



CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES NAMES 2020 CHICKEN & EGG AWARD RECIPIENTS AND NEW COMPLETION FUND

NEW YORK, NY (January 21, 2020)—Chicken & Egg Pictures, a leader in supporting women and gender non-conforming nonfiction filmmakers, announced today their newest slate of grantees for two of their programs. Six filmmakers will receive the **Chicken & Egg Award** (*\$50,000 award and mentorship program*) which recognizes and elevates experienced documentary makers; and three projects will participate in their new **Project: Hatched** program (*\$20,000 completion fund*)—designed to support directors as they prepare for the premiere of a feature-length documentary and develop a strategic engagement campaign.

“Chicken & Egg Pictures’ programs emphasize support for the filmmaker, not just their films. These two programs represent the range of support we provide: the Chicken & Egg Award focuses on helping filmmakers to break through to the next stages of their careers, and our newest program, Project: Hatched, is about helping them to bring their projects out into the world and to ensure their films have maximum impact,” says Chicken & Egg Pictures Program Director Lucila Moctezuma. “We are thrilled to begin working with this amazing slate of filmmakers who all have an incredibly exciting year ahead.”

In addition to a \$50,000 unrestricted cash award and a year-long mentorship program, **Chicken & Egg Award** recipients also receive dedicated support from the Chicken & Egg Pictures creative team geared toward the development of new documentary projects. Past projects that have been in development during the filmmaker’s Award year include: Julia Reichert’s *American Factory* (Oscar nominated in 2020), co-directed with Steve Bognar; Elaine McMillion Sheldon’s *Heroin(e)* (2018 Emmy Award); Nanfu Wang’s *One Child Nation* (Sundance 2019), co-directed with Chicken & Egg Pictures Alumna Jialing Zhang; Ramona Diaz’s upcoming *A Thousand Cuts* (Sundance 2020); and Kirsten Johnson’s upcoming *Dick Johnson is Dead* (Sundance 2020). This is the first year the Award has been opened to internationally-based filmmakers. The recipients hail from Canada, Chile, India, Serbia, Norway, and the US and have explored such diverse subjects as aging, artificial intelligence, and Indigenous rights.

Project: Hatched, Chicken & Egg Pictures’ newest program, provides a \$20,000 grant to selected directors in the lead up to their film premiere. \$15,000 of the grant is for finishing funds and \$5,000 is earmarked for impact strategy development. Participants also receive ten hours of mentorship focusing on festival premiere support, impact and distribution strategy, and professional development.

Along with the new program announcement, the organization announced a new partnership with The Fledgling Fund, a leader in the impact space. **The Chicken & Egg Pictures/Fledgling Fund Impact Grant** provides an additional \$20,000 to a Project: Hatched recipient whose film and campaign strategy has the ability to shape national and international conversations around the world's most pressing issues. "We are thrilled to be partnering with Chicken & Egg Pictures on their Project: Hatched program," says Diana Barrett, Fledgling's founder and president. "It is our hope that the additional grant along with the program mentorship will catalyze robust strategies that will deepen the social impact of the selected projects."

The two organizations announced the first recipient of the grant as *Coded Bias*, slated to premiere at the upcoming Sundance Film Festival. One more film project will receive the Chicken & Egg Pictures/Fledgling Fund Impact Grant in 2020.

2020 CHICKEN & EGG AWARD RECIPIENTS

Maite Alberdi (CHILE)

Maite Alberdi is a Chilean director who has developed a particular style that is characterized by an intimate portrait of small worlds, and her renowned personal hallmark has made her one of the most important voices in Latin American documentaries. Her films *The Lifeguard* (2011), *Tea Time* (2014), *I Am Not From Here* (2016), and *The Grown-Ups* (2016) have received important international awards.

Tonje Hessen Schei (NORWAY)

Tonje Hessen Schei is an award-winning Norwegian independent filmmaker. Tonje is the director of *iHuman* (2019), *Drone* (2014), *Play Again* (2010), and *Independent Intervention* (2005). Her films have received international awards including the Cinema for Peace Award for the Most Valuable Documentary of the Year; The Golden Nymph Award; and Norway's national film awards, the Amanda and Gullruten awards for best documentary. Tonje's films have screened at the United Nations, European Union, Netflix, and major film festivals worldwide.

Nishtha Jain (INDIA)

Nishtha Jain is a multi-award-winning filmmaker best known for her films *Saboot* (2019), *Gulabi Gang* (2012), *Lakshmi and Me* (2007) and *City of Photos* (2004). Her films are self-reflexive and explore the political in the personal. A recurring theme in her films is work or travail. She has received numerous international and national film awards including two Amnesty International Awards. Her films have been screened in over 250 international film festivals, art house cinemas and broadcast on TV networks. She's a Fulbright Scholar (2019) and Film Independent Global Media Maker (2019).

