a Cinema Guild release



Opens Jan 12 in New York

2023 / 50 min / 4:3 / 16mm to 35mm or digital DCP / 5.1 / Color In English and French with English subtitles

press

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synopsis

What happens to us / Is irrelevant to the world's geology / But what happens to the world's geology / is not irrelevant to us. -Hugh MacDiarmid

Last Things looks at evolution and extinction from the perspective of the rocks and minerals that came before humanity and will outlast us. With scientists and thinkers like Lynn Margulis and Marcia Bjørnerud as guides and quoting from the proto-Sci-fi texts of J.H. Rosny, Deborah Stratman offers a stunning array of images, from microscopic forms to vast landscapes, and seeks a picture of evolution without humans at the center.

director's bio

Artist and filmmaker Deborah Stratman makes work that investigates issues of power, control and belief, exploring how places, ideas, and society are intertwined. She regards sound as the ultimate multi-tool and time to be supernatural. Recent projects have addressed freedom, surveillance, public speech, sinkholes, levitation, orthoptera, raptors, comets, evolution, extinction, exodus, sisterhood and faith. She's exhibited internationally at venues including MoMA (NY), Centre Pompidou (Paris), Hammer Museum (LA), Witte de With (Rotterdam), PS1 (NY), Tabakalera (San Sebastian), Austrian Film Museum (Vienna), Yerba Buena Center (SF), MCA (Chicago), Whitney Biennial (NY) and has done site-specific projects with venues including the Center for Land Use Interpretation, Temporary Services, Hallwalls, Mercer Union and Ballroom Marfa. Stratman's films have been featured widely at festivals and conferences including Sundance, Viennale, Berlinale, CPH:DOX, Oberhausen, True/False, TIFF, Locarno, Rotterdam, the Flaherty and Docs Kingdom. She is the recipient of Fulbright, Guggenheim and USA Collins Fellowships, an Alpert Award, Sundance Art of Nonfiction Award and grants from Creative Capital, Graham Foundation, Harpo Foundation and Wexner Center for the Arts. She lives in Chicago where she teaches at the University of Illinois.

credits

Director / Camera / Edit / Sound Design: Deborah Stratman Producers: Deborah Stratman, Anže Peršin, Gaëlle Boucand Sound Engineer: Simon Apostolou Music: Thomas Ankersmit, Olivia Block, Nicolas Collins, Brian Eno, Okkyung Lee, Matchess Voiced by: Valérie Massadian and Marcia Bjørnerud

select festivals and awards

World Premiere: Sundance, January 2023 International Premiere: Berlinale, Feburary 2023 New York Premiere: New York Film Festival, October 2023 New Cinema Award - Berwick Film and Media Art Festval, UK Prix du Court-Métrage (Short Film Prize) - Cinéma du Réel International Documentary Film Festival GreenDox Award - Dokufest International Documentary and Short Film Festival, Kosovo Audience Award - 25FPS Festival, Croatia Best Direction - Black Canvas Festival de Cine Contemporaneo, Mexico Avant-Garde Award & Honorable Mention Science New Wave Award - Science New Wave Festival, USA

filmography

Otherhood (2023, 16mm xfer to HD video, 3 min) Last Things (2023, 16mm digital transfer, 50 min) Laika (2021, HD video, 4:33 min) For the Time Being (2021, HD video, 6:40 min) Vever (for Barbara) (2019, 16mm to HD, 12 min) Optimism (2018, Super 8 to digital, 14:43 min) Teaching an Alphabet the Plants (2018, HD video, 8:30 min) Siege (2017, multi-channel HD video, 7 min) Xenoi (2016, video, 15:20 min) The Illinois Parables (2016, 16mm or DCP, 60 min) Second Sighted (2014, SD video, 5:05 minutes) Hacked Circuit (2014, HD video, 15:05 minutes) Immortal, Suspended (2013, HD video, 5:50 minutes, stereo) Musical Insects (2013, video, 6:30 minutes) The Name is not the Thing named (2012, video, 10:30 minutes) Village, silenced (2012, video, 4:55 minutes) ...These Blazeing Starrs! (2011, 16mm, 14:16 minutes) Ray's Birds (2010, 16mm, 7:07 minutes) Shrimp Chicken Fish (2010, video, 5:13 minutes) FF (2010, video, 2:45 minutes) Kuyenda N'kubvina (2010, video, 40:00 minutes) O'er The Land (2009, 16mm, 51:40 minutes) The Memory (2008, video, 2 minutes) The Magician's House (2007, 16mm, 5:45 minutes) It Will Die Out In The Mind (2006, video, 3:50 minutes) How Among The Frozen Words (2005, video, 44 seconds) Kings Of The Sky (2004, , video, 68 minutes) Energy Country (2003, video, 14:30 minutes) In Order Not To Be Here (2002, 16mm, 33 minutes) Untied (2001, 16mm, 3 minutes) The BLVD (1999, video, 64 minutes) From Hetty To Nancy (1997, 16mm, 44 minutes) On The Various Nature Of Things (1995, 16mm, 25 minutes) Iolanthe (1995, video, 4:30 minutes) Waking (1994, video, 7 minutes) Palimpsest (1993, 16mm, 3 minutes) In Flight: Day No. 2,128 (1993, 16mm, 2 minutes) the train from I.a. to I.a. (1992, video, 8 minutes) Possibilities, Dilemmas (1992, video, 10 minutes) A Letter (1992, video, 7 minutes) Upon a Time (1991, 16mm, 10 minutes) My Alchemy (1990, 16mm, 7 minutes)