

LETTERS: THE ART OF GRIEVING



A FILM BY

NICH L. PEREZ

20 mins / Color / 2019 / English



EPF MEDIA

324 S. Beverly Drive, PMB 437

Beverly Hills, CA 90212

(323) 301-3663

Website: www.epfmedia.com

Email: larry@epfmedia.com

FILM FESTIVALS

Jury Award – Festival ART CONTAINER, Bergamo, Italy.

Award Winner – Go Mental! International Short Film Festival, Germany

Official Selection, StoryBolt’s 4th Short Documentary Contest, USA

Official Selection – Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival, Scotland.

Official Selection – University Film and Video Association Conference, USA

Official Selection – Great Lakes Film Festival, USA

Official Selection – Mountain Shadow Film Society’s Short Film Competition

Official Selection – First Look Film Festival, USA

Official Selection, Filmstrip International Film Festival, Romania

Official Selection, Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival, USA

SYNOPSIS

Letters: The Art of Grieving reveals the powerful transformations of grief into art. The documentary explores the creativity that intertwines with the lives of three women: a poet and fiber artist who lost her husband to dementia, an artist whose 9-week-old son died unexpectedly, and a young painter who lost her mother to brain cancer. The film examines their art as a love letter to the ones they have lost.



DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

"Art is a wound turned into light." ~ Georges Braque

I always wondered how we could capture such light through the lens. It took me almost 11 years to understand such a process, and honestly, it is quite a process. The pain and the love that I had experienced when I lost my mother, *Zenaida*, to cancer have brought me to this point in my mission to transform grief into healing narratives, ultimately in a form of a cinematic letter.

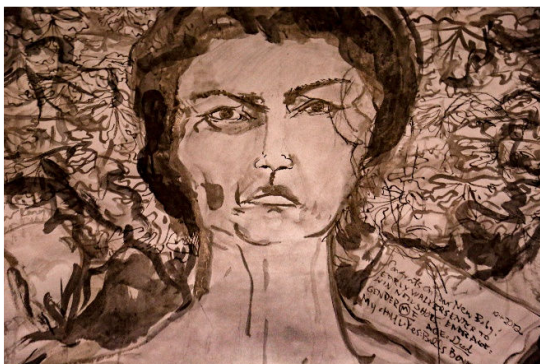
The process became the core of my research and the aesthetics of the pixels that I hoped to create. It showed me paths and not just a solution. It led me to collaborate with friends who courageously journeyed with me to make this film, giving it the light it deserves.

It is a process because, like any art form, it can be arduous but also fulfilling. Joan, Alexis, and Natalie are only a few of the many people who are in this creative journey of healing. Transformations are not found only in the paint, fibers, or poetry. They are also in their lives as they share their stories and art with others who carry similar wounds.

In weaving these stories, an important lesson I have learned is that: **we are not doing all this alone**. Art is a universal experience, and the heuristic process of creating allows us to know ourselves better. And with that process, we can carry the light together.

Thank you for sharing the journey with me.

Nich L. Perez



DIRECTOR BIOGRAPHIES

Nich L. Perez is a Filipino - American filmmaker, creative strategist, and educator based in Austin, TX, and Los Angeles, CA.

With the impetus to tell stories that matter, he treats every film grain or pixel as sacred, creating media that transcend through the lens as a whole, rendering beauty, inspiration, and authenticity in its evolving media landscape. He believes that great stories empower, told through the lens of empathy and community. To advocate for the homeless and practice social justice through media, he took part in the Human Rights and Photography Program at Tisch School of the Arts at New York University with the Magnum Foundation. He had the honor to collaborate with the unsheltered clients of Wards Island in New York City in 2014. And before doing his research fellowship in the School of Cinematic Arts at the University of Southern California, he was an Assistant Professor in Communications and Visual Arts at Holy Cross College at Notre Dame, IN, where he also served as the director of the digital arts studio.

With 15 years of experience in filmmaking, creative strategy, and education, his work in the development of mission-driven media, effective communications, and documentaries intersects with creativity, philosophy, mental wellness, and service-learning through media arts and practice. Many of his media projects were in numerous international film festivals and exhibitions, including (In)Justice For All, Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival, and Flicker's Rhode Island Film Festival. In collaboration with multiple non-profit organizations, his extensive mission-driven media work supports their causes in print to emerging media. He hopes to continue to share this passion of transforming hearts and minds through powerful stories and in meaningful projects, one pixel at a time. nichperezcsc.com

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Artists: **Alexis Roberts Keiner**
 Joan Schulze
 Natalie Ki Treadwell

Written & Directed by **Nich Leanda Perez**
Producer **Michael David Notrica**
Editor **Christopher Ma**
Animation by **Crystal Jow**
Cinematography by **Baihui 'Becky' Chen**
Composer **Mark Garbett**
Original Music by **The Moth & The Flame**
Production Sound by **Ann Cassady Li** and **Eric Han**
Sound Mixer **Santiago Rodriguez Herran**
Associate Producer **Vince Kuna**
Sound Designer **Nich L. Perez**
Assistant Camera **Jake Deverian** and **Jerry Wang**
Drone Pilot **Ryan Griswold**
Drone Camera Operator **Michael Kolb**
Production Assistants **Holly Avecilla** and **Jessika Hudson**