

WAYS TO TRAVERSE A TERRITORY / FORMAS DE ATRAVESAR UN TERRITORIO



A FILM BY
GABRIELA DOMINGUEZ RUVALCABA

72 mins / 2024 / Spanish, Tsotsil, English Subtitles, Spanish Subtitles / Mexico



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AWARDS AND FESTIVALS

Best of Fests Selection - International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA)

Best Feature Film Award – Portland EcoFilm Festival – United States

Official Selection – Latin American Studies Association Film Festival

National Autonomous University of Mexico Int’l Film Festival (FICUNAM) – Mexico

Locarno Film Festival – Switzerland

Morelia International Film Festival (FICM)

San Diego OtherWise Film Festival

Latin America in Focus Malmö, Sweden

Ambulante Documentary Film Festival, Mexico

Monterrey International Film Festival, Mexico

San Diego Latino Film Festival,

Durango Film Festival, US

Libre Cinema Festival, Mexico

SYNOPSIS

A family of Indigenous Tsotsil women herds sheep on a green mountain slope in southern Mexico. The film observes them shearing and dyeing the wool and walking with the animals through the mountains. Filmmaker Gabriela Domínguez Ruvalcaba converses with the women—sometimes literally. The mime-style scenes, in which the women perform their daily activities, and the poetic eye for details, such as tufts of wool swirling like snow through the air, all contribute to a film that explores the ways humankind can shape its environment and the marks it leaves behind.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I grew up in a city surrounded by mountains inhabited by indigenous peoples who have resisted while maintaining their identity. My film arises from a deep-rooted nostalgia and concern for the destruction of these mountains and explores the ways of living together in the same territory. The memory of this place is kept in the insides of the *"mossy hill"* woven by the Tsotsil women with woollen threads. As we traverse them, we encounter, recognise and honour ourselves.

Gabriela Domínguez Ruvalcaba

DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Gabriela Domínguez Ruvalcaba – Director, Screenplay and Editor.

Her work is nourished by interdisciplinary experiences around narratives and explorations that arise from her interest in dance and the environment. Since her first documentary *La Danza del Hipocampo* (2014) she began a search into the forms of film essay that led her to study a master's degree at the EICTV (Cuba). She is a graduate of the UDLAP communication degree and the master's degree in Creative Documentary at the Autonomous University of Barcelona; she is part of the National System of Art Creators (2020-2023). *"Formas de atravesar un territorio"* is his second feature film premiered at Locarno Film Festival and FICUNAM in 2024. She is currently directing her third feature-length documentary *"Un Murmullo recorre la tierra"* (The whisper of a seed).

La danza del hipocampo (2014). Documentary Feature Film (Best Documentary at Monterrey International Film Festival // Best Direction at Mérida Yucatán International Film Festival // Jury Mention and Press Award at FICM Morelia International Film Festival 2014 // Flaherty Award at FICG Guadalajara International Film Festival // Best Cinematography at Pantalla de Cristal // Official Selection at DOCSDF Mexico City International Documentary Film Festival // Official Selection at Edinburgh International Film Festival // FEMCINE Women's Film Festival).

CAST AND CREW

Screenplay and Directed by: Gabriela Domínguez Ruvalcaba

Producer: Pía Quintana Enciso

Cinematography: Natali Montell

Editing: Dalia Huerta Cano Gabriela Dominguez Ruvalcaba

Sound: Emma Viviana González

Sound design: Christian Giraud

Music: Arcadio M. Lanz

CAST

Sebastiana Hernández

Maribel Pérez Hernández

Margarita Pérez Hernández

Rosalinda Pérez Hernández

Angelina Pérez Hernández

Ranger Don Manuelito Hernández Gómez

Women weavers from Bautista Chico (SbaVitsTik)