

# DANCE TRAIL (2020)

Premiered at Sundance Film Festival – New Frontier, 23 January 2020,  
Park City, USA

**choreography by Gilles Jobin**

## Press Review



Glas Istre, 28/10/2020, « Tjedan suvremenog plesa ove godine u tri bloka »

<https://www.glasistre.hr/kultura/tjedan-suvremenog-plesa-ove-godine-u-tri-bloka-675937>

> Tribune de Genève, 19/07/2020, « La réalité augmentée, un nouveau souffle pour la danse » par Clara Rigoli

> BAM Blog, 02/04/2020, "Recommended Digital Arts & Education Resources for Parents"

<https://blog.bam.org/2020/04/recommended-kids-digital-arts-education.html>

> KPCW 91.7 FM, 27/01/2020, "Directors & Lead Artists Gilles Jobin and Camilo De Martino, DANCE TRAIL"

<https://www.kpcw.org/post/directors-lead-artists-giles-jobin-and-camilo-de-martino-dance-trail-january-27-2020>

> Corriere del Ticino, 20/01/2020, "Sfrutto la tecnologia per diffondere la danza" par Patrick Steffen

<https://we.tl/t-Go3IHFOicS>

> Next Reality News, 09/01/2020, "Unity Previews Immersive Art Experiences for Mobile AR, Magic Leap One, & HoloLens at Upcoming Sundance Festival by Tommy Palladino"

<https://next.reality.news/news/unity-previews-immersive-art-experiences-for-mobile-ar-magic-leap-one-hololens-upcoming-sundance-festival-0227930/>

> Lydia White's Blog, 07/01/2020, "Unity at Sundance Film Festival 2020" by Lydia White

<https://blogs.unity3d.com/2020/01/07/unity-at-sundance-film-festival-2020/>

> Parkrecord, 16/12/2019, "Sundance Institute announces New Frontier selections for 2020 film festival"

<https://www.parkrecord.com/entertainment/sundance-institute-announces-new-frontier-selections-for-2020-film-festival/>

Variety, 12/12/2019, «Sundance: 2020 New Frontier Program Features Underwater VR, Chomsky A.I.»

<https://variety.com/2019/film/festivals/sundance-2020-new-frontier-lineup-virtual-reality-1203434425/>

> Deadline, 12/12/2019, "Sundance Film Festival Announces New Frontier Lineup For 2020" by Anthony D'Alessandro

<https://deadline.com/2019/12/sundance-film-festival-announces-new-frontier-lineup-for-2020>

> Indiewire, 12/12/2019, "Sundance 2020 Reveals New Frontier Slate, Including Films and VR Experiences" by Kate Erbland

<https://www.indiewire.com/2019/12/sundance-2020-new-frontier-slate-1202196757/>

> Filmmaker Magazine, 12/12/2019, "Sundance Announces 2020 Festival New Frontier Selection" by Scott Macaulay

<https://filmmakermagazine.com/108719-sundance-announces-2020-festival-new-frontier-selection/#.Xx2rjy3pNQJ>

> Collider, 12/12/2019, "Sundance 2020 Reveals New Frontier Lineup" by Brendan Michael

<https://collider.com/sundance-2020-new-frontier-lineup/>

Glas Istre, 28/10/2020, « Tjedan suvremenog plesa ove godine u tri bloka »  
<https://www.glasistre.hr/kultura/tjedan-suvremenog-plesa-ove-godine-u-tri-bloka-675937>

## Tjedan suvremenog plesa ove godine u tri bloka

28.10.2020 10:18 | Autor: Hina



(Hina/EPA)

Predstava "Flesh" Franka Vigrouxa otvorit će 29. listopada u KUC-u Travno 37. Tjedan suvremenog plesa, koji u tri bloka donosi aktualne produkcije s međunarodne plesne scene iz Francuske, Kanade, Mađarske, Slovenije, Švicarske i Velike Britanije, te Hrvatske.

Najveći međunarodni plesni festival u Hrvatskoj i ove će godine, izazovima usprkos, festivalskoj publici predstaviti najrecentnija djela umjetnika koji privlače pažnju publike diljem svijeta, stoji u najavi.

Aktualne produkcije s međunarodne plesne scene predstaviti će umjetnici iz Francuske (Frank Vigreaux), Kanade (Daina Ashbee), Švicarske (Gilles Jobin) te Velike Britanije (Jonathan Burrows).

Mlađu generaciju europskih umjetnika festivalski program prati kroz suradnju hrvatske plesačice Lane Hosni i slovenskog koreografa Matej Kejžara, te slovensku umjetnicu Anu Cvelfar i mađarskog autora (Laszlo Madi) uz zagrebačke autore Sašu Božića, Idu Jolić, Petru Hrašćanec.

Festival će se održati u Kulturno umjetničkom centru Travno, Zagrebačkom plesnom centru te Domu likovnih umjetnika a program je podijeljen na tri zasebna bloka: 29. i 30. listopada (Frank Vigreaux, Daina Ashbee), od 9. do 15. studenoga (Gilles Jobin, Ida Jolić, Matej Kejžar, Saša Božić, Petra Hrašćanec...) te 19. studenoga (Jonathan Burrows).

Tjedan suvremenog plesa (TSP) najpoznatiji je projekt Hrvatskog instituta za pokret i ples (HIPP). Festival je tijekom proteklih 37 godina postojanja prezentirao skoro tisuću djela renomiranih svjetskih umjetnika te producirao preko stotinu premijernih izvedbi domaćih autora, proizvevši tako nekoliko generacija hrvatskih koreografa i plesača. Festival je 2017. godine dobio i prestižno priznanje Europske festivalske federacije, a 2010. godine odlikovan je i Poveljom RH za doprinos razvitku i promicanju međunarodnog položaja RH kroz suvremeni ples.

"Izazovi s kojima se festival već nekoliko godina susreće (nedostatak većih prostora za udomiti sve zahtjevnije predstave, zastarjela tehnologija, umanjena financijska potpora) uz ovogodišnji Covid-19 kontekst odrazili su se i na mogućnost uvrštavanja više naslova", ističu organizatori. "Vjerujemo ipak da smo i ove godine osigurali kvalitetan i zanimljiv program koji pruža uvid u aktualnosti umjetnika koji plijene pažnju međunarodne kazališne i plesne javnosti", poručuju.

Detaljan festivalski program dostupan je na stranicama festivala [www.danceweekfestival.com](http://www.danceweekfestival.com).

> BAM Blog, 02/04/2020, "Recommended Digital Arts & Education Resources for Parents"  
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THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2020

## Recommended Digital Arts & Education Resources for Parents



By Steven McIntosh, BAM's Director of Education and Family Programming

While they're not a perfect solution, I've come to better accept the necessity of screens as a way to maintain some of our humanity during this particularly isolating crisis, and have come to terms with the important ways they can bring the arts to families in the absence of in-person arts education and live performance. (Watching almost every aspect of my kids' lives become screen-based has helped.) With that in mind, here are a few BAM-approved selections to get you started or add to your arts resource list.

First, I hope you've had a chance to experience some of the great virtual arts education content being produced by our NYC friends ([Lincoln Center at Home](#), [New Victory Arts Break](#)). It makes me proud to be among such creative colleagues bringing fantastic teaching artists right into our homes.

I've never had the opportunity to experience Kansas City-based puppeteer Paul Mesner live but have enjoyed his [Daily Puppet Magic](#) (3pm EST) from Mesner Puppet Theater; there are mini-puppet shows, DIY puppet making videos, and other fun (he's also got a great dog puppet hand-washing video, in case your little ones need a fun reminder: [Sing Along with Ringo](#)). For ages 8+, I'd recommend introducing them to Joanie Lemerrier, a French digital artist and climate activist based in Belgium. Joanie created a great [how-to origami-style video](#) that teaches you how to build the paper pyramids in one of his art installations. Kids can create and use multiple pyramids to create their own installation (on a table or the wall) and learn about Lemerrier's work (particularly his climate action projects raising awareness

around the environmental impact of [coal mining](#)).

Many of us are burning through all of our playlists and catalogs at home. If you're looking for a great living room concert vibe from a solid "kindie" artist for 3-5 year olds, check out Sonia De Los Santos' Latin music for children at [En Casa Con Sonia](#) (each song comes with an activity page). Or send your 8+ on an around-the-world musical journey using [Folk Cloud](#), where they can learn and listen to all kinds of folk music using an interactive world map. If you're craving a live music experience with your kids, past BAMkids performer Amelia Robinson (Mil's Trills) helped put together an updated schedule of live contemporary children's music events called [Playtime Playlist](#) that is a lot fun and you can support the artists directly for their work.

In addition to the growing list of streamed and recorded performances for adults (see Billboard's list of [livestreaming pop artists](#), [National Theatre at Home](#), [Broadway HD](#)), there are also a few recently released family-friendly alternatives to Disney+ worth introducing your kids to, like the Royal Ballet/Royal Ballet School's production of [Peter and the Wolf](#), [Levar Burton Reads on Twitter](#), and Cirque du Soleil's [60-minute special](#) highlighting some of their iconic shows.

And if you're trying to keep your kid off Fortnite for a little while longer, you can curate your own #BAMteknopolis at home: Turn your living space into a wildlife preserve with [Google 3D Animals](#); learn the choreography of and dance with the Gilles Jobin Company (Teknopolis 2019) using the [Dance Trail](#) app (pictured above); or create (and capture!) your digital art with Zach Lieberman's (Teknopolis 2019) newest online interactive project [Color Push](#). Zach also made his AR app [Weird Type](#) (Teknopolis 2019) free for a limited time, which will offer kids a creative way to send video messages to friends and family.

Lastly, watching the virtual artist collaborations going viral has reminded me of how resilient our collective creativity can be in times of hardship. I recently rewatched the dance chain letter tribute by 52 choreographers honoring BAM's Executive Producer Emeritus, Joseph V. Melillo, titled [And So Say All of Us](#). Seeing these dancers move so freely, particularly in and around everyday NYC spaces, made me feel free too. I sincerely hope you find what helps you and your family continue to experience and make art together. Stay well.



