

Matti HARJU                      www.mattiharju.com  
b. 1978

*Education*

MFA, Finnish Academy of Fine Arts, 2021  
MA in Fiction Direction, National Film and Television  
School (NFTS), UK, 2006 - 2007

*Selected Screenings and Film Festivals*

2026

International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR), Harbour,  
NL /

2024

Go Short - Int. Short Film Festival Nijmegen, *Kill Your  
Darlings* programme, NL /  
Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin, Berlin, DE /

2023

International Film Festival Rotterdam, Bright Future, NL /  
Helsinki International Film Festival, R&A Spring Break,  
FI /  
69. Internationale Kurzfilmtage Oberhausen, DE /  
*Which Way Is Up?* Digital Cinema in the 21st Century,  
MACA Moving Arts Centre Amsterdam, NL /  
*52 Ikkunaa Eurooppaan*: Oberhausen International  
Competition 2022, Arthouse Cinema Niagara, FI /  
Kino Otok - Isola Cinema International Film Festival, SI /  
Helsinki International Film Festival, FI /  
25 FPS - 19th International Experimental Film and Video  
Festival, HR /  
Filmfest Sundsvall, Next Europe Competition, SE /  
Doclisboa - International Film Festival, PT /  
Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin, Paris, FR /  
Short Waves Festival - RAW Competition, PL /

*Oberhausen on Tour*: International Competition 2022, A4  
Space For Contemporary Culture, SK /  
Torino Film Festival, NUOVIMONDI / NEWWORLDS, IT /

2022

Minimalen Short Film Festival, Trondheim, NO /  
Ribalta Experimental Film Festival, IT /  
THIS IS SHORT: New Point of View - European Online  
Competition (online) /  
Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin, Paris, FR /  
68. Internationale Kurzfilmtage Oberhausen, DE /  
FLIGHT/ Mostra Internazionale del Cinema di Genova, IT /  
*Aliens and Afterlives*, PIX FILM Gallery, Toronto, CA /

2021

Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival, Short  
Film Market Picks label, FR /  
HATERS Moving Image Journal - solo program, New York,  
US /  
Program #22, La Cinémathèque Temporaire du Collectif  
Jeune Cinéma, Paris, FR /  
Helsinki International Film Festival, Next Level Shorts, FI /

2020

Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin, Haus der Kulturen  
der Welt, Berlin, DE /  
Façade Video Festival, Plovdiv, BG /  
Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin, Grand Palais,  
Paris, FR /

2019

Tetova International Film Festival, MK /

2018

Torino Film Festival, Onde / Waves, IT /

2016

Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin, Gaité Lyrique,  
Paris, FR /

Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, DE /

2014

MUSAC, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León, ES /

European Film Forum SCANORAMA, Vilnius, LT /

2013

Seance Reguliere du CJC: *Violence*, Collectif Jeune Cinéma, Paris, FR /

2012

International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR), NL /

IndieLisboa International Independent Film Festival, Lisbon, PT /

Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin/Madrid, Matadero Contemporary Art Center, ES /

VIS Vienna Independent Shorts, AT /

Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin/Madrid, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, DE /

DokuFest International Documentary and Short Film Festival, Prizren, Kosovo /

Nordisk Panorama, Oulu, FI /

BFI London Film Festival, UK /

Lille International Short Film Festival, Nouvelles Images, FR /

Cork Film Festival, IE /

Semana del Cine Experimental de Madrid, ES /

ZINEBI 54 International Festival of Documentary and Short Film of Bilbao, ES /

Torino Film Festival, IT /

Festival of Different and Experimental Cinemas, Paris, FR /

2011

Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin/Madrid, Centre Pompidou, Paris, FR /

2009

Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival, FR /

Forum des Images, Paris, FR /

Tabakalera International Contemporary Culture Centre, San Sebastian, ES /

2008

Locarno International Film Festival, CH /

Edinburgh International Film Festival, UK /

2006

International Film Festival Rotterdam, NL /

Denver Film Festival, US /

Santa Fe Film Festival, US /

Frameline30 San Francisco International LGBT Film Festival, US /

Milwaukee International Film Festival, US /

CFC Toronto Worldwide Short Film Festival, CA /

Outfest Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, US /

NewFest New York LGBT Film Festival, US /

St. Louis International Film Festival, US /

2005

BFI London Film Festival, UK /

AFI FEST, Los Angeles, US /

Cork Film Festival, IE /

Brest European Short Film Festival, FR /

ZINEBI 47 International Festival of Documentary and Short Film of Bilbao, ES /

IndieLisboa International Independent Film Festival, PT /

Krakow Film Festival, PL /

Short Shorts Film Festival, Tokyo, JP /

Uppsala International Short Film Festival, SE /

Nordisk Panorama, Bergen, NO /

Zagreb Film Festival, HR /

Midnight Sun Film Festival, Sodankylä, FI /

### *Awards / Nominations*

Conversations of Our Time - International Media Art Competition, Turku, FI, 2021 /  
Prize 'Pablo del Amo' for Best Editing, La 22 Semana de Cine Experimental de Madrid, ES, 2012 /  
Special Jury Mention, Festival of Different and Experimental Cinemas, Paris, FR, 2012 /  
*Nominated for the* Golden Leopard, Locarno Film Festival, CH, 2008 /  
*Nominated for the* Best British Short Film Award, Edinburgh International Film Festival, UK, 2008 /  
Grand Prix, International Film and TV School Festival, Lodz, PL, 2005 /  
Special Mention, FIDEC International Festival for Cinema Schools, Huy, BE, 2005 /

### *Selected Exhibitions*

2026 *showroom #3 rules of reality*, Mad House, Helsinki (curated by Remi Vesala)  
2026 *Bridge Over Troubled Water*, Lou Gallery, Helsinki, FI (screening) /  
2024 La Bande Vidéo Gallery, Québec, CA /  
2023 Gallery Fikka, Porvoo Art Hall, FI (solo) /  
2022 Gallery Sinne - Video Weeks, Helsinki, FI (solo) /  
2021 *Hunajanjyvä / Honeygrain*, Eura, FI (group) /  
2017 MFA Degree Show Kuvan Kevät, Exhibition Laboratory, Helsinki, FI (group) /  
2017 *Rethinking Digitalization*, Exhibition Laboratory, Helsinki, FI (group) /  
2016 Exhibition Laboratory Project Room, Helsinki, FI (solo) /  
2015 Gallery Sinne, Helsinki, FI (solo) /

### *Filmography*

- YARIS, VARIS / YARIS, CROW - 2026 / 13'  
- NOX - 2026 / 64' (Elokuvayhtiö Testifilmi Oy)

- NATURA - 2023 / 69'  
- EKSTAASI / ECSTASY - 2023 / 10'  
- BORN TO FEEL - 2021 / 6'  
- KOLME PÄIVÄÄ SADETTA - 2021 / 10'  
- MINUS WORLD - 2021 / 6'  
- EL CENTRO - 2021 / 7'  
- ALIENS - 2020 / 9'  
- NUEVA ERA / NEW AGE - 2018 / 65'  
- AFRIKKA / AFRICA - 2012 / 9'  
- ONE IN FOUR - 2008 / 19' (NFTS)  
- MIES ETSII MIESTÄ / MAN SEEKING MAN - 2004 / 12' (Lahti Polytechnic)

### *Bibliography*

Felipe, Everardo: Estado actual de la imaginación, La Tempestad, 20 Feb 2026 /  
Yli-Annala, Kari: Ihmisen ja luonnon luonto - *Naturasta* ja muista Matti Harjun elokuvista, niin & näin, 3/23, p. 122-126 /  
Nikkanen, Inari: What is the nature of Natura, Matti Harju?, R&A Media, Apr 6 2023 /  
Möller, Olaf: Itsepäisiä ihmeitä, Filmihullu, 1/2023, p. 21-22 /  
Collazos, Rubén: Natura (Matti Harju), Cinemaldito, 28 Feb 2023 /  
Nicholson, Ben: Review, The Film Verdict, 31 Jan 2023 /  
Soini, Heli: Kouvolalaisen ohjaajan Matti Harjun elokuva saa maailman ensi-iltansa Alankomaissa, Kouvolan Sanomat, Jan 22 2023, p. 30-31 /  
Yli-Annala, Kari: Suomalaisen elokuvan sukujuhlissa, Mustekala, May 31 2022 /  
Tropiano, Stefano: Nueva era di Matti Harju, CineDams Torino, Nov 25 2018 /  
Uoti, Jaakko: Maagista ajattelua elokuvan keinoin, Mustekala, Mar 19 2015 /  
Korpak, Helen: Tysta sekvenser, Hufvudstadsbladet (HBL), Mar 15 2015, p. 37 /

Kolme elokuvaa Suomesta Lontoon elokuvajuhlille,  
Helsingin Sanomat, Sep 9 2012, p. C 6 /  
IndieLisboa '12: Interview, videos.sapo.pt/indielisboa,  
00:03:16, 2012 /  
Elo, Satu: Creativity can be maximized with restrictions,  
Finnish Film Foundation, 2010, p. 7 /  
Kaksi suomalaista elokuvaohjaajaa ehdolla Huomisen  
leopardiksi, YLE Uutiset, Aug 6 2008 /

Finnish Cultural Foundation /  
Kone Foundation /  
Saastamoinen Foundation /  
Grönqvistska Stiftelsen /  
Greta ja William Lehtinen Foundation /  
Arts Council of Finland /  
AVEK /  
Finnish Film Foundation /  
Finnish Artists' Studio Foundation /  
Frame Contemporary Art Finland /  
British Council /  
Finn-Guild /

#### *Teaching / Panels*

2023 Visiting Lecturer - Aalto University Department  
of Film ELO (course: Seventh Art ELO-E1017) /  
2023 *Cinema as a litmus test or catalyst of society?* Kino  
Otok - Isola Cinema International Film Festival,  
SI (panel discussion) /

#### *Residencies*

2025 Porvoo Art Hall, artist-in-residence programme,  
FI /  
2024 La Méduse, Québec City, CA (Finnish Artists'  
Studio Foundation) /  
2022 LIFT - Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of  
Toronto, CA /  
2005 Berlinale Talent Campus, DE /

#### *Distribution*

2024 THIS IS SHORT: *Exceptions* programme, SVOD /  
2022- Internationale Kurzfilmtage Oberhausen gGmbH,  
DE /  
2021- AV-Arkki, FI /  
2012- Collectif Jeune Cinéma, FR /  
2007 YLE TV1 [Uusi Kino], FI /  
2007 Tampere Film Festival - Short Film  
Collection DVD Vol. 1 /

#### *Grants from*