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**Kunsthalle
Friart
Fribourg**

Sky Hopinka
Our Ailing Senses
2.MAR - 28.APR.2024

Exhibition guide

EXHIBITION TEXT

The transmission of accounts, traditions and struggles of indigenous American peoples is at the heart of Sky Hopinka's artistic practice. Personal testimony is interwoven with narratives on ancestral lands and archive recordings to create lyrical pieces in which boundaries between the individual and the collective get blurred.

Our Ailing Senses is constructed around an emblematic selection of films produced by the artist between 2014 and 2023. It features an explorative community experience magnifying the links between language, the earth and history. Embedded images, music and poetic writing combine in a process of collection and composition. The sound, visuals and the written word are edited such as to make perception fall from the surface of the work, into a depth that deprives it from its anchorage in realism. The visual effects of the editing process, the fades and the blurring take the film into the realm of dream, a liminal state in which the history of the earth veers off the one-way street of colonial history. Forests, bodies of water and vast skies bear witness to another plane of existence, one in which other myths haunt the landscapes with distant echoes.

Hopinka's multisensorial cinema occupies an alternative temporality to that of dominant accounts of modern America. Its aesthetic is founded in pragmatics, defined by the artist as "an activation of access". The different films take their starting point in acts of sharing with the communities represented, communities whose cultures have been wiped out, marginalized. These films come into being through a process of interaction with concrete reality, people close to the artist, events, encounters, traces. The films put memory into circulation, no single source, no lost origin holding sway.

The beauty of Hopinka's films is immediately apparent, but they change and are therefore differently understood over time. A suspended dimension in the work frequently alludes to the power of myth and oblivion. The response to dispossession is not restitution here but rather a recognition of the relationship between desire and nostalgia: an infinite negotiation of poetic distance, continuity without any sense of completeness. Hopinka navigates this distance much in the same way as the hand of the autor inscribes itself, with a sensitivity approaching touch, within the digital image at the end of *Sunflower Siege Engine*.

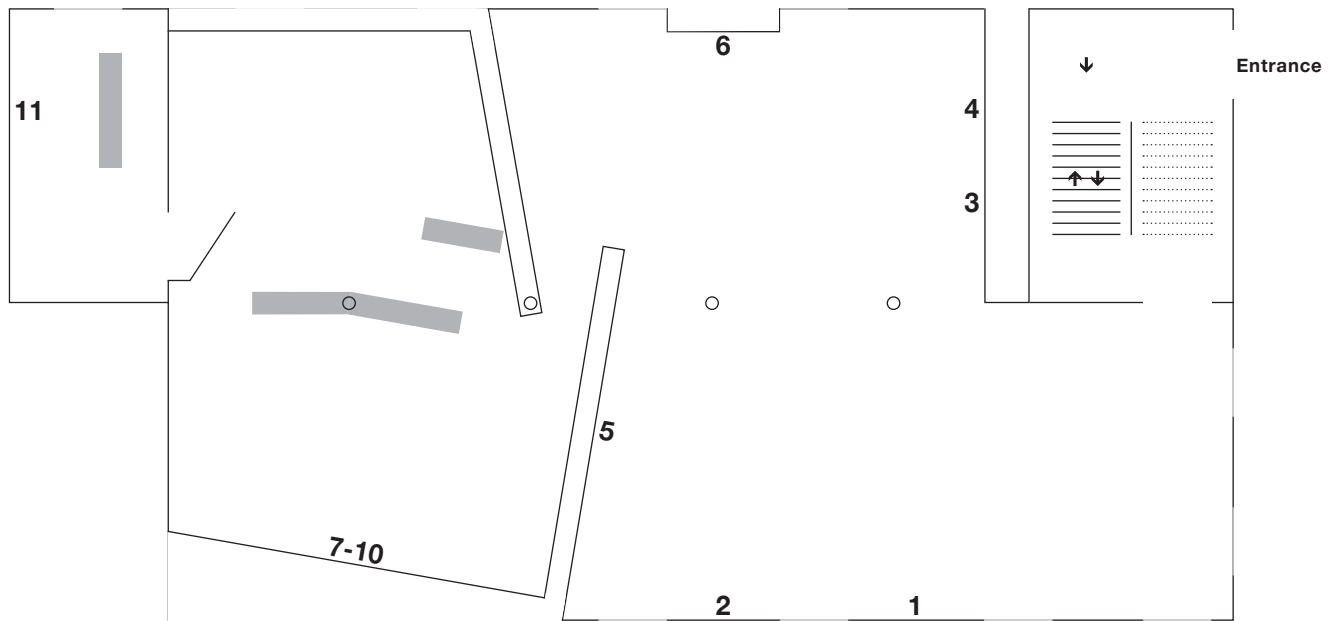
Cinema's esthetic regime emerged as part of "a symbolic order that intends to decimate and dominate any non-Western way of life"¹. Hopinka's cinema draws on a knowledge of the experimental cinema canon, a critique of the ethnographic perspective of documentary cinema, moving towards a contemporary indigenous cinema.