> Next Reality News, 09/01/2020, "Unity Previews Immersive Art Experiences for Mobile AR, Magic Leap One, & HoloLens at Upcoming Sundance Festival by Tommy Palladino"  
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# Unity Previews Immersive Art Experiences for Mobile AR, Magic Leap One, & HoloLens at Upcoming Sundance Festival

- BY TOMMY PALLADINO
- 01/08/2020 7:45 PM

The Unity 3D engine is not only responsible for facilitating the creation of [60% of AR and VR content](#) but it also plays a significant role in producing the immersive stories that increasingly push the boundaries of cinema.

Some of these daring new immersive works will now be on display at the [Sundance Film Festival](#), which takes place Jan. 23 through Feb. 2 in Park City, Utah.

- Don't Miss: [Unity Previews Mobile App for Mars, Extends AR Foundation to HoloLens & Magic Leap, & Introduces XR Interaction Toolkit](#)

While the majority of the creations at New Frontier Exhibitions, the nexus of art, film, and technology at the festival, will be on the [virtual reality end of the reality spectrum](#), there will also be a few AR experiences on display as well.



Image by Cie Gilles Jobin/Vimeo

"Time and again, creative visionaries find new ways to bring their stories to the audience of one of the world's premier film festivals, and Unity is proud to be the foundation on which these storytellers of tomorrow build their narratives and share their vision," [said](#) Lydia White, partner marketing manager at Unity, in a post on the company's website. "From fully immersive VR experiences to world-defying augmented reality, and adventures in 360 videos, these Sundance Film Festival exhibits challenge the way people interact with stories and defy the conventions of traditional media."

Lead artists Gilles Jobin, Camilo De Martino, Tristan Siodlak, and Susana Panadés Diaz built "[Dance Trail](#)," a mobile AR experience, using technology from [A-LL Creative Technology](#).

"Dance Trail," which is an adaptation of Jobin's "[VR-I](#)", a 2018 entry at the festival, uses plane detection and marker-based tracking methods to place virtual dancers in the real world. At Sundance, markers planted throughout the host city trigger AR experiences for attendees. According to the app's [website](#), location-based experiences for festivals and other events will be implemented as well.

Alas, the app is not available via the App Store or Google Play as of this writing. When it is, though, the beer coaster embedded below, when printed or scaled to 10 centimeters square, will serve as a marker-based trigger.

While mobile AR experiences may be widely familiar to many smartphone users, festival-goers will have opportunities to try an AR headset experiences as well.

For example, the Magic Leap One is being used to deliver an AR experience "[Breathe](#)," from Brazilian artist Diego Galafassi and production companies Fasad, [Crimes of Curiosity](#), [Phi Studio](#), and Fantomatico. The experience uses body movements to immerse participants into a story about the air around us.

There's a HoloLens exhibit as well. Filmmakers Antoine Viviani and Pierre-Alain Giraud worked with [HoloForge Interactive](#) to create [Solastalgia](#).

The 30-minute experience takes place within an art installation measuring 500 meters squared and immerses participants (up to 12 at a time) in a post-apocalyptic landscape, with the HoloLens bringing holograms into the story.

If the relatively small number of AR versus VR exhibits gives observers a pause regarding the relevance of AR as a creative tool, Unity is making strides to help creators to strike a balance. Eighteen months ago, Unity previewed [Project MARS](#),



a development environment that simplifies the creation of AR experiences. Project MARS will finally [land for Unity developers](#) in 2020.

The Unity developer project, along with other tools like Adobe's Aero and Apple's Reality Composer, both of which are also aimed at non-developers, should help bring more AR art experiences to light in the coming years.

> Lydia White's Blog, 07/01/2020, "Unity at Sundance Film Festival 2020" by Lydia White  
<https://blogs.unity3d.com/2020/01/07/unity-at-sundance-film-festival-2020/>

## Unity at Sundance Film Festival 2020

Lydia White, January 7, 2020

### Technology

In January of 2020, real-time storytellers will be able to dazzle and inspire the Sundance Film Festival audience with immersive creative achievements in the show's New Frontier program.

Time and again, creative visionaries find new ways to bring their stories to the audience of one of the world's premier film festivals, and Unity is proud to be the foundation on which these storytellers of tomorrow build their narratives and share their vision. From fully immersive VR experiences to world-defying augmented reality, and adventures in 360 videos, these Sundance Film Festival exhibits challenge the way people interact with stories and defy the conventions of traditional media.

## Forging a New Frontier

The Sundance New Frontier program brings together the craft of storytelling, interactivity, and technology. This unique collection showcases work that lives at the cross-section of film, art, performance and emerging technologies. See how these cutting edge storytellers were able to realize their vision with Unity.

### A Machine for Viewing

United Kingdom, Australia (Directors: Oscar Raby, Richard Misek, Charlie Shackleton, Producers: Richard Misek, Oscar Raby) — A unique three-episode hybrid of real-time VR experience, live performance and video essay in which three moving-image makers explore how we now watch films by putting various 'machines for viewing,' including cinema and virtual reality, face to face.



## After the Fallout

Switzerland, U.S.A. (Lead Artists: Sam Wolson, Dominic Nahr) — In March 2011, an earthquake caused a tsunami and a meltdown at the Daiichi nuclear power plant. The devastating consequences filled the communities in Fukushima with fear of the intangible and split Japan in a distinct before and after.



## All Kinds of Limbo

United Kingdom (Lead Artists: Toby Coffey, Raffy Bushman, Nubiya Brandon) — The National Theatre of Great Britain's communal musical journey reflecting the influence of West Indian culture on the UK's music scene across the genres of reggae, grime,

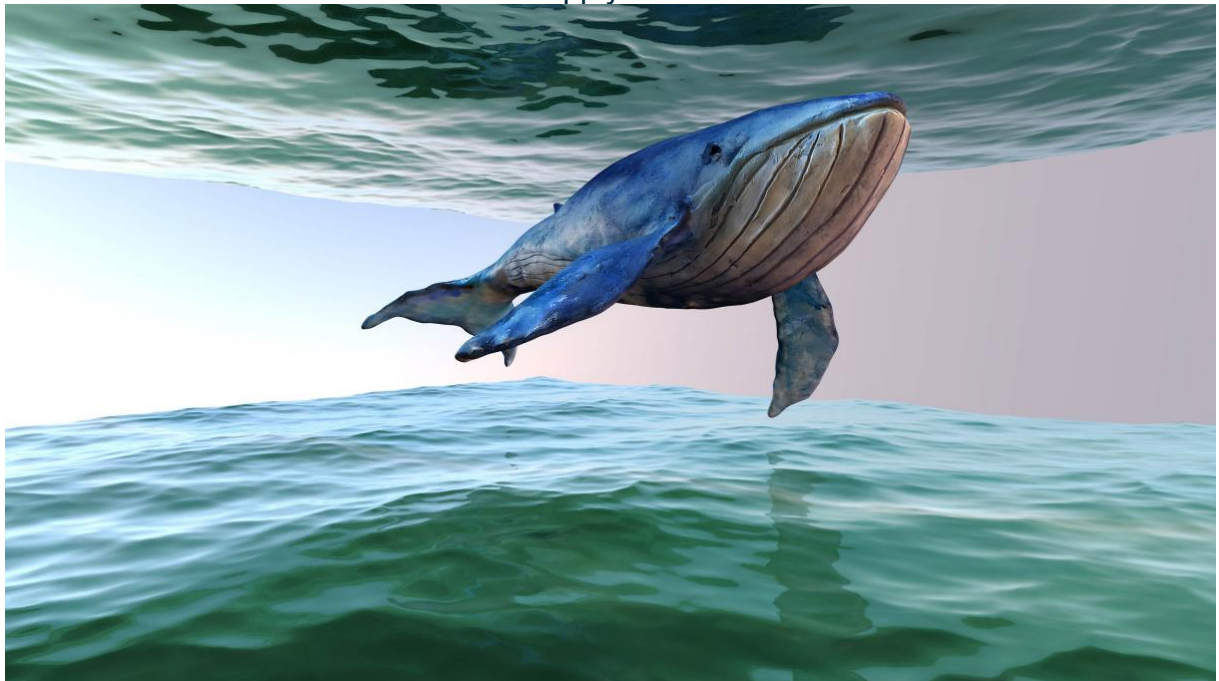
classical, and calypso. Immersive technologies, the ceremony of live performance and the craft of theatrical staging bring audiences into a VR performance space.

Cast: Nubiya Brandon.



## ANIMALIA SUM

Germany, Brazil, Iceland (Lead Artists: Bianca Kennedy, Felix Kraus) — I am animals. I eat animals. A duality explored in a virtual reality experience in which insects will be the future's main food supply.



## Anti-Gone



U.S.A. (Lead Artist: Theo Triantafyllidis, Key Collaborators: Connor Willumsen, Matthew Doyle) — In a post-climate change world, environmental catastrophe has become normalized. Cities are sunken, yet the vestiges of late-capitalist culture live on, clinging like barnacles to the ruins of civilization. Spyda and Lynxa are a couple navigating this world, gliding frictionlessly from shopping to movies to psychedelic drugs. Cast: Lindsey Normington, Zana Gankhuyag, Matthew Doyle.



## Atomu

France, Kenya, U.S.A., United Kingdom (Lead Artists: Shariffa Ali, Yetunde Dada, Key Collaborators: Antoine Cayrol, Rafael Pavon, Arnaud Colinart, Opeyemi Olukemi, Annick Jakobowicz, Cassie Kinoshi, Toby Coffey, Steve Jelly, Simon Windsor) — Go inside the cyclical center of a Kikuyu Tribal Myth from Kenya, where man may become woman and woman may become man. Through virtual reality, dance and music, a sacred space is created to explore many versions of yourself. Cast: Cassie Kinoshi, Alexander Whitley, Clément Chériot, Amaury La Burthe.



## The Book of Distance

Canada (Lead Artist: Randall Okita, Key Collaborators: David Oppenheim, Sam Javanrouh, Emma Burkeitt, Luke Ruminski) — In 1935, Yonezo Okita left his home in Hiroshima, Japan for Canada. Then war and racism changed everything. Three generations later his grandson leads us on an interactive pilgrimage through an emotional geography of immigration and family to recover what was lost.



