Ambulante Film Festival 2020 unveils its programming dedicated to the Mexican documentary

- Sections Pulsos, Coordenadas, and Ambulante Beyond’s programming gather recently produced Mexican documentaries.
- For the first time, films made with the scholarship funding for documentaries focused on Afro-Mexican culture, provided by Ambulante and the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, are incorporated in the programming.

Mexico City, February 6, 2020 – Ambulante Film Festival unveiled its programming dedicated to the Mexican documentary. Pulsos section will comprise ten feature films and seven short films of Mexican origins finalized in the last two years. A specific programming dedicated to productions and issues of each state that the Festival visits will be added to these titles as part of the Coordenadas section. Six short films produced under Ambulante’s training initiative on documentary production for young filmmakers—Ambulante Beyond—will complete the programming.

“This year, Mexican documentaries have a central spot in our programming, showing the maturity that the genre has reached in the country during the past fifteen years. Nowadays, women, indigenous people, afro-descendant populations, transgender people and the youth from diverse origins take the floor; they speak for themselves, and address us through films. This decentralization of the views has developed parallel to Ambulante’s pathway as an undeniable witness and accomplice of these transformations in our audiovisual culture,” explained Antonio Zirión, Programmer at Ambulante.

Pulsos
The titles from the Pulsos section were selected by Ambulante from an open call and through the research endeavor of the programming team, looking for works with a formal proposal and original aesthetic that tackle themes of transcendence at a national level. Over fifty per cent of the films that compose the section are directed or codirected by women. Besides, for the first time, Pulsos includes films of filmmakers that were supported by a scholarship provided by Ambulante and the W. K. Kellogg Foundation for the making of documentaries focused on the afro-descendant peoples from the Costa Chica of Guerrero and Oaxaca in Mexico: Negra and El compromiso de las sombras.
The titles that compose Pulsos include the following feature films:

- **Chèche lavi: buscando una vida | Chèche lavi: Looking for Life** | Sam Ellison | United States, Mexico, Haiti | 2019
- **Cosas que no hacemos | Things We Dare Not Do** | Bruno Santamaría | Mexico | 2019
- **La Mami | The Mami** | Laura Herrero | Mexico, Spain | 2019
- **Silencio radio | Radio Silence** | Juliana Fanjul | Switzerland, Mexico | 2019
- **Retiro | Retreat** | Daniela Alatorre | Mexico | 2019
- **Tote_Abuelo | María Sojob** | Mexico | 2019
- **Yermo | Wilderness** | Everardo González | Mexico | 2020
- **Flores de la noche | Eduardo Esquivel, Omar Robles** | Mexico | 2018
- **Negra | Medhin Tewolde** | Mexico | 2020
- **El compromiso de las sombras | The One Amongst the Shadows** | Sandra Luz López | Mexico | 2020

And the following short films:

- **Ecos del volcán | (Ecos del volcán)** | Charles Fairbanks, Saúl Kak | Mexico | 2019
- **La herencia del viento | The Wind’s Heritage** | Alejandra Retana, César Camacho, César Hernández | Mexico | 2018
- **Lupita. Que retiemeble la tierra | Mónica Wise Robles** | Mexico | 2019
- **Oro rosaldo | Daniel Anguiano Zúñiga** | Mexico | 2018
- **La felicidad en la que vivo | Carlos Morales** | Mexico | 2020
- **Síntomas | Symptoms** | Dalia Huerta Cano | Mexico | 2019
- **3 x 10 pesos | Aarón Loyo Kumul** | Mexico | 2019

The movie **Radio Silence**, which traces a compelling portrait of Mexican journalist Carmen Aristegui while narrating her battle against the censorship she was a victim of under the administration of president Enrique Peña Nieto, is highlighted.

**Coordenadas**
The Coordenadas section will program specific titles for each state that the Ambulante Film Festival will visit in 2020. “Coordenadas is a section devoted to the productions of filmmakers or on topics of interest from the regions that the Festival visits; it is a meeting point between the local filmmaking community and its audiences to watch on the big screen and discuss realities of regional importance. The section has been greatly received by the audience, becoming the biggest blockbuster in the last Festival. Besides giving visibility to the films, these screenings and the accompanying talk groups cohere the community of documentary filmmakers and promote the development of the local scene,” said Antonio Zirión.

The following films take part in this section:
Querétaro
- **Vacíos** | Lluvia Anaïs | Mexico | 2019
- **Sanjuaneros** | *On the Road to San Juan* | Michael Amici, Daniel Kandell | Mexico | 2019

Durango
- **Tastuanes** | Abraham Escobedo Salas | Mexico | 2019
- **Más allá del set** | E. Alonzo Limones Samaniego | Mexico | 2019
- **Empalme Purísima** | Omar Gamero Vázquez | Mexico | 2019

Coahuila
- **Vaquero del mediodía** | Diego Enrique Osorno | Mexico | 2019

Chihuahua
- **Dibujos contra las balas** | Alicia Calderón | Mexico | 2019
- **El gran salto** | Jorge Porras Gamboa | Mexico | 2019
- **Están en algún sitio** | Pablo Tamez Sierra | Mexico | 2019
- **Nosotras** | Natalia Beristain | Mexico | 2019
- **Frontera sur** | Raúl O. Paz Pastrana | Mexico | 2019

Veracruz
- **Birth Wars** | Janet Jarman | Mexico | 2019
- **Persistencia** | Anne Huffschmidt, Jan-Holger Hennies | Mexico, Germany | 2019
- **Santo remedio** | Osvaldo Contreras Sánchez | Mexico | 2019
- **Sobre la hierba** | Paty Lucido Coba | Mexico | 2019
- **Circuito interior** | Pablo Romo | Mexico | 2020
- **Convertirse en árbol** | Pablo Romo | Mexico | 2019

Oaxaca
- **Birth Wars** | Janet Jarman | Mexico | 2019
- **La bruja de Texcoco** | Cecilia Villaverde, Alejandro Paredes | Mexico | 2019
- **Tuyuku (ahuete)te** | Nicolás Rojas Sánchez | Mexico | 2019
- **La utopía de la mariposa** | Miguel J. Crespo | Mexico | 2019

Puebla
- **Birth Wars** | Janet Jarman | Mexico | 2019
- **Coapan en espera** | Federico Cuatilacuatl | Mexico | 2019
- **VII Domitilas** | Diego Ruiz | Mexico | 2019
- **La rueda de piedra** | Juan Pablo García | Mexico | 2019

The films selected for Coordenadas in Mexico City will be announced later on.
Ambulante Beyond
The Ambulante Film Festival will also showcase works made by the sixth generation of students from the training initiative on documentary production—Ambulante Beyond—who come from the states of Hidalgo, Puebla and Querétaro. With this programming, Ambulante reaffirms its commitment to help emerging talents to spread their own realities and stories, and to get closer to their audiences.

The titles that compose the Ambulante Beyond section include the following:

- **A los once** Carolina Admirable García, Zahira Aldana Ramírez, Nancy Samara Guerrero Miranda, María Fernanda Islas Montero, Aldo Alejandro Ter-veen Calderón | Mexico | 2020
- **Carta al campo** Karla Hernández Díaz, Itzel María Guzmán Torres, Vivian Leonor Santillán Franco, Alfonso Blanco Samