

MILTON GUILLÉN

Assistant Professor, The University of Vermont
Senior Programmer, Points North Institute
Associate Fellow, Film Study Center, Harvard University
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EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor 2024–Present

University of Vermont – Film and Television Studies, English Department

Harris-Henderson Fellow 2022–2024

University of Vermont – Film and Television Studies, English Department

Visiting Special Faculty (Cinematography and Production) Fall, 2021

California Institute of the Arts – Film and Video

Senior Programmer, CIFF & Artist Programs 2020–Present

Points North Institute – Lead Curator

Research Assistant 2019–2020

Northwestern University – Instructor: JP Sniadecki

Teaching Assistant 2019–2020

Northwestern University – Cinematography, Editing, Production

Freelance Artist & Filmmaker 2017–Present

Directing, Editing & Cinematography

Video and Photojournalist 2016–2018

Colby College, Office of Communications & Advancement

EDUCATION

Northwestern University – Evanston, IL

2018–2020

MFA in Documentary Media

Radio, TV, Film Department, School of Communications

Film & TV School Academy of Performing Arts – Prague, Czech R.

2014

16mm Directing and Producing

Colby College – Waterville, ME

2011–2015

BA, Anthropology major and Cinema Studies minor

LANGUAGES: Fluent in Spanish, English, Portuguese; intermediate level in French

FELLOWSHIPS & RESIDENCIES

2025 Chicken & Egg(celerator) Lab Fellow, NYC, NY.
2025-2026 Firelight Media Fellowship, NYC, NY
2024-2025 Associate FSC fellow, Harvard, Cambridge, MA. USA
2023-2024 Film Study Center LEF-Harvard Fellow, Cambridge, MA. USA
2022-2024 Harris-Henderson Fellow, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. USA
2022 Flaherty Film Fellow, Colgate University, Hamilton, NY. USA
2022 International Documentary Association Fellow, Los Angeles, CA. USA
2020 Bay Area Video Coalition, MediaMaker National Fellow, San Francisco, CA. USA
2019 Kartemquin, Diverse Voices in Documentary, Chicago, IL. USA
2018 Points North Institute, North Star Fellowship, Camden, ME. USA
2017 Guest Room Maribor, Artist in Residency, Maribor, Slovenia

AWARDS, GRANTS, HONORS

2024 New Faculty EXPRESS Award, \$3k, Burlington, VT. USA
2024 LEF Production Grant, \$15k, Boston, MA. USA
2024 Open Doors, Director's Hub, Locarno Film Festival, Locarno, Switzerland
2023-2024 LEF-Harvard Fellow, \$10k, Cambridge, MA. USA
2023 Middlebury New Filmmakers, Best Documentary short award, (Tierra de Leche), USA
2023 Small Grant Research Award Grant. UVM, Burlington, VT. USA
2022 LEF Pre-Production Grant - \$5k, Boston, MA. USA
2021 ITVS Documentary Film Fund, \$25k, San Francisco, CA. USA
2020 Tribeca All Access, \$10k, New York, NY. USA
2020 BAVC Award, \$8k, San Francisco, CA. USA
2019 Carole Fielding Award, \$5k, UFVA Conference, Minneapolis, MN. USA
2019 Kartemquin Accelerator Grant, \$10k, Chicago, IL. USA
2018 Diversity Leadership Award, Staff Award, \$5k, Colby College, Maine. USA
2017 Circle of Excellence Award, Silver – (Maji), short film. Issued by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), Maine, USA

PUBLICATIONS & REWIEWS OF WORK

- CPH:DOX, Visibility and Interdependence, Documentary Magazine, 2024 • “The Empathy Machine” The 2024 CPH:FORUM, Filmmaker Magazine, 2024 • Harris Fellow wins Harvard grant, UVM, New Colleges of Arts and Science, 2023 • True/False lineup, Filmmaker Magazine, 2023
- The Balancing Act of Impact, Documentary Magazine, 2022
- CIFF Hosts Tops Documentary Filmmakers, Deadline, 2022
- Strengthening Bonds, Immerse, MIT, 2022
- IDA fellowship announcement, Documentary Magazine, 2022
- Exploring Ways for Participation. Review of *The Maribor Uprisings: A Live Participatory Film (2017)* by Maple Razsa & Milton Guillén, Academic Journal, BRILL, 2019
- The Maribor Uprisings: A Live Participatory Film, POV Magazine 2017
- Maple and the Brooklyn Rail, Brooklyn Rail, 2017
- Panorama Latinx, Gene Siskel - Chicago
- The Maribor Uprisings in Maine

FILMOGRAPHY & VIDEO INSTALLATIONS (Director)

My Skin and I (in development), feature film

A feature-length speculative non-fiction film, co-directed with Fiona Guy Hall. Via images of the Nicaraguan authoritarian regime, the filmmakers address questions of aesthetics, power, and discipline. The film builds lyrical realms in collaboration with artists in exile, visualizing ongoing tragedy in a multi-linear timeline that traces what led to the national protests of 2018. At the core, the film explores Guillén's personal relationship to political power and exile via fictional embodiments of his family, as well as archival material, and a collage of experiences interwoven into a long poem. The film will also work as an installation and invite audiences from exilic contexts to connect with the lyricisms and political imaginations of the destruction of the nation-state.

Torita-Encuetada (2023–2024), video performance & video installation

Co-directed with performance artist Elyla, currently based in Masaya. This video performance reinterprets folk traditions to disrupt our relationships with them, and the power structures they represent. This piece is an anticolonial ceremony, exploring the liberation from the colonial yoke through a fire ritual rooted in a Nicaraguan cultural practice called *toro encuetado*. Serving as a poignant act of political remembrance, the ritual dance, or *mitote*, calls for a return to earth-honoring practices and for the decolonization of the *mestizaje* of sexual and gender-diverse identities in Mesoamerica. Collaborating with Nicaraguan filmmaker Milton Guillén and with music by Susy Shock and Luigi Bridges, the filmed ritual delves into the encounter of ancestral corpodivinities from Nicaragua's Pacific region, inviting viewers to witness the intersections of culture, anticolonial artistic praxis, and the sacred. Committed to challenging societal norms, Elyla's performance transforms the *cochón* (queer) utopia into a revolutionary artistic practice of the now. The performance is dedicated in honor of Indigenous Mangue- Chorotega cultural leaders and guardians of ancestral knowledge, Gustavo Herrera and Cristian Ruiz (1977–2022), the artist's friends, collaborators, and guides.

Currently in display (April-September 2024) at the Venice Biennale, as part of Foreigners Everywhere, curated by Adriano Pedrosa, International Pavilion. Venice, Italy

Tierra de Leche (2023), short film

Co-directed with Fiona Guy Hall. A group of Central American dairy workers in the Northeast of the United States reminisce about their relationship to the land, labor practices, and their home countries. Hours, days, weeks, and years pass by and the repetitiveness of the labor makes way to new families in a non-place. These workers, despite their initial dreams, never come back home, where many of their families forget about them, or are lost to time. The film is an exploration of multispecies exploited by capitalistic forces, humans and cows, and questions the technologies we have created to maximize efficiency over liberation. Combining GPS imagery, patent drawings and lyrical soundscapes from the migrant worker's psyche, the film interrogates capitalistic practices with deep rigor. Despite the grim horizon, it is not all lost. They have left the farms.

World Premiered at True/False film festival, curated by Chloé Trayner. Missouri, USA