Breathe



Sweden, Canada, U.S.A. (Lead Artist: Diego Galafassi, Key Collaborators: Jess Engel, Myriam Achard, Stephen Mangiat) — A mixed-reality application that uses body movement and breathing to immerse participants in the story of air. Recast the ordinary experience of breathing as an immediate, direct link to a complex living world. We are alive to a planet that is alive to us.



## Dance Trail

Switzerland (Lead Artists: Gilles Jobin, Camilo De Martino, Tristan Siodlak, Susana Panades Diaz, Key Collaborators: Laurent Rime, Léo Thiémard) — A dance piece in augmented reality enabling users to invite virtual dancers into our world. Site-specific and mobile, the app allows to see dance sequences outdoor and indoor during the Festival. Users can place dancers anywhere in the world and share snapshots and videos. Cast: Susana Panadés Diaz, Victoria Chiu, Maelle Deral, Diya Naidu, Tidiani N'diaye, Gilles Jobin.



## Hypha

Chile (Lead Artist: Natalia Cabrera, Key Collaborators: Sebastian Gonzalez, Juan Ferrer) — An immersive virtual reality journey to heal the Earth—by becoming a mushroom. Experience the life cycle of a fungus, and comprehend the importance of the fungi kingdom, Earth's main bioremediation agent. Cast: Trinidad Piriz.



## Living Distance

China, U.S.A. (Lead Artist: Xin Liu, Key Collaborators: Qinya (Jenny) Guo, Gershon Dublon, Reese Donohue) — A fantasy and a mission, in which a wisdom tooth is sent to outer space and back down to Earth again. Carried by a crystalline robotic

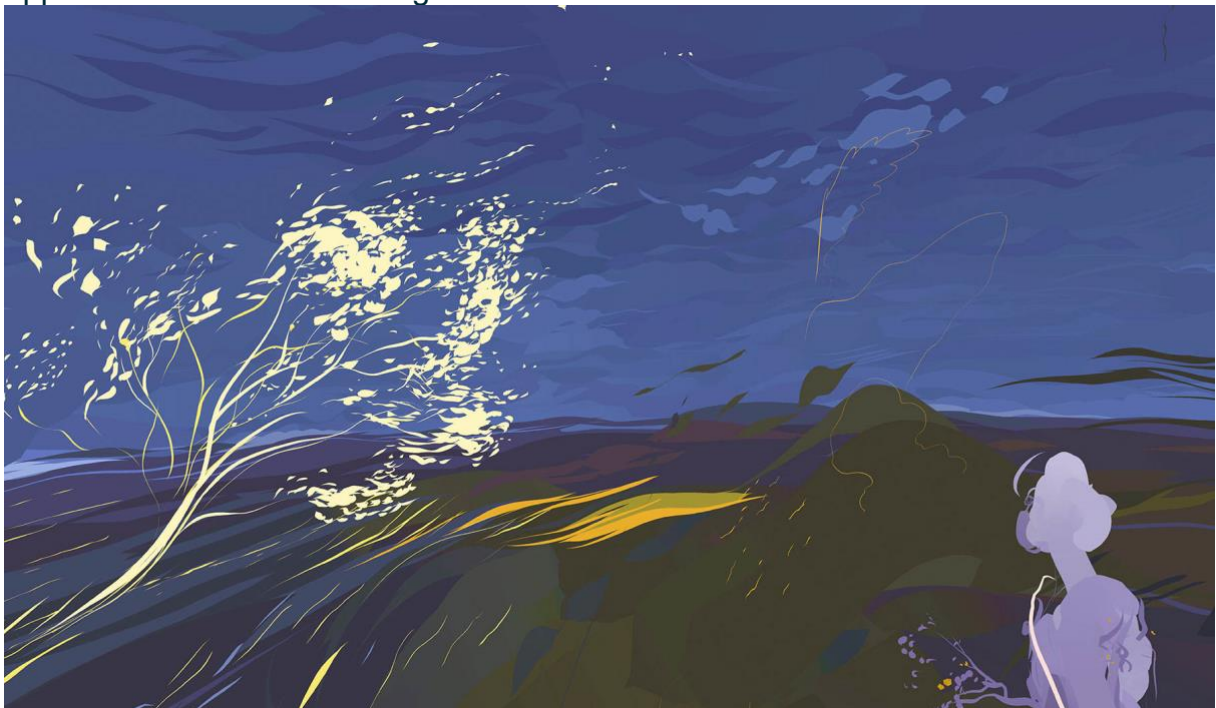


sculpture called EBIFA, the tooth becomes a newborn entity in outer space and tells the story of a person in this universe.



## Metamorphic

U.S.A. (Lead Artists: Matthew Niederhauser, Wesley Allsbrook, Elie Zananiri, John Fitzgerald, Key Collaborators: Tim Fain, Siyuan Qiu) In this social VR experience, the body becomes a vehicle for expression within majestically drawn worlds. Participants explore the radical possibility of effortless transformation as movement and play alter appearances and surroundings.



# Persuasion Machines

U.S.A. (Lead Artists: Karim Amer, Guvenc Ozel, Key Collaborators: Jess Engel, , Geralyn White Dreyfous, Marni Grossman) — How are your likes, shares, selfies, and devices being used against you? By making the invisible world of data visible, this experience will show you how your digital footprint is shaping your reality.



# Scarecrow

Korea (Lead Artists: Jihyun Jung, Sngmoo Lee, Taewan Jeong, Cooper Yoo, Key Collaborators: Chungyeon Cho, Sanghun Heo, Yeonjee Kim) — A user walks into a surreal Sisyphean world of cursed artists to break the spell. Cast: Seongtae Kim, Hyoungjun Kwon, Myungseok Chae, Donggen Shin.





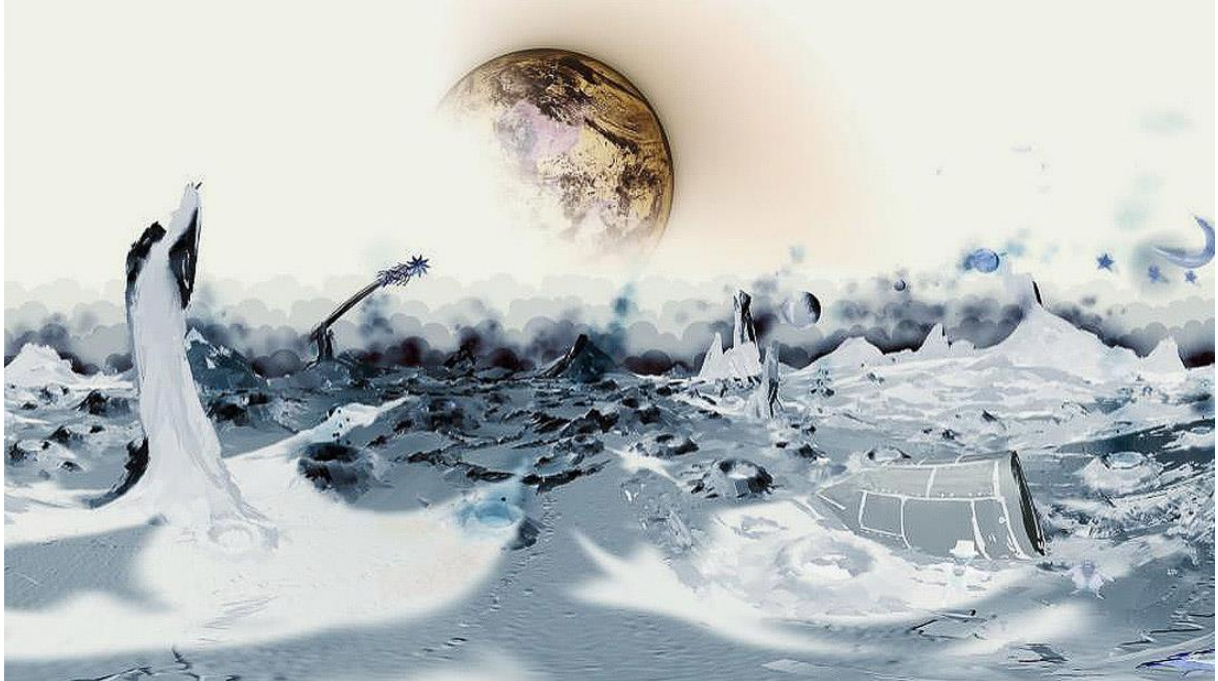
## Solastalgia

France (Lead Artists: Antoine Viviani, Pierre-Alain Giraud, Key Collaborators: Gabriela Friðriksdóttir, Valgeir Sigurðsson, Nicolas Becker) A mixed-reality installation set in a mysterious future exploring the surface of a planet that has become uninhabitable. The last generations of humans are living as holograms, repeating the same scenes over and over again. What secret does this strange paradise contain? Cast: Mehdi Belhaj Kacem, Audrey Bonnet, Anne Brochet, Nancy Huston, Arthur Nauzyciel, Corine Sombrun.



## Spaced Out

France (Lead Artist: Pyaré, Key Collaborators: Sutú, Mourad Bennacer, Ando Shah, Stephen Greenwood, Atlas Roufas) — An underwater VR experience transports you aboard a voyage from the Earth to the moon, as well as within, led by the audio conversations of the Apollo 11 mission. Using special underwater VR goggles and a snorkel, the experience becomes a space simulation immersing all of the senses.



## Celebrating creators is one of our core values

Sundance Film Festival continues to push the boundaries of storytelling, as seen through Made with Unity creators who unveiled unprecedented, immersive experiences this year. Unity hopes to inspire the existing and future storytellers to take risks, be bold, and try new things.

Learn more about the [New Frontier exhibits at Sundance Film Festival 2020](#).

We invite you to share your own Unity creations on social media using the #madewithunity to be featured. And don't forget to follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#) for live updates throughout the event.



