

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, Wrocław, *Lost*
Lost section, PL /
Espoo Ciné International Film Festival, *Intersection*, FI /
Helsinki International Film Festival, National Competition:
Twilight Zone, FI /
Helsinki International Film Festival, *Next Level*, FI /

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, 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

Collazos, Rubén: Nox (Matti Harju), Cinemaldito, 8 June 2026 /

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, Kouvola 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 leopardiiksi, 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

2026 GWL Residency, Helsinki, FI /

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

2026 Theatrical Cinema Release (Nox), Elke ry, FI /

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 /

Grönqvistska 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 /