

Cinema {null} I: Soft Recoil

Fossiliver Collective presents

We are honored to bring together the work of Calum Walter, Zachary Epcar, Johann Lurf, Utkarsh, Leonardo Pirondi, and Guangli Liu—filmmakers and artists whose practices register, with unusual precision, the symptoms of our hyper-mediated age. Their films trace a charged continuum: from the human gaze and desire caught in the uncanny domestic space; to machines that slip beyond their functions and graze the thresholds of pure being, triggering a distinctly supra-human vibration; to the pursuit and reconstitution of a political and humanistic memory that has frayed at its edges. Across ten experimental shorts, followed by an ending marked by unresolved questions, these works form adjacent stations in the dark—yet taken together, they cohere into an unending, interwoven journey shaped by collective disquiet.

As the climate of disaster permeates our lives through a pervasive plague of images, the index of the real drifts away even as technological simulacra draw it paradoxically nearer. To imagine the end, to stare into it, to walk its terrain—these reflections carve out a space that extends beyond the aesthetic concern alone. Here, the apocalyptic is not a terminus but a prevailing condition. Within it, the image persists as both ruin and seed.

Fossiliver Collective is an LA/NY-based art collective run by three filmmakers — Fae Sun, Kaiwen Ren, and Yudan Zhou. Cinema {null} is a mobile screening project initiated and organized by the studio.

*From within this unstable visibility, we also wish to highlight the **ongoing atrocities in Sudan**, notably the mass killings and systematic displacement across the Darfur region, with the current crisis centered in **El Fasher** (North Darfur). Entire communities remain at risk and in need of greater global attention. Donation links will be provided throughout the event period for those wishing to support relief efforts through grassroots or official organizations assisting Sudanese civilians.*

Program

(Total runtime: 131 min)

1. SEJA BEM-VINDO AO LAR (*Welcome Home*)

Leonardo Pirondi 2023 / 4 min / 16mm on video

2. *Billy*

Zachary Epcar 2019 / 8 min / 16mm on video

3. *Terrestrial*

Calum Walter 2015 / 11 min / Digital

4. *Sinking Feeling*

Zachary Epcar 2024 / 21 min / 16mm on video

5. *Embargo*

Johann Lurf 2014 / 10 min / Digital

6. *Remote Occlusions*

Utkarsh 2024 / 16 min / Digital

7. *Meridian*

Calum Walter 2019 / 15 min / Digital

8. *Relief*

Calum Walter 2014 / 5 min / Digital

9. *When the Sea Sends Forth a Forest*

GuangLi Liu 2020 / 21 min / Digital

10. *Epilogue*

2025 / 20 min / Digital

Filmmakers

LEONARDO PIRONDI (1999, Brazil) is a filmmaker and artist who lives and works between Los Angeles, Porto, and São Paulo. His films create and inhabit alternate worlds that blur the lines between reality and fiction, challenging conventional storytelling structures. Much of his work uses analog and digital manipulations on celluloid to examine the sociopolitical unfoldings of the intersections between imagination, science, myth, and technology. His films have been exhibited at various international film festivals, institutions, and venues.

Zachary EPCAR (1987, USA) is an experimental filmmaker based in Oakland, CA. He uses “startling cinematography to turn everyday places and activities into lush, emotive palettes”, not by “creating an illusion but by working out from the inside of one”. His work has been recognized with awards and screened extensively at festivals, museums, cinemas, and DIY venues worldwide. He is also co-organiser and co-programmer of Light Field, an annual exhibition of experimental cinema in his hometown, San Francisco.

Calum Walter (1985, USA) is an artist working in sound and moving image. His process constructs a miniature of a chaotic world where characters and environments shift between soft, elemental states and more severe ones. His recent work has focused on human and machine error, collective anxieties, and the cultural moment shaped by emerging and consumer technologies. He is a former MacDowell fellow supported by various arts organizations, and his films have been shown internationally at film festivals, museums, and other venues. He lives in the Los Angeles area and teaches in the Film/Video program at CalArts.

Johann Lurf (1982, Austria) is a Vienna-based artist using the moving image to analyze and restructure space and film. His practice spans observational and documentary filmmaking with a structural inclination, alongside a found-footage approach grounded in filmic language. His films examine various modes of vision and motion, but his more form-focused experiments carry narratives that explore society, norms, perception, and the evolution of cinema. His work has received awards and is shown widely across international film and art venues.

Utkarsh (India) is a filmmaker and writer from Delhi. His work has been presented internationally at film festivals and venues.

Guangli Liu (1990, China) is a Paris-based visual artist. His practice spans painting, video, 3D animation, and virtual reality. His work examines how digital media shapes contemporary storytelling and collective memory, drawing on intersecting approaches to history and events to reveal how inherited languages, social norms, and media forms condition our understanding of the present. He has received international honors across festivals and media art institutions.