[YOUR AD HERE »](#)

# Sundance Institute announces New Frontier selections for 2020 film festival

Entertainment [FOLLOW ENTERTAINMENT](#) | December 16, 2019

Submitted by  
Sundance Institute



A still from *Dance Trail* by Gilles Jobin, Camilo De Martino, Tristan Siodlak, and Susana Panades Diaz, an official selection of the New Frontier Exhibitions program at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival. Courtesy of Sundance Institute.rrAll photos are copyrighted and may be used by press only for the purpose of news or editorial coverage of Sundance Institute programs. Photos must be accompanied by a credit to the photographer and/or 'Courtesy of Sundance Institute.' Unauthorized use, alteration, reproduction or sale of logos and/or photos is strictly prohibited.

*Courtesy of Sundance Institute*

What: Sundance Film Festival

When: Jan. 23-Feb. 2

Where: Park City, Salt Lake City and Sundance Resort

Web: [sundance.org/festival](https://sundance.org/festival) [↗](#)

Sundance Institute spotlights work at the dynamic crossroads of film, art and technology with the New Frontier selections for the 2020 Sundance Film Festival.

This curated collection of cutting-edge independent and experimental media works are by creators who are pushing artistic innovation across mediums that include rocket travel, biotech, facial recognition, mixed reality (MR), smartphone AR, underwater VR, game engines, big data, AI, the human archive and innovative uses of SMS text & iPhone video capture.

Programmers assembled a global slate of work from a mix of invitations and submissions to an open call for work earlier this year.

The 2020 edition of New Frontier returns to two dedicated venue spaces: New Frontier at The Ray and New Frontier Central, each of which host a variety of media installations, a VR Cinema, and panel discussions.

New this year, New Frontier Central also houses the Biodigital Theatre, a cutting-edge presentation space that will feature a rotating schedule of large scale VR theatrical works including a feature-length livestream game telecast.

Once again, New Frontier Central will feature lounge space for credential holders to meet and relax before and after experiencing the New Frontier program. New Frontier also breaks out into the wild with satellite projects in the pool at Festival Headquarters, AR dances to be discovered in various locations around Park City, and a nationwide “fugitive newscast” accessed at various sites around the festival, as well as at 11 art house theatres across the U.S., including The Belcourt Theatre in Nashville; Cinema Detroit in Michigan; The Loft Cinema in Tucson, Arizona; Michigan Theater and The Stage Theatre in Ann Arbor, Michigan; The Museum of Fine Arts in Houston; Nitehawk Cinema in Brooklyn, New York; Northwest Film Forum in Seattle; O Cinema in Miami; Parkway Theatre in Baltimore and the Texas Theatre in Dallas.

“Technology infuses most aspects of modern life — and is evolving at a historic pace,” said Robert Redford, president and founder of Sundance Institute. “The New Frontier artists that we showcase are taking completely fresh and thoughtful approaches to how the newest technological formats engage with the ancient art of storytelling.”

Shari Frilot, Chief Curator, New Frontier, said “Powerful technologies now enable experiences that capture, replicate, and replace ‘the real.’ But it is even more special when the human touch converges with technology, we are provoked to reach beyond what we know to be real and enter into unfamiliar terrain. This transcendence can shift who we believe ourselves to be, where our bodies begin and end, what we are to each other, and who we are ultimately capable of being. The 2020 edition of New Frontier stares down the fear of losing our neighborhoods, and losing ourselves, and reminds us that the future is now — and because the future is now, the future can be ours.”

With these additions, the 2020 Sundance Film Festival Program features 241 works, 44 percent are directed or led by one or more women, 35 percent were directed or led by one or more artists of color, and 19 percent by one or more people who identify as LGBTQ+. The 32 projects announced today include work from 21 countries, and 31 percent are directed or led by one or more women, 44 percent are directed or led by one or more artists of color, and 31 percent by one or more people who identify as LGBTQ+. 4 were supported by Sundance Institute in development, whether through direct granting or residency Labs.

New Frontier alumni include Doug Aitken, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Chris Milk, Nonny de la Peña, Pipilotti Rist and Jennifer Steinkamp.

The Institute’s support extends well beyond its curated slate of Festival projects, and includes the annual New Frontier Story Lab, which offers mentorship and development opportunities for new media storytellers, and the Future of Culture Initiative, an action plan that includes partnerships with Johns Hopkins University and Stanford University in order to implement key recommendations from a two-year global field scan that analyzed strategies for improving equity and inclusion in emerging media.

The Sundance Institute New Frontier Program is supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Cindy Harrell Horn and Alan Horn, Dell Technologies, Google Empathy Lab, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Oculus from Facebook, Unity Technologies, The Walt Disney Company, YouTube VR and Adobe.

The 2020 Sundance Film Festival New Frontier slate:

#### FILMS AND PERFORMANCES

- **BLKNWS / U.S.A.** (Director: Kahlil Joseph, Screenwriters: Sheba Anyanwu, Lee Harrison, Darol Kae, Producers: Onye Anyanwu, Kahlil Joseph) — An ongoing art project that blurs the lines between art, journalism, entrepreneurship, and cultural critique, appropriating the newsreel format as an opportunity to reimagine the contemporary cinematic experience, mixing an element of seriousness with a lighthearted twist on what news can be. Cast: Helen Molesworth, Alzo Slade, Amandla Stenberg, Trifari Williams. BLKNWS will also screen at 11 art house theatres around the country.
- **Infinitely Yours / U.S.A.** (Director: Miwa Matreyek) — A live performance at the intersection of cinema and theater exploring what it means to be living in the Anthropocene and the time of climate crisis. A kaleidoscopic meditation that is an emotionally impactful and embodied illustration of news headlines we see everyday.
- **A Machine for Viewing / United Kingdom, Australia** (Directors: Oscar Raby, Richard Misek, Charlie Shackleton, Producers: Richard Misek, Oscar Raby) — A unique three-episode hybrid of real-time VR experience, live performance and video essay in which three moving-image makers explore how we now watch films by putting various ‘machines for viewing,’ including cinema and virtual reality, face to face.

- *małni* – towards the ocean, towards the shore / U.S.A. (Director, screenwriter and producer: Sky Hopinka) — An experimental look at the origin of the death myth of the Chinookan people in the Pacific Northwest, following two people as they navigate their own relationships to the spirit world and a place in between life and death. Cast: Jordan Mercier, Sweetwater Sahme. World Premiere
- *Sandlines, the Story of History* / Iraq (Director, screenwriter and producer: Francis Alÿs) — The children of a mountain village near Mosul re-enact a century of Iraqi history, from the secret Sykes-Picot agreement in 1916 to the realm of terror imposed by the Islamic State in 2016. The children revisit their past to understand their present. World Premiere
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## Sundance: 2020 New Frontier Program Features Underwater VR, Chomsky A.I.

By

[Janko Roettgers](#), [Peter Debruge](#)

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Courtesy of Sundance Institute

The Sundance Institute revealed the last batch of programming for the 2020 [Sundance Film Festival](#) — minus a few last-minute additions to its feature lineup, still to come — by announcing its [New Frontier](#) section, which this time around include not only augmented and virtual reality, but also SMS-based text messaging, biotech and artificial intelligence.

Like the innovative work it encompasses, Sundance's New Frontier program has been evolving in recent years, as the festival aims to bring greater attention to the fields of VR, artificial intelligence, and outside-the-box new media. During the 11-day event — which takes place from Jan. 23 through Feb. 2, 2020 in Park City, Utah — this work will have a dedicated home at two venues, the New Frontier at The Ray and New Frontier Central.

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Some of the more unconventional pieces include “Anti-Gone” (pictured above), an installation that imagines the world post-climate change; “Spaced Out” from French artist Pierre Friquet a.k.a. Pyaré, an underwater VR experience that invites viewers to put on their swimsuits and literally dive in; “Chomsky vs. Chomsky: First Encounter” from Montreal-based researcher and artist Sandra Rodriguez, an A.I. version of Noam Chomsky; and “Dance Trail” from Swiss artists Gilles Jobin, Camilo De Martino, Tristan Siodlak and Susana Panades Diaz, an augmented reality location-based dance piece that can be experienced at multiple locations during the festival.

“Powerful technologies now enable experiences that capture, replicate, and replace ‘the real.’ But it is even more special when the human touch converges with technology, we are provoked to reach beyond what we know to be real and enter into unfamiliar terrain,” said New Frontier chief curator Shari Frilot. “This transcendence can shift who we believe ourselves to be, where our bodies begin and end, what we are to each other, and who we are ultimately capable of being.”

The full lineup:

### FILMS AND PERFORMANCES

**Infinitely Yours** (Director: Miwa Matreyek) — A live performance at the intersection of cinema and theater exploring what it means to be living in the Anthropocene and the time of climate crisis. A kaleidoscopic meditation that is an emotionally impactful and embodied illustration of news headlines we see everyday.

**A Machine for Viewing** (U.K.-Australia – Directors: Oscar Raby, Richard Misek, Charlie Shackleton, Producers: Richard Misek, Oscar Raby) — A unique three-episode hybrid of real-time VR experience, live performance and video essay in which three moving-image makers explore how we now watch films by putting various ‘machines for viewing,’ including cinema and virtual reality, face to face.

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**BLKNWS** (Director: Kahlil Joseph, Screenwriters: Sheba Anyanwu, Lee Harrison, Darol Kae, Producers: Onye Anyanwu, Kahlil Joseph) — An ongoing art project that blurs the lines between art, journalism, entrepreneurship, and cultural critique, appropriating the newsreel format as an opportunity to reimagine the contemporary cinematic experience, mixing an element of seriousness with a lighthearted twist on what news can be. Cast: Helen Molesworth, Alzo Slade, Amandla Stenberg, Trifari Williams.

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# DEADLINE

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## Sundance Film Festival Announces New Frontier Lineup For 2020



By **Anthony D'Alessandro**

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Heavy snow falls on the Egyptian Theatre along Main Street during the 2017 Sundance Film Festival on Monday, Jan. 23, 2017, in Park City, Utah. (Photo by Danny Moloshok/Invision/AP)

AP

The Sundance Film Festival announced its New Frontier Lineup for the 2020 edition, a curated collection of cutting-edge indie experimental media works by creators who are pushing artistic boundaries in various mediums including rocket travel, biotech, facial recognition, mixed reality

(MR), smartphone AR, underwater VR, game engines, big data, AI, the human archive, and innovative uses of SMS text & iPhone video capture.