Michelle Latimer (CANADA)

A Métis/Algonquin filmmaker, actor, and producer, Michelle Latimer's goal is to use film and new media as a tool for social change. Most recently, she directed and produced

the Indigenous resistance series *Rise* (Viceland), which premiered at the 2017 Sundance Film Festival and won a Canadian Screen Award. Her latest film *Nuuca* premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival, Berlinale, and Sundance. Michelle's Indigenous heritage informs her filmmaking perspective, and much of her work is dedicated to the pursuit of Indigenous rights and sovereignty.

Mila Turajlić (SERBIA)

Mila Turajlić is an award-winning director and archive scholar born in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. Her documentary *The Other Side of Everything* won 32 awards, including the prestigious IDFA Award for Best Feature-length Documentary. Her previous film *Cinema Komunisto* played at over 100 festivals and won 16 awards including the Gold Hugo for Best Documentary and the FOCAL Award for Creative Use of Archival Footage. In 2018, she was commissioned by MoMA to create archive-based video installations for their landmark exhibition on Yugoslav modernist architecture.

Kimberly Reed (UNITED STATES)

Kimberly Reed's *Dark Money*, an award-winning selection at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival, was promptly named one of Vogue's 66 Best Documentaries of All Time, nominated for 4 Critics' Choice Awards and the IDA Award for Best Documentary, and shortlisted for an Oscar. *Prodigal Sons*, the first documentary by a transgender filmmaker to be theatrically released, won 14 international awards. One of Filmmaker Magazine's "25 New Faces of Independent Film," she is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

PROJECT: HATCHED 2020 RECIPIENTS

Coded Bias (The Chicken & Egg Pictures/Fledgling Fund Impact Grant recipient)

Director: Shalini Kantayya (UNITED STATES / INDIA)

Coded Bias explores the fallout of MIT Media Lab researcher Joy Buolamwini's startling discovery that facial recognition does not see dark-skinned faces accurately, and her subsequent journey to push for the first-ever US legislation to govern against bias in artificial intelligence. The documentary aims to shine a light on the threat artificial intelligence poses to civil rights and democracy.

**Premiering at Sundance 2020*

The Fight

Directors: Elyse Steinberg, Eli Despres, Josh Kriegman (UNITED STATES)

Seven days after Trump's inauguration, his Muslim ban was a stunning assault on civil liberties—but it was even more extraordinary to watch ACLU lawyers fight back. Just thirty hours after the order was signed, attorneys emerged from a Brooklyn courthouse with fists raised high, triumphant at the court's first check on the president's power.

The Trump administration has since moved to expel transgender soldiers from the military, roll back voting rights, separate migrant children from their parents, block abortion access for undocumented teens, and reinstate the Muslim ban. But at each affront, an ACLU lawyer is fighting back. In this modern-day David vs Goliath story, we'll

watch these self-described “freedom nerds” struggle to stop an unpredictable adversary with unlimited resources.

The lawyers of the ACLU are now at the epicenter of the battle to constrain President Trump's anti-constitutional impulses—even while protecting the most controversial free speech rights of his supporters. *The Fight* is the inside story of the human struggle at this moment of national crisis.

**Premiering at Sundance 2020*

Once Upon a Time in Venezuela

Director: Anabel Rodríguez Ríos (VENEZUELA)

On Lake Maracaibo, beneath the mysterious silent Catatumbo lightning, the village of Congo Mirador is preparing for parliamentary elections. For streetwise local businesswoman and Chavist party representative Tamara, every vote counts, fought by all means. While for opposition-supporting teacher Natalie, politics is a weapon that is unsuccessfully attempting to force her from her job. And with her sharp eyes, little Yohanny sees her community sinking from sedimentation, her childhood and innocence with it. How can a small fishing village survive against corruption, pollution and political decay—a reflection of all the flaws of contemporary Venezuela?

**Premiering at Sundance 2020*

Note: The parentheses next to the directors' names indicate the directors' country or countries of origin.

ABOUT CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES

Chicken & Egg Pictures supports women nonfiction filmmakers whose artful and innovative storytelling catalyzes social change. We envision an inclusive media industry in which women filmmakers, representing a range of experiences and backgrounds, are fully supported to realize their artistic goals, and to build sustainable and fulfilling careers.

Chicken & Egg Pictures was founded in 2005 by Julie Parker Benello, Wendy Ettinger, and Judith Helfand. Since inception, the organization has awarded over \$8 million in grants and thousands of hours of creative mentorship to over 320 filmmakers. For additional information please visit: <http://chickeneggpics.org/>.

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