

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON FILM AND VISUAL ARTS



Espoo Ciné

25 - 26 August, 2026

Emma, Espoo & Cinema Orion, Helsinki

espoocine.fi/cinestesia



Kulttuuri
Espoo



AV-ARKKI
CENTRE FOR
FINNISH MEDIA ART



Svenska
kulturfonden



Nordic-Baltic Mobility
Programme for Culture

ORION



FORUM **BOX**



TAPIOLA GARDEN
ORIGINAL BY SOKOS HOTELS



A!
Aalto-yliopisto
Aalto-universitetet
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ELO
FILM SCHOOL FINLAND

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frame contemporary art
finland

Cinéstesia – International Seminar on Film and Visual Arts

Cinéstesia – International Seminar on Film and Visual Arts is a two-day professional forum dedicated to the moving image in all its forms. The seminar creates a space for critical reflection on the institutional, commercial, and material conditions that shape contemporary moving image practice. Across keynote lectures, panel discussions, and artist talks, the seminar explores some of the most current questions facing moving image practice. The conversations reflect on the shifting boundaries between cinema and the visual arts, as well as on the future of analogue film culture, while also examining the infrastructures, collaborations, and modes of circulation that shape how moving images are made, experienced, and exhibited nowadays.

SEMINAR DAY 1

TUESDAY 25 AUGUST, 2026.

EMMA, ESPOO

12:15 - 12:30 Welcome words

12:30 - 13:45 Artist Talk Nour Ouayda

Filmmaker and film programmer Nour Ouayda is one of the most distinctive voices of a rising generation of moving image practitioners. Her work navigates the shifting boundaries between documentary and fiction, weaving together image, text, and sound to reveal the extraordinary within the everyday life. In this artist talk, Ouayda reflects on her practice, her understanding of cinema as an ecosystem in which filmmaking, programming, and writing are deeply entangled, and the recurring motifs that run through her work: memory, landscape and political history.

Moderator: by Azar Saiyar – Artist, Filmmaker

13:45 - 14:45 Panel discussion: Un/framing the Screen In-between Cinema and Visual Arts

How do artists' moving image works navigate between the cinema venue and the museum's white cube? What kinds of institutional decisions, curatorial strategies, and viewing conditions come into play? This panel brings together representatives from leading art and culture institutions to reflect on the frameworks and curatorial approaches that shape how artists' moving image circulates, and is being experienced by the visitors. Drawing on the distinct missions

and profiles of their respective organisations, the panellists explore how different exhibition contexts can support practices that resist easy categorisation, while envisioning a more porous and collaborative ecosystem between cinema and the visual arts.

Speakers:

Krist Gruijthuijsen – Director and CEO of EMMA

Itha O'Neill – Head of Curation of Amos Rex

Saara Hacklin – Chief Curator, Collections of Kiasma

Paul O'Neill – Artistic Director of Publics

Moderator:

**Sini Mononen – Academy of Finland Research Fellow,
University of Helsinki, and Art Journalist.**

**Moderator: Arturo Delgado – Filmmaker, Assistant
Professor of Aalto University**

14:45 - 15:15 Coffee break

15:15 - 16:30 Artist Talk: Ben Rivers

For more than two decades, London-based artist and experimental filmmaker Ben Rivers has crafted one of the most unmistakably singular filmographies in contemporary cinema. Working primarily with photochemical film, his works inhabit the porous territory between fictionalized-documentary and speculative narrative, following individuals and communities who quietly resist dominant narratives of progress, productivity, and social conformity. In this conversation, Rivers reflects on the material and foundations of his creative practice, discussing the role of analogue filmmaking, long-term collaborations, and recurring questions such as solitude, playfulness, imagination, and alternative ways of being in the world that continue to shape his practice.

SEMINAR DAY 2

WEDNESDAY 26 AUGUST, 2026

CINEMA ORION, HELSINKI

12:15 - 12:30 Welcome words

12:30 - 13:45 Erika Balsom's Keynote Lecture: After the Avant-Gardes

In the twenty-first century, film culture is at its most vital on the margins: where the moving image meets visual art, where documentary brushes up against experimentalism, and where curators are reshaping established histories in response to contemporary imperatives. This talk explores these developments by tracing the recent metamorphoses of what was once called "avant-garde film," offering a reflection of the current state of a field that is resolutely globalized, gloriously impure, and reaching new audiences, both in person and online. – Erika Balsom

13:45 - 14:30 Panel discussion We've Never Been Digital

In a cultural landscape increasingly shaped by digital tools and platforms and individualised modes of production, a growing community of artists and filmmakers continues to embrace analogue film through collective-driven experiences. Bringing together representatives from three artist-run analogue film labs, this conversation explores the realities, challenges, and possibilities of sustaining analogue filmmaking today. The discussion spans from the founding of their labs and building independent infrastructures to

the question of knowledge transmission and strengthening international networks of solidarity. The panellists reflect the shared idea on what it means to keep analogue film not only alive, but continuously evolving as a collective artistic practice.

Speakers:

Ieva Balode – Artist, Cofounder, Baltic Analog Lab

Britt Al-Busultan – Filmmaker, Leading Member of Filmverkstaden

Lasse Vairio – Artist, Co-Founder of ELK-LAB

Moderator:

Avreno Heikka – Programme Coordinator, AV-arkki

14:30 - 15:00 Coffee break

15:00 - 15:30 Talk: Against Forgetting: Curating Memory, Material, and Projection by Otto Kymälä – Senior Curator, Kino Regina

Drawing on the philosophies and practices of film archives, cinemathèques, and film museums, Otto Kymälä explores how analogue film continues to matter in an age dominated by digital images. Through examples from curatorial practice, the presentation considers how archives and film museums work against different forms of forgetting – not only the loss of films themselves, but also the disappearance of the sensory and cultural experiences that have historically surrounded cinema. – Otto Kymälä.

15:30 - 16:30 Panel discussion: The Paradox Of Artist's Moving Image Films Within The Commercial Ecosystem

Artists' moving image works often occupy an uncomfortable position within the structures designed to support and circulate conventional narrative-driven cinema. Too cinematic for galleries, too artistic for distributors, too hybrid for conventional funding categories that they frequently fall through the cracks of the commercial ecosystem. This panel brings together agents from across funding, production, distribution, and exhibition, examining the tensions and paradoxes that artists, filmmakers, and institutions encounter when working across these overlapping fields, and asks what structural changes are needed to make the ecosystem more responsive and hospitable to practices at the intersection of cinema and the visual arts.

Speakers:

Leena Närekangas – Executive Director, ELKE

Danai Anagnostou – Producer and Co-founder of Kenno Filmi

Ulla Simonen – Director, AVEK

Hanna Maria Anttila – Executive Director of AV-arkki

Moderator:

Tuuli Penttinen-Lampisuo – Writer, Producer of Poike Productio

16:30 - 16:45 - Closing words

Notes:

Tickets for International Seminar: 8 €/day

With professional accreditation, one can purchase a free ticket for the seminar on the website.