There are two dedicated venue spaces: New Frontier at The Ray and New Frontier Central, each of which host a variety of media installations, a VR Cinema, and panel discussions. New this year, New Frontier Central also houses the Biodigital Theatre, a cutting-edge presentation space that will feature a rotating schedule of large scale VR theatrical works including a feature-length livestream game telecast.

Robert Redford, President and Founder of Sundance Institute, said in statement, “Technology infuses most aspects of modern life — and is evolving at a historic pace. The New Frontier artists that we showcase are taking completely fresh and thoughtful approaches to how the newest technological formats engage with the ancient art of storytelling.”

Shari Frilot, Chief Curator, New Frontier, said “Powerful technologies now enable experiences that capture, replicate, and replace “the real.” But it is even more special when the human touch converges with technology, we are provoked to reach beyond what we know to be real and enter into unfamiliar terrain. This transcendence can shift who we believe ourselves to be, where our bodies begin and end, what we are to each other, and who we are ultimately capable of being. The 2020 edition of New Frontier stares down the fear of losing our neighborhoods, and losing ourselves, and reminds us that the future is *now* — and because the future is now, the future can be ours.”

Overall with these additions, the 2020 fest touts 241 works, 44% are directed or led by one or more women, 35% were directed or led by one or more artists of color, and 19% by one or more people who identify as LGBTQ+. The 32 projects announced today include works from 21 countries, and 31% are directed or led by one or more women, 44% are directed or led by one or more artists of color, and 31% by one or more people who identify as LGBTQ+. Four of these were supported by Sundance Institute in development, whether through direct granting or residency Labs.

## **The 2020 Sundance Film Festival New Frontier slate:**

### **FILMS AND PERFORMANCES**

***BLKNWS*** / U.S.A. (Director: Kahlil Joseph, Screenwriters: Sheba Anyanwu, Lee Harrison, Darol Kae, Producers: Onye Anyanwu, Kahlil Joseph) — An ongoing art project that blurs the lines between art, journalism, entrepreneurship, and cultural critique, appropriating the newsreel format as an opportunity to reimagine the contemporary cinematic experience, mixing an element of seriousness with a lighthearted twist on what news can be. *Cast: Helen Molesworth,*

*Alzo Slade, Amandla Stenberg, Trifari Williams. **BLKNWS will also screen at 11 art house theatres around the country.***

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***Vitalina Varela*** / Portugal (Director and screenwriter: Pedro Costa, Producer: Abel Ribiero Chaves) — Vitalina Varela, a 55-year-old, Cape Verdean, arrives in Lisbon three days after her husband’s funeral. She’s been waiting for her plane ticket for more than 25 years. *Cast: Vitalina Varela, Ventura.*

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***Atomu*** / France, Kenya, U.S.A., United Kingdom (Lead Artists: Shariffa Ali, Yetunde Dada, Key Collaborators: Antoine Cayrol, Rafael Pavon, Arnaud Colinart, Opeyemi Olukemi, Annick Jakobowicz, Cassie Kinoshi, Toby Coffey, Steve Jelly, Simon Windsor) – Go inside the cyclical center of a Kikuyu Tribal Myth from Kenya, where man may become woman and woman may become man. Through virtual reality, dance and music, a sacred space is created to explore many versions of yourself. *Cast: Cassie Kinoshi, Alexander Whitley, Clément Chériot, Amaury La Burthe.*

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***Scarecrow*** / Korea (Lead Artists: Jihyun Jung, Sngmoo Lee, Taewan Jeong, Cooper Yoo, Key Collaborators: Chungyeon Cho, Sanghun Heo, Yeonjee Kim) — A user walks into a surreal

Sisyphean world of cursed artists to break the spell. *Cast: Seongtae Kim, Hyoungjun Kwon, Myungseok Chae, Donggen Shin.*

***Solastalgia*** / France (Lead Artists: Antoine Viviani, Pierre-Alain Giraud, Key Collaborators: Gabriela Friðriksdóttir, Valgeir Sigurðsson, Nicolas Becker) A mixed-reality installation set in a mysterious future exploring the surface of a planet that has become uninhabitable. The last generations of humans are living as holograms, repeating the same scenes over and over again. What secret does this strange paradise contain? *Cast: Mehdi Belhaj Kacem, Audrey Bonnet, Anne Brochet, Nancy Huston, Arthur Nauzyciel, Corine Sombun.*

***Spaced Out*** / France (Lead Artist: Pyaré, Key Collaborators: Sutou, Mourad Bennacer, Ando Shah, Stephen Greenwood, Atlas Roufas) — An underwater VR experience transports you aboard a voyage from the Earth to the moon, as well as within, led by the audio conversations of the Apollo 11 mission. Using special underwater VR goggles and a snorkel, the experience becomes a space simulation immersing all of the senses.

***Still Here*** / U.S.A. (Lead Artists: Zahra Rasool, Sarah Springer, Key Collaborators: Naima Ramos-Chapman, Carvell Wallace, Viktorija Mickute, Maria Fernanda Lauret) — An immersive, multimedia installation exploring incarceration, erasure and gentrification through the lens of one woman who returns to Harlem after 15 years in prison. The use of interactive VR and AR technologies brings to life this heartfelt story about the reclaiming of space and identity in a changing black community. *Cast: LeAsha Julius, Keith Buxton, Marion Green, James Brown-Orleans, George Watson, Crystal Arnette.*

## **VR CINEMA**

***After the Fallout*** / Switzerland, U.S.A. (Lead Artists: Sam Wolson, Dominic Nahr) — In March 2011, an earthquake caused a tsunami and a meltdown at the Daiichi nuclear power plant. The devastating consequences filled the communities in Fukushima with fear of the intangible and split Japan in a distinct before and after.

***Azibuye – The Occupation*** / South Africa (Lead Artists: Dylan Valley, Caitlin Robinson, Stephen Abbott, Key Collaborators: Ingrid Kopp, Steven Markovitz) — When Masello and Evan, two homeless black artist/activists, break into an abandoned mansion in an affluent part of Johannesburg, they proclaim their occupation to be an artistic and political act in defiance of inequalities in land ownership in South Africa. *Cast: Masello Motana, Evan Abrahamse.*

***Bembé*** / Cuba (Lead Artists: Marcos Louit, Patricia Diaz, Key Collaborators: Andy Ruiz, Alain

López, Ernesto Collinet) — Bembé is a Cuban tradition that encompasses elements of both Christianity and the African Yoruba, where the souls of dead slaves come to Earth and family, friends, and neighbors take part in a celebration lasting up to 7 days. *Cast: Ernesto Collinet, Kalina Collinet, Katyleidy Collinet.*

**Flowers & a Switchblade** / U.S.A. (Lead Artists: Nic Koller, Weston Morgan, Key Collaborators: Candice Lee, Bridget Peck) — An everyday scene—a real-life conversation in Brooklyn's Prospect Park—collaged together from hundreds of videos to form a fractured, hyper-stimulating, 360° Cubist world.

**Go** / Switzerland (Lead Artists: Sandro Zollinger, Roman Vital, Klaus Merz, Key Collaborator: Thomas Gassmann) — Searching for stability in his life, Peter Thaler sets out on a hike in the Swiss mountains, from which he will never return. An unprecedented symbiosis of literature and virtual reality, telling a story of everyday and final farewells, and opening the door to eternity a tiny crack. *Cast: Klaus Merz, Niramy Pathmanathan, Robert Vital, Regula Stüssi.*

**Hominidae** / U.S.A. (Lead Artist: Brian Andrews, Key Collaborators: Brian Ferguson, Robert Steel, Kahra Scott-James) — Against a landscape of X-ray imagery and wild anatomical reimagination, a mother and her children struggle for survival. This experience follows an Arachnid Hominid, an intelligent creature with human and spider physiology, from the birth of her children to her premature death in the teeth of her prey. *Cast: Phyllis Griffin, Luis Mora, Emily Weems, Kidjie Boyer, Austin Daly, Oliver Angus.*

**tx-reverse 360°** / Austria, Germany (Lead Artists: Martin Reinhart, Virgil Widrich, Key Collaborator: Siegfried Friedrich) — What is behind the cinema screen? What if the auditorium dissolves and with it the familiar laws of cinema itself? As reality and cinema collide, viewers are drawn into a vortex where the familiar order of space and time seems to be suspended.

**VR Free** / Italy (Lead Artist: Milad Tangshir, Key Collaborators: Vito Martinelli, Stefano Sburlati) — Exploring the nature of incarceration spaces by portraying slices of life inside a prison in Turin, Italy. The film also captures the reaction of several inmates during brief encounters with immersive videos of life outside of prison. *Cast: Michele Romano, Albert Asllanaj, Cristian De Bonis.*

## **NEW FRONTIER SHORTS**

**E-Ticket** / Hong Kong, U.S.A. (Director: Simon Liu) — A frantic (re)cataloguing of a personal archive and 16,000 splices in the making. 35mm frames are obsessively rearranged in evolving-

disorienting patterns, as a Dante's Inferno for the streaming age emerges, illustrating freedom of movement for the modern cloud.

***Guisado on Sunset*** / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Terence Nance) — Missed connection regret at that one late-night spot—the kind you keep playing back in your head but not quite ever remembering right, until it starts to look like something else. *International Premiere*

***How Did We Get Here?*** / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Michelle Miles) — A visual exploration of progressive atrophy. A study in how microscopic changes can go unnoticed, but amass over time. Even as these changes become drastic, we sometimes fail to realize anything has happened at all. *World Premiere*

***Meridian*** / U.S.A., Italy (Director and screenwriter: Calum Walter) — Footage transmitted by the last unit in a fleet of autonomous machines sent to deliver an emergency vaccine. The film follows the machine before its disappearance, tracing a path that seems to stray further and further from its objective.