BIOGRAPHY

Sky Hopinka (born 1984 in Ferndale, Washington) is an experimental filmmaker, photographer and poet. He is a member of the Ho-Chunk Nation/Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians. In 2022, he received a MacArthur Fellowship for his work in film and video that offer new strategies of representation for the expression of Native worldviews. In 2024, he will be awarded by BAMPFA (Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive) Art & Film Benefit as a creative visionary who has made indelible impacts on the fields of art and film. The artist's work will be the subject of a major exhibition at SFMO-MA, San Francisco later this year.

Recent personal exhibitions include *Sunflower Siege Engine*, Tanya Leighton, Berlin (2023); *Sky Hopinka: The sun comes in whenever it wants*, LUMA, Arles (2022) and *Centers of Somewhere*, CCS Bard/Hessel Museum of Modern Art, Annandale-on-Hudson (2020).

¹ Lindsay Nixon, "The poeticism of Anti-Colonial Dream Worlds", in "Downward, upward, around and around, the spinning whorl...", Poor Farm Press, Manawa, p. 60.



Ground floor

1	<i>My distant god</i> 2023 Inkjet with hand-scratched text and UV laminate, framed 101.6 × 101.6 cm	4	<i>Everything to be obliterated</i> 2023 Inkjet with hand-scratched text and UV laminate, framed 101.6 × 101.6 cm	7	<i>Sunflower Siege Engine</i> 2022 16 mm to HD video, colour, stereo 12 min 23 s	10	<i>Kunjkaga Remembers Red Banks, Kunjkaga Remembers the Welcoming Song</i> 2014 HD video, colour, stereo 9 min 20 s
2	<i>Earthmaker considers the mountain</i> 2023 Inkjet with hand-scratched text and UV laminate, framed 101.6 × 101.6 cm	5	<i>Situated at the East End of Devil's Lake on Sect 25 THN. R6B on N. Kirks Pleasure Ground,</i> 2018 Vinyl print Variable dimensions	8	<i>Fainting Spells</i> 2018 HD video, colour, stereo 10 min 45 s	11	<i>Dislocation Blues</i> 2017 HD video, colour, stereo 16 min 57 s
3	<i>Swelling, momentarily</i> 2023 Inkjet with hand-scratched text and UV laminate, framed 101.6 × 101.6 cm	6	<i>wawa</i> 2014 HD video, colour, stereo 6 min 0 s	9	<i>Kicking the Clouds</i> 2021 16 mm to HD video, colour, stereo 15 min 37 s		

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♥ **MERCI**
♥ **DANKE**
♥ **THANK YOU**



DURING THE EXHIBITION

OPENING
1.MAR.2024, 18:00

PERFORMANCES AND CONVERSATIONS
SURROUNDING SACRED THREADS
23.MAR, 15-19:00

EXTRA MUROS PROJECTION AU CINÉMATOGAPHE, LAUSANNE
SKY HOPINKA
MAŁNI—TOWARDS THE OCEAN, TOWARDS THE SHORE, 2020
26.MAR, 20:30

GUIDED TOURS — VISITE DES AMI.E.S
WITH/AVEC OLGA GENERALOVA
AND NICOLAS BRULHART
FOLLOWED BY FRIBAR
20.APR, 19-0:00

COMPLETE PROGRAM
WWW.FRIART.CH

KUNSTHALLE FRIART FRIBOURG

NICOLAS BRULHART, ESTELLE NEGRO, SACHA RAPPO, MAX HAURI,
MAXIME PAPAUX, VIOLETTE MARBACHER, FANNY DELARZE/KOLLEKTIV
ORTIE, PIERRICK BRÉGEON/EUROSTANDARD, FABIAN STÜCHELI, LUCIEN
MOSER, ANNE SUDAN, FLAVIO DA SILVA, GUILLAUME BAERISWYL, ANJA
DELZ, JACK SIMS, ATELIER 48, CLÉMENCE DE WECK AND THE COMMITTEE
OF FRI-ART, THE FRIENDS OF FRIART, RECEPTION STAFF, CONCEIÇÃO
SILVA CARVALHO, ALIONA CAZACU

THANKS

SKY HOPINKA, EMIR WEST, GALERIE TANYA LEIGHTON (BERLIN AND LOS
ANGELES), PIERRICK BRÉGEON, OLGA GENERALOVA, MARIE GYGER, LÉO
THIÉMARD, FAYE CORTHÉSY, LE CINÉMATOGAPHE (LAUSANNE), LUVAN,
FLORA KATZ AND LUMA ARLES

OPENING HOURS

MO-TUE BY APPOINTMENT
WED-FRI 12AM-6PM
SAT-SUN 1-6PM