

BLANK HARBOR

FILM FESTIVAL

Program 1



Parasite Family

Prapat Jiwangsan
Bangkok, Thailand | 2022 | 5

Peter Wilde Award for Most Technically Innovative Film

Parasite Family is constructed from old film negatives discovered in an out-of-business film lab. Using analog and digital editing techniques, Prapat Jiwangsan breathes new energy into these old films. He accompanies them on their journey from the world of analog to the world of digital, and finally to the world of AI-generated images and NFT artworks. Suggesting that these faces represent a certain kind of family that is parasitic on Thai society—the kind of families and institutions that absorb wealth and power—they gradually evolve into a new species of monster.



Daron, Daron Colbert

Kevin Edward Steen
Detroit, MI | 2022 | 14

University of Michigan Credit Union (UMCU) Audience Award

Living on the edge of one the most polluted zip codes in the US, an actor prepares for a role.



2cent / 10coil

Monteith McCollum
Binghamton, NY | 2022 | 10

Gil Omenn Art & Science Award

Part science, part history, *2cent / 10coil* is an exploration into the physical properties of a U.S. postage stamp and the anomalies it presents when subjected to the beam of an electron microscope. Integrated within are the philosophical musings and speeches of a man in his last weeks of life on a quest entitled “The Voyage of Understanding.”



Language Unknown

Janelle VanderKelen
Milwaukee, WI / Barcelona, Spain | 2022 | 7

Lawther/Graff No Violence Award

This film embraces plant sentience as fact and speculates how beings of the vegetal variety might approach interspecies communication with humans who are far more sensorially limited. Leaves, mycelium, and roots playfully examine how humans experience the world. These supposedly silent watchers consider what language these swift human blurs might possibly understand.



Eclipsis

Tania Hernández Velasco
Mexico City, Mexico | 2022 | 16

Susan Dize Best Experimental Film

A recently discovered monarch butterfly subspecies (*Danaus plexippus* eclipsis) possesses strange toxins in its scales that cause powerful sensorial alterations in its predators. Intertwining vivid colors and textures of microscopic footage with the sway of the human body, *Eclipsis* is a sci-fi speculation of what would happen to human beings if they came across the Eclipsis butterfly in the midst of our painful world.



Arrest in Flight

Adrian Flury
Zug, Switzerland | 2021 | 8

Chris Frayne Award for Best Animated Film

This experiment in film sets the stage for a hitherto unseen magical life form. The film focuses on the non-obvious character of movement when transferred to an alien object thus endowed with the life derived from the movement's true to life source.



Diomysus

Emily Elizabeth Morus-Jones
Bangor, UK | 2022 | 5

Prix DeVarti for Funniest Film

An experimental film where a group of mice (voiced by members of the UK polyamorous community whose identities are masked using puppetry) discuss their experiences of polyamory. Diomysus asks the question, "Are we (the audience) more open to taboo ideas if unconscious bias is eliminated?"



rough cut botanical

Wendy Kirkup
Glasgow, UK | 2022 | 8

rough cut botanical interweaves multiple images of plant and animal life while a voice speaks to the materiality of its subject matter and to film itself. Inspired by audio description, it playfully explores how two people may speak their space together. Shot on 16mm, the film uses a matte box, an old cinematic technique to create multiple exposures.

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

Established in 1963, the Ann Arbor Film Festival is the oldest avant garde and experimental film festival in North America. In 2023, the festival featured 46 programs with over 170 films from nearly 40 countries of all lengths and genres, including experimental, animation, documentary, narrative, hybrid, and performance based works. The 61st Festival took place in person March 21-26, 2023 and online March 21-29. Film submissions for the 62nd Festival (March 26-31, 2024) will be accepted July 1 through September 30, 2023.

Festival Director: Leslie Raymond

Technical Director: Tom Bray

TOURING PROGRAM

The Ann Arbor Film Festival, a pioneer of the film festival touring concept, has been presenting an annual tour of selected works from the festival since 1964 to galleries, art house theaters, museums, universities, libraries, microcinemas, and media arts centers throughout the world. All filmmakers participating on the tour are paid to screen their work, providing direct support to these independent artists.

DVD COLLECTIONS

A selection of films from the AAFF are also available on limited-edition DVD collections, which can be purchased online at aafilmfest.org. Use code 61TOUR to get 15% off any or all of the DVD's in our collection.