***Narcissister Breast Work*** / U.S.A. (Director: Narcissister) — Focusing on the exercise by women of their right to bare their breasts in public, Narcissister Breast Work aims to investigate – and expose – how prohibitions on female toplessness are grounded in fear of, and desire to control, the female body. *World Premiere*

***Pattaki*** / Cuba (Director: Everlane Moraes, Screenwriter: Tatiana Monge Herrera) — In the dense night, when the moon rises, those who live in a monotonous daily life without water are hypnotized by the powers of Yemaya, the goddess of the sea. *U.S. Premiere*

***While I'm Still Breathing (Tandis Que Je Respire Encore)*** / France (Directors: Laure Giappiconi, Elisa Monteil, La Fille Renne, Screenwriter: Laure Giappiconi) — The blurred portrayal of a young woman as she moves through three steps of her sexuality. *North American Premiere*

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# Sundance 2020 Reveals New Frontier Slate, Including Films and VR Experiences

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**Kate Erbland**

Dec 12, 2019 4:00 pm

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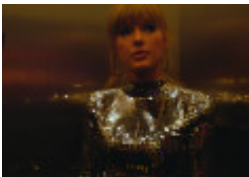
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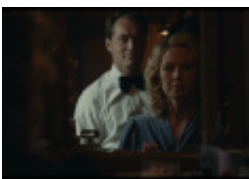
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The 2020 **Sundance** Film Festival has revealed its full lineup for the festival's forward-thinking New Frontier section, which "spotlights work at the dynamic crossroads of film, art, and technology." The curated collection of "cutting-edge independent and experimental media works are by creators who are pushing artistic innovation across

mediums that include rocket travel, biotech, facial recognition, mixed reality (MR), smartphone AR, underwater VR, game engines, big data, AI, the human archive, and innovative uses of SMS text & iPhone video capture.

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livestream game telecast.”

The section will also host “satellite projects in the pool at Festival Headquarters, AR dances to be discovered in various locations around Park City, and a nationwide ‘fugitive newscast’ accessed at various sites around the festival, as well as at 11 art house theatres across the U.S.”

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Check out the [previously announced list of feature films, including all competition sections, right here](#), along with the festival's [robust shorts selection and growing Indie Episodics offerings](#). This year's festival runs from January 23 – February 2 in Park City, Utah. Check out the full list of just-announced titles, with all synopses provided by Sundance, below.

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How Did We Get Here? / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Michelle Miles) — A visual exploration of progressive atrophy. A study in how microscopic changes can go unnoticed, but amass over time. Even as these changes become drastic, we sometimes fail to realize anything has happened at all. World Premiere

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While I'm Still Breathing (Tandis Que Je Respire Encore) / France (Directors: Laure Giappiconi, Elisa Monteil, La Fille Renne, Screenwriter: Laure Giappiconi) — The blurred portrayal of a young woman as she moves through three steps of her sexuality. North American Premiere

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# Sundance Announces 2020 Festival New Frontier Selection



*Hominidae* by Brian Andrews (Photo: Courtesy of Sundance Institute.)

by [Scott Macaulay](#)  
in [Festivals & Events](#)  
on Dec 12, 2019

**T**hirty-two independent experimental and independent media projects comprising the 2020 Sundance Film Festival New Frontier program were announced today by the Sundance Institute. Included in what is often Sundance's most surprising section are an art/journalism project riffing on the newsreel format by artist and *Lemonade* collaborator Khalil Joseph; an "under construction" AI based on the thoughts of linguist and critic Noam Chomsky; and a 35mm short consisting of 16,000 cuts. Also included are new works that are the latest installments in the lifelong practices of artist and filmmakers (and Sundance veterans) Lynn Hershman Leeson and Narcissister. Of note too is New Frontier's screening of Pedro Costa's latest feature, *Vitalina Varela*; with its focus on the physical as well as emotional architecture of memory and grief, it's an apt work to include alongside so many of these spatially-focused pieces.

From the press release:

This curated collection of cutting-edge independent and



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experimental media works are by creators who are pushing artistic innovation across mediums that include rocket travel, biotech, facial recognition, mixed reality (MR), smartphone AR, underwater VR, game engines, big data, AI, the human archive, and innovative uses of SMS text & iPhone video capture. Programmers assembled a global slate of work from a mix of invitations and submissions to an open call for work earlier this year.

Comments Sundance Institute President and Founder Robert Redford, “Technology infuses most aspects of modern life — and is evolving at a historic pace. The New Frontier artists that we showcase are taking completely fresh and thoughtful approaches to how the newest technological formats engage with the ancient art of storytelling.”

Adds Shari Frilot, Chief Curator, New Frontier, “Powerful technologies now enable experiences that capture, replicate, and replace “the real.” But it is even more special when the human touch converges with technology, we are provoked to reach beyond what we know to be real and enter into unfamiliar terrain. This transcendence can shift who we believe ourselves to be, where our bodies begin and end, what we are to each other, and who we are ultimately capable of being. The 2020 edition of New Frontier stares down the fear of losing our neighborhoods, and losing ourselves, and reminds us that the future is now — and because the future is now, the future can be ours.”

New Frontier selections will screen at New Frontier at the Ray and New Frontier Central. “AR dances” will occur throughout the festival, and the aforementioned newsreel piece will also screen across Park City as well as at 11 arthouse theaters across the country.

The complete New Frontier list follows.

## FILMS AND PERFORMANCES

*BLKNWS* / U.S.A. (Director: Kahlil Joseph, Screenwriters: Sheba Anyanwu, Lee Harrison, Darol Kae, Producers: Onye Anyanwu, Kahlil Joseph) — An ongoing art project that blurs the lines between art, journalism, entrepreneurship, and cultural critique, appropriating the newsreel format as an opportunity to reimagine the contemporary cinematic experience, mixing an element of seriousness with a lighthearted twist on what news can be. Cast: Helen Molesworth, Alzo Slade, Amandla Stenberg, Trifari Williams. *BLKNWS* will also screen at 11 art house theatres around the country.

*Infinitely Yours* / U.S.A. (Director: Miwa Matreyek) — A live performance at the intersection of cinema and theater exploring what it means to be living in the Anthropocene and the time of climate crisis. A kaleidoscopic meditation that is an emotionally impactful and embodied illustration of news headlines we see everyday.

*A Machine for Viewing* / United Kingdom, Australia (Directors: Oscar Raby, Richard Misek, Charlie Shackleton, Producers: Richard Misek, Oscar Raby) — A unique three-episode hybrid of



real-time VR experience, live performance and video essay in which three moving-image makers explore how we now watch films by putting various ‘machines for viewing,’ including cinema and virtual reality, face to face.

*małni – towards the ocean, towards the shore* / U.S.A. (Director, screenwriter and producer: Sky Hopinka) — An experimental look at the origin of the death myth of the Chinookan people in the Pacific Northwest, following two people as they navigate their own relationships to the spirit world and a place in between life and death. Cast: Jordan Mercier, Sweetwater Sahme. World Premiere

*Sandlines, the Story of History* / Iraq (Director, screenwriter and producer: Francis Alÿs) — The children of a mountain village near Mosul re-enact a century of Iraqi history, from the secret Sykes-Picot agreement in 1916 to the realm of terror imposed by the Islamic State in 2016. The children revisit their past to understand their present. World Premiere

*Vitalina Varela* / Portugal (Director and screenwriter: Pedro Costa, Producer: Abel Ribiero Chaves) — Vitalina Varela, a 55-year-old, Cape Verdean, arrives in Lisbon three days after her husband’s funeral. She’s been waiting for her plane ticket for more than 25 years. Cast: Vitalina Varela, Ventura.

## EXHIBITIONS

*All Kinds of Limbo* / United Kingdom (Lead Artists: Toby Coffey, Raffy Bushman, Nubiya Brandon) — The National Theatre of Great Britain’s communal musical journey reflecting the influence of West Indian culture on the UK’s music scene across the genres of reggae, grime, classical, and calypso. Immersive technologies, the ceremony of live performance and the craft of theatrical staging bring audiences into a VR performance space. Cast: Nubiya Brandon.

*ANIMALIA SUM* / Germany, Brazil, Iceland (Lead Artists: Bianca Kennedy, Felix Kraus) — I am animals. I eat animals. A duality explored in a virtual reality experience in which insects will be the future’s main food supply.

*Anti-Gone* / U.S.A. (Lead Artist: Theo Triantafyllidis, Key Collaborators: Connor Willumsen, Matthew Doyle) — In a post-climate change world, environmental catastrophe has become normalized. Cities are sunken, yet the vestiges of late-capitalist culture live on, clinging like barnacles to the ruins of civilization. Spyda and Lynxa are a couple navigating this world, gliding frictionlessly from shopping to movies to psychedelic drugs. Cast: Lindsey Normington, Zana Gankhuyag, Matthew Doyle.

*Atomu* / France, Kenya, U.S.A., United Kingdom (Lead Artists: Shariffa Ali, Yetunde Dada, Key Collaborators: Antoine Cayrol, Rafael Pavon, Arnaud Colinart, Opeyemi Olukemi, Annick Jakobowicz, Cassie Kinoshi, Toby Coffey, Steve Jelly, Simon Windsor) — Go inside the cyclical center of a Kikuyu Tribal Myth from Kenya, where man may become woman and woman may become man. Through virtual reality, dance and music, a sacred space is created to explore many versions of yourself. Cast:

Cassie Kinoshi, Alexander Whitley, Clément Chériot, Amaury La Burthe.

*The Book of Distance* / Canada (Lead Artist: Randall Okita, Key Collaborators: David Oppenheim, Sam Javanrouh, Emma Burkeitt, Luke Ruminski) — In 1935, Yonezo Okita left his home in Hiroshima, Japan for Canada. Then war and racism changed everything. Three generations later his grandson leads us on an interactive pilgrimage through an emotional geography of immigration and family to recover what was lost.

*Breathe* / Sweden, Canada, U.S.A. (Lead Artist: Diego Galafassi, Key Collaborators: Jess Engel, Myriam Achard, Stephen Mangiat) — A mixed-reality application that uses body movement and breathing to immerse participants in the story of air. Recast the ordinary experience of breathing as an immediate, direct link to a complex living world. We are alive to a planet that is alive to us.

