



## CHICKEN & EGG PICTURES AWARDS \$400,000 TOTAL TO TEN 2021 (EGG)CELERATOR LAB GRANTEES

**NEW YORK, NY (MARCH 8, 2021)**—Chicken & Egg Pictures, a leader in supporting women and gender non-conforming filmmakers, announced today the projects participating in their 2021 (Egg)celerator Lab. Ten feature documentary film projects, directed or co-directed by first- or second-time directors, will receive a total of \$400,000.

“Despite the pandemic’s effects on our industry, documentary filmmakers continue to develop daring new projects, and so we at Chicken & Egg Pictures continue to support them at the same level,” said Program Director Lucila Moctezuma. “On **International Women’s Day**, we are proud to announce ten newly supported projects by filmmakers from around the world: each telling unique stories of otherness and belonging and pushing the boundaries of documentary film. We have already begun to offer support through our first retreat, and our team can’t be more excited to work with this cohort of talented and determined filmmakers throughout the year.”

**2021 (Egg)celerator Lab** films explore reparations for racial trauma in the United States (*Acts of Reparation*) and Kenya (*Testament*), follow characters as they care for and protect their familial land (*Seeds* and *The Last Nomads*), and go on a woman’s personal journey as she searches for others with the same rare disability as her (*Is There Anybody Out There?*).

The internationally-based directors hail from the US, Mexico, India, Lebanon, Kenya, UK, Serbia, and Sweden; and their work has been supported by Black Public Media, DocedgeKolkata, and NeXtDoc and featured in The Centre Pompidou, The Marshall Project, and The New York Times. In addition to being emerging directors, several filmmakers have long worked in the documentary field as advocates: *Testament* directors Zippy Kimundu and Meena Nanji founded Afrofilms International and GlobalGirl Media, respectively; and Biljana Tutorov (*The Last Nomads*) is Program Director of CIRCLE Women Doc Accelerator.

Past participants of the (Egg)celerator Lab include Loira Limbal, director of Cinema Eye Honors Award-winning *Through the Night*; Rintu Thomas and Sushmit Ghosh, directors of *Writing With Fire*, recipient of the Sundance Audience Award in the World Cinema Documentary competition; and Nanfu Wang and Jialing Zhang, directors of the Oscar-shortlisted *One Child Nation*.

The 2021 (Egg)celerator Lab projects are:

### **Acts of Reparation**

Directors: Selina Lewis Davidson, Macky Alston (US)

Two friends—Black and white—explore how to heal historic injury from slavery and the Native American genocide in their friendship, families, communities, and nation.

### **Against the Tide**

Director: Sarvnik Kaur (INDIA)

A tale of love, brotherhood, and resentments against the backdrop of an adoring sea, which is turning adverse under the menacing effects of an all-pervading calamity called climate change.

### **Is There Anybody Out There?**

Director: Ella Glendining (UK)

A young woman with a rare disability documents her search for others with the same condition, never having seen another body like her own.

### **Mija**

Director: Isabel Castro (MEXICO / US)

Doris Muñoz is an ambitious music manager whose undocumented family depends on her ability to discover aspiring pop stars.

### **Q**

Director: Jude Chehab (US / LEBANON)

God works in mysterious ways and so do women—through an intergenerational lens, the filmmaker goes deep into her mother and grandmother's lives to reveal their attachment to a secret Muslim women's cult.

### **Seeds**

Director: Brittany Shyne (US)

A portrait of a centennial African-American farm in Thomasville, Georgia. Using lyrical black and white imagery, this meditative film examines the decline of generational black farmers and the significance of owning land.

### **Testament**

Directors: Zippy Kimundu, Meena Nanji (KENYA / US)

Wanjugu Kimathi leads a struggle for narrative and economic justice in Kenya, exposing British colonial atrocities and building a nationwide grassroots movement for land reparations.

### **The In Between**

Director: Robie Flores (US / MEXICO)

A lyrical coming-of-age portrait of growing up on the US-Mexico border. Woven from the daily lives of children in the sister cities of Eagle Pass and Piedras Negras, the film is a celebration of fronterizo identity.

### **The Last Nomads**

Director: Biljana Tutorov (SERBIA / SWEDEN)

A tumultuous family drama unfolds as Gara (59) and Nada (13) defend their land, which is set to become military proving ground—threatening their environment, people, and way of life.

### **The Tuba Thieves**

Director: Alison O'Daniel (US)

From 2011-2013 tubas were stolen from Los Angeles schools. *The Tuba Thieves* is not about thieves or missing tubas. Instead, it asks what it means to listen.

Note: The parentheses next to the directors' names indicate the filmmakers' nationalities and/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 340 filmmakers. For additional information please visit: <http://chickeneggpics.org/>.

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