

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 /  
VIDEOEX 28. International Experimental Film & Video  
Festival, Zürich, CH /  
New Horizons International Film Festival, Wroclaw, *Lost*  
*Lost Lost* section, PL /

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 /

Doelisboa 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, Gaîté 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*

*Special Mention*, VIDEOEX 28. International Experimental Film & Video Festival, Zürich, CH, 2026 /

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 seksenser, 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 /

#### *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*

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