*Chomsky vs. Chomsky: First Encounter* / Canada, Germany (Lead Artist: Sandra Rodriguez, Key Collaborators: Michael Burk, Cindy Bisho, Johannes Helberger) — A prologue to a timely conversation on AI's biggest promises and pitfalls. Lured by the possibility of emulating one of today's most famous minds, we meet and engage with CHOMSKY\_AI, an entity under construction, evolving from the arsenal of digital traces professor Noam Chomsky has left behind. Cast: Sandra Rodriguez, Michael Burk, Cindy Bishop, Johannes Helberger, Moov.AI.

*Dance Trail* / Switzerland (Lead Artists: Gilles Jobin, Camilo De Martino, Tristan Siodlak, Susana Panades Diaz, Key Collaborators: Laurent Rime, Léo Thiémarc) — A dance piece in augmented reality enabling users to invite virtual dancers into our world. Site-specific and mobile, the app allows to see dance sequences outdoor and indoor during the Festival. Users can place dancers anywhere in the world and share snapshots and videos. Cast: Susana Panadés Diaz, Victoria Chiu, Maelle Deral, Diya Naidu, Tidiani N'diaye, Gilles Jobin.

*The Electronic Diaries of Lynn Hershman Leeson* / U.S.A. (Lead Artist: Lynn Hershman Leeson) — In 1984, after teaching herself how to use a video camera, Lynn Hershman Leeson sat down in front of it and began to talk and for 40 years developed a sly, profound and raw confessional mediated expression for an unknown audience that led towards personal evolution and survival. Cast: Lynn Hershman Leeson, Dr. George Church, Eleanor Coppola, Dr. Caleb Webber, Dr. Elizabeth Blackburn, Dr. Anthony Atala.

*Hypha* / Chile (Lead Artist: Natalia Cabrera, Key Collaborators: Sebastian Gonzalez, Juan Ferrer) — An immersive virtual reality journey to heal the Earth—by becoming a mushroom. Experience the life cycle of a fungus, and comprehend the importance of the fungi kingdom, Earth's main bioremediation agent. Cast: Trinidad Piriz.

*Living Distance* / China, U.S.A. (Lead Artist: Xin Liu, Key Collaborators: Qinya (Jenny) Guo, Gershon Dublon, Reese Donohue) — A fantasy and a mission, in which a wisdom tooth is sent to outer space and back down to Earth again. Carried by a

crystalline robotic sculpture called EBIFA, the tooth becomes a newborn entity in outer space and tells the story of a person in this universe.

*Metamorphic* / U.S.A. (Lead Artists: Matthew Niederhauser, Wesley Allsbrook, Eli Zananiri, John Fitzgerald, Key Collaborators: Tim Fain, Siyuan Qiu) In this social VR experience, the body becomes a vehicle for expression within majestically drawn worlds. Participants explore the radical possibility of effortless transformation as movement and play alter appearances and surroundings.

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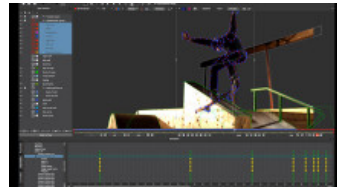
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## Sundance 2020 Reveals New Frontier Lineup

BY BRENDAN MICHAEL    DECEMBER 12, 2019

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On the heels of its [Episodic, Shorts and Special Events announcement](#), the Sundance Institute unveiled its [New Frontier lineup](#) today for the 2020 Sundance Film Festival. These selections span mediums including biotech, rocket travel, mixed reality (MR), facial recognition, smartphone AR (and creative new uses of smart phone video technology), underwater VR, game engines, big data, AI, and the human archive.

**Shari Frilot**, New Frontier's Chief Curator, had this to say:

*"Powerful technologies now enable experiences that capture, replicate, and replace "the real." But it is even more special when the human touch converges with technology, we are provoked to reach beyond what we know to be real and enter into unfamiliar terrain. This transcendence can shift who we believe ourselves to be, where our bodies begin and end, what we are to each other, and who we are ultimately capable of being. The 2020 edition of New Frontier stares down the fear of losing our neighborhoods, and losing ourselves, and reminds us that the future is now — and because the future is now, the future can be ours."*

To clarify, an imminent cyborg takeover of the arts is likely. We should all be against such a revolution... unless they make some really great movies. Regardless of humanity's grim future, the New Frontier lineup includes 32 Projects from 21 Countries.

Titles and short synopses are listed below. The festival runs from Thursday, January 23 to Sunday, February 2.

### FILMS AND PERFORMANCES



Image via Sundance

***BLKNWS*** / U.S.A. (Director: Kahlil Joseph, Screenwriters: Sheba Anyanwu, Lee Harrison, Darol Kae, Producers: Onye Anyanwu, Kahlil Joseph) — An ongoing art project that blurs the lines between art, journalism, entrepreneurship, and cultural critique, appropriating the newsreel format as an opportunity to reimagine the contemporary cinematic experience, mixing an element of seriousness with a lighthearted twist on what news can be. Cast: Helen Molesworth, Alzo Slade, Amandla Stenberg, Trifari Williams. BLKNWS will also screen at 11 art house theatres around the country.

***Infinitely Yours*** / U.S.A. (Director: Miwa Matreyek) — A live performance at the intersection of cinema and theater exploring what it means to be living in the Anthropocene and the time of climate crisis. A kaleidoscopic meditation that is an emotionally impactful and embodied illustration of news headlines we see everyday.

***A Machine for Viewing*** / United Kingdom, Australia (Directors: Oscar Raby, Richard Misek, Charlie Shackleton, Producers: Richard Misek, Oscar Raby) — A unique three-episode hybrid of real-time VR experience, live performance and video essay in which three moving-image makers explore how we now watch films by putting various ‘machines for viewing,’ including cinema and virtual reality, face to face.

***maṯni*** – towards the ocean, towards the shore / U.S.A. (Director, screenwriter and producer: Sky Hopinka) — An experimental look at the origin of the death myth of the Chinookan people in the Pacific Northwest, following two people as they navigate their own relationships to the spirit world and a place in between life and death. Cast: Jordan Mercier, Sweetwater Sahme. World Premiere

***Sandlines, the Story of History*** / Iraq (Director, screenwriter and producer: Francis Alj's) — The children of a mountain village near Mosul re-enact a century of Iraqi history, from the secret Sykes-Picot agreement in 1916 to the realm of terror imposed by the Islamic State in 2016. The children revisit their past to understand their present. World Premiere

***Vitalina Varela*** / Portugal (Director and screenwriter: Pedro Costa, Producer: Abel Ribiero Chaves) — Vitalina Varela, a 55-year-old, Cape Verdean, arrives in Lisbon three days after her husband's funeral. She's been waiting for her plane ticket for more than 25 years. Cast: Vitalina Varela, Ventura.

## EXHIBITIONS

***All Kinds of Limbo*** / United Kingdom (Lead Artists: Toby Coffey, Raffy Bushman, Nubiya Brandon) — The National Theatre of Great Britain's communal musical journey reflecting the influence of West Indian culture on the UK's music scene across the genres of reggae, grime, classical, and calypso. Immersive technologies, the ceremony of live performance and the craft of theatrical staging bring audiences into a VR performance space. Cast: Nubiya Brandon.

***ANIMALIA SUM*** / Germany, Brazil, Iceland (Lead Artists: Bianca Kennedy, Felix Kraus) — I am animals. I eat animals. A duality explored in a virtual reality experience in which insects will be the future's main food supply.

***Anti-Gone*** / U.S.A. (Lead Artist: Theo Triantafyllidis, Key Collaborators: Connor Willumsen, Matthew Doyle) — In a post-climate change world, environmental catastrophe has become normalized. Cities are sunken, yet the vestiges of late-capitalist culture live on, clinging like barnacles to the ruins of civilization. Spyda and Lynxa are a couple navigating this world, gliding frictionlessly from shopping to movies to psychedelic drugs. Cast: Lindsey Normington, Zana Gankhuyag, Matthew Doyle.

***Atomu*** / France, Kenya, U.S.A., United Kingdom (Lead Artists: Shariffa Ali, Yetunde Dada, Key Collaborators: Antoine Cayrol, Rafael Pavon, Arnaud Colinart, Opeyemi Olukemi, Annick Jakobowicz, Cassie Kinoshi, Toby Coffey, Steve Jelly, Simon Windsor) — Go inside the cyclical center of a Kikuyu Tribal Myth from Kenya, where man may become woman and woman may become man. Through virtual reality, dance and music, a sacred space is created to explore many versions of yourself. Cast: Cassie Kinoshi, Alexander Whitley, Clément Chériot, Amaury La Burthe.

***The Book of Distance*** / Canada (Lead Artist: Randall Okita, Key Collaborators: David Oppenheim, Sam Javanrouh, Emma Burkeitt, Luke Ruminski) — In 1935, Yonezo Okita left his home in Hiroshima, Japan for Canada. Then war and racism changed everything. Three generations later his grandson leads us on an interactive pilgrimage through an emotional geography of immigration and family to recover what was lost.

***Breathe*** / Sweden, Canada, U.S.A. (Lead Artist: Diego Galafassi, Key Collaborators: Jess Engel, Myriam Achard, Stephen Mangiat) — A mixed-reality application that uses body movement and breathing to immerse participants in the story of air. Recast the ordinary experience of breathing as an immediate, direct link to a complex living world. We are alive to a planet that is alive to us.

***Chomsky vs. Chomsky: First Encounter*** / Canada, Germany (Lead Artist: Sandra Rodriguez, Key Collaborators: Michael Burk, Cindy Bisho, Johannes Helberger) — A prologue to a timely conversation on AI's biggest promises and pitfalls. Lured by the possibility of emulating one of today's most famous minds, we meet and engage with CHOMSKY\_AI, an entity under construction, evolving from the arsenal of digital traces professor Noam Chomsky has left behind. Cast: Sandra Rodriguez, Michael Burk, Cindy Bishop, Johannes Helberger, Moov.AI.

***Dance Trail*** / Switzerland (Lead Artists: Gilles Jobin, Camilo De Martino, Tristan Siodlak, Susana Panades Diaz, Key Collaborators: Laurent Rime, Léo Thiémard) — A dance piece in augmented reality enabling users to invite virtual dancers into our world. Site-specific and mobile, the app allows to see dance sequences outdoor and indoor during the Festival. Users can place dancers anywhere in the world and share snapshots and videos. Cast: Susana Panadés Diaz, Victoria Chiu, Maelle Deral, Diya Naidu, Tidiani N'diaye, Gilles Jobin.

***The Electronic Diaries of Lynn Hershman Leeson*** / U.S.A. (Lead Artist: Lynn Hershman Leeson) — In 1984, after teaching herself how to use a video camera, Lynn Hershman Leeson sat down in front of it and began to talk and for 40 years developed a sly, profound and raw confessional mediated expression for an unknown audience that led towards personal evolution and survival. Cast: Lynn Hershman Leeson, Dr. George Church, Eleanor Coppola, Dr. Caleb Webber, Dr. Elizabeth Blackburn, Dr. Anthony Atala.

***Hypha*** / Chile (Lead Artist: Natalia Cabrera, Key Collaborators: Sebastian Gonzalez, Juan Ferrer) — An immersive virtual reality journey to heal the Earth—by becoming a mushroom. Experience the life cycle of a fungus, and comprehend the importance of the fungi kingdom, Earth's main bioremediation agent. Cast: Trinidad Piriz.

***Living Distance*** / China, U.S.A. (Lead Artist: Xin Liu, Key Collaborators: Qinya (Jenny) Guo, Gershon Dublon, Reese Donohue) — A fantasy and a mission, in which a wisdom tooth is sent to outer space and back down to Earth again. Carried by a crystalline robotic sculpture called EBIFA, the tooth becomes a newborn entity in outer space and tells the story of a person in this universe.

***Metamorphic*** / U.S.A. (Lead Artists: Matthew Niederhauser, Wesley Allsbrook, Eli Zananiri, John Fitzgerald, Key Collaborators: Tim Fain, Siyuan Qiu) In this social VR experience, the body becomes a vehicle for expression within majestically drawn worlds. Participants explore the radical possibility of effortless transformation as movement and play alter appearances and surroundings.

***My Trip*** / United Kingdom (Lead Artist: Bjarne Melgaard) — Simulating the experience of a DMT trip, this work draws on new psychedelia, black metal music and internet paranoia to question existential concerns such as procreation and overpopulation. A virtual

retrospective, travel with characters such as Octo and Lightbulb Man through the dark web to unknown realms.

***Persuasion Machines*** / U.S.A. (Lead Artists: Karim Amer, Guvenc Ozel, Key Collaborators: Jess Engel, , Geralyn White Dreyfous, Marni Grossman) — How are your likes, shares, selfies, and devices being used against you? By making the invisible world of data visible, this experience will show you how your digital footprint is shaping your reality.

***Scarecrow*** / Korea (Lead Artists: Jihyun Jung, Sngmoo Lee, Taewan Jeong, Cooper Yoo, Key Collaborators: Chungyeon Cho, Sanghun Heo, Yeonjee Kim) — A user walks into a surreal Sisyphean world of cursed artists to break the spell. Cast: Seongtae Kim, Hyoungjun Kwon, Myungseok Chae, Donggen Shin.

***Solastalgia*** / France (Lead Artists: Antoine Viviani, Pierre-Alain Giraud, Key Collaborators: Gabriela Friðriksdóttir, Valgeir Sigurðsson, Nicolas Becker) A mixed-reality installation set in a mysterious future exploring the surface of a planet that has become uninhabitable. The last generations of humans are living as holograms, repeating the same scenes over and over again. What secret does this strange paradise contain? Cast: Mehdi Belhaj Kacem, Audrey Bonnet, Anne Brochet, Nancy Huston, Arthur Nauzyciel, Corine Sombrun.

***Spaced Out*** / France (Lead Artist: Pyaré, Key Collaborators: Sutú, Mourad Bennacer, Ando Shah, Stephen Greenwood, Atlas Roufas) — An underwater VR experience transports you aboard a voyage from the Earth to the moon, as well as within, led by the audio conversations of the Apollo 11 mission. Using special underwater VR goggles and a snorkel, the experience becomes a space simulation immersing all of the senses.

***Still Here*** / U.S.A. (Lead Artists: Zahra Rasool, Sarah Springer, Key Collaborators: Naima Ramos-Chapman, Carvell Wallace, Viktorija Mickute, Maria Fernanda Lauret) — An immersive, multimedia installation exploring incarceration, erasure and gentrification through the lens of one woman who returns to Harlem after 15 years in prison. The use of interactive VR and AR technologies brings to life this heartfelt story about the reclaiming of space and identity in a changing black community. Cast: LeAsha Julius, Keith Buxton, Marion Green, James Brown-Orleans, George Watson, Crystal Arnette.

## **VR CINEMA**

***After the Fallout*** / Switzerland, U.S.A. (Lead Artists: Sam Wolson, Dominic Nahr) — In March 2011, an earthquake caused a tsunami and a meltdown at the Daiichi nuclear power plant. The devastating consequences filled the communities in Fukushima with fear of the intangible and split Japan in a distinct before and after.

***Azibuye – The Occupation*** / South Africa (Lead Artists: Dylan Valley, Caitlin Robinson, Stephen Abbott, Key Collaborators: Ingrid Kopp, Steven Markovitz) — When Masello and Evan, two homeless black artist/activists, break into an abandoned mansion in an affluent part of Johannesburg, they proclaim their occupation to be an artistic and



political act in defiance of inequalities in land ownership in South Africa. Cast: Masello Motana, Evan Abrahamse.

***Bembé*** / Cuba (Lead Artists: Marcos Louit, Patricia Diaz, Key Collaborators: Andy Ruiz, Alain López, Ernesto Collinet) — Bembé is a Cuban tradition that encompasses elements of both Christianity and the African Yoruba, where the souls of dead slaves come to Earth and family, friends, and neighbors take part in a celebration lasting up to 7 days. Cast: Ernesto Collinet, Kalina Collinet, Katyleidy Collinet.

***Flowers & a Switchblade*** / U.S.A. (Lead Artists: Nic Koller, Weston Morgan, Key Collaborators: Candice Lee, Bridget Peck) — An everyday scene—a real-life conversation in Brooklyn's Prospect Park—collaged together from hundreds of videos to form a fractured, hyper-stimulating, 360° Cubist world.

***Go*** / Switzerland (Lead Artists: Sandro Zollinger, Roman Vital, Klaus Merz, Key Collaborator: Thomas Gassmann) — Searching for stability in his life, Peter Thaler sets out on a hike in the Swiss mountains, from which he will never return. An unprecedented symbiosis of literature and virtual reality, telling a story of everyday and final farewells, and opening the door to eternity a tiny crack. Cast: Klaus Merz, Niramy Pathmanathan, Robert Vital, Regula Stüssi.

***Hominidae*** / U.S.A. (Lead Artist: Brian Andrews, Key Collaborators: Brian Ferguson, Robert Steel, Kahra Scott-James) — Against a landscape of X-ray imagery and wild anatomical reimagination, a mother and her children struggle for survival. This experience follows an Arachnid Hominid, an intelligent creature with human and spider physiology, from the birth of her children to her premature death in the teeth of her prey. Cast: Phyllis Griffin, Luis Mora, Emily Weems, Kidjie Boyer, Austin Daly, Oliver Angus.

***tx-reverse 360°*** / Austria, Germany (Lead Artists: Martin Reinhart, Virgil Widrich, Key Collaborator: Siegfried Friedrich) — What is behind the cinema screen? What if the auditorium dissolves and with it the familiar laws of cinema itself? As reality and cinema collide, viewers are drawn into a vortex where the familiar order of space and time seems to be suspended.

***VR Free*** / Italy (Lead Artist: Milad Tangshir, Key Collaborators: Vito Martinelli, Stefano Sburlati) — Exploring the nature of incarceration spaces by portraying slices of life inside a prison in Turin, Italy. The film also captures the reaction of several inmates during brief encounters with immersive videos of life outside of prison. Cast: Michele Romano, Albert Asllanaj, Cristian De Bonis.

## **NEW FRONTIER SHORTS**

***E-Ticket*** / Hong Kong, U.S.A. (Director: Simon Liu) — A frantic (re)cataloguing of a personal archive and 16,000 splices in the making. 35mm frames are obsessively rearranged in evolving-disorienting patterns, as a Dante's Inferno for the streaming age emerges, illustrating freedom of movement for the modern cloud.

***Guisado on Sunset*** / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Terence Nance) — Missed connection regret at that one late-night spot—the kind you keep playing back in your head but not quite ever remembering right, until it starts to look like something else.

International Premiere

***How Did We Get Here?*** / U.S.A. (Director and screenwriter: Michelle Miles) — A visual exploration of progressive atrophy. A study in how microscopic changes can go unnoticed, but amass over time. Even as these changes become drastic, we sometimes fail to realize anything has happened at all. World Premiere

***Meridian*** / U.S.A., Italy (Director and screenwriter: Calum Walter) — Footage transmitted by the last unit in a fleet of autonomous machines sent to deliver an emergency vaccine. The film follows the machine before its disappearance, tracing a path that seems to stray further and further from its objective.

***Narcissister Breast Work*** / U.S.A. (Director: Narcissister) — Focusing on the exercise by women of their right to bare their breasts in public, Narcissister Breast Work aims to investigate – and expose – how prohibitions on female toplessness are grounded in fear of, and desire to control, the female body. World Premiere

***Pattaki*** / Cuba (Director: Everlane Moraes, Screenwriter: Tatiana Monge Herrera) — In the dense night, when the moon rises, those who live in a monotonous daily life without water are hypnotized by the powers of Yemaya, the goddess of the sea. U.S. Premiere

***While I'm Still Breathing (Tandis Que Je Respire Encore)*** / France (Directors: Laure Giappiconi, Elisa Monteil, La Fille Renne, Screenwriter: Laure Giappiconi) — The blurred portrayal of a young woman as she moves through three steps of her sexuality. North American Premiere