiná-Murui community in the Colombian Amazon, showcasing their ritual of making mambe, a green coca powder referred to as Jíibie. For this community, the coca leaf is viewed as a sacred, feminine entity, not merely a product for exploitation. Through their rituals and the myth surrounding the creation of mambe, the film reveals the respect and care the community holds for the plant, challenging the misconceptions and criminalization that have overshadowed its true cultural and spiritual importance.

\*Screening Dates: Sat 11.01 – 18:15 & 20:15, Wed 15.01 – 15:00, 15:30, 16:00, 16:30, 17:00 & 17:30, Fri 17.01 – 18:15, 21:30 & 01:00, Sun 19.01 – 13:15, 15:15 & 17:15, Fri 24.01 – 17:30, Sun 26.01 – 13:15, 15:15 & 17:15

Katarzyna Machalek & Lukasz Machowski – *Day and Night (Dzien i Noc)* (2022)  
1 Hour 29 Minutes

Set in the mysterious forests of East Poland, *Day and Night* explores themes of folklore, female solidarity, mythical status attributed to women, and aging through a blend of fiction and documentary. The film constantly shifts between past and present, creating a sense of duality. Told from a female perspective, it celebrates strength and unity of women through communal singing.

\*Screening Dates: Sun 12.01 – 14:35 & 16:25 (Premier), Fri 17.01 – 15:00, 22:00, Sat 18.01 – 14:35 & 16:25, Wed 22.01 – 15:00 & 16:30, Sat 25.01 – 14:35 & 16:25

Shirin Neshat – *Mahdokht (Women without Men Series)* (2004)  
14 Minutes

*Mahdokht (Women without Men Series)* tells a magical and haunting story of a woman torn between her fear of sexuality and her longing for fertility. Seeking escape from societal pressures, *Mahdokht (Women without Men Series)* retreats to a lush, mystical garden in the desert, where she transforms into a tree to bear fruit and spread her seed. Through surreal imagery and Persian myths, the film explores themes of oppression, self-determination, and freedom, reflecting the struggles of women in a patriarchal society. Inspired by Shahrnush Parsipur's banned novel, *Women Without Men*, it weaves folklore and magic into a poignant tale of resistance and transformation.

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Hylozoic/Desires (Himali Singh Soin & David Soin Tappeser) – *As Grand As What* (2021)  
16 Minutes 50 Seconds

*As Grand As What* unfolds between Mount Vesuvius and the Indian Himalayas, following a search for a lost life force, „bla,“ a term from Tibetan medicine symbolizing the energy that connects all living things. Disguised as earth spirits, the artists perform five rituals to reactivate the planet's energy centers, using sound, poetry, and elemental practices to reconnect with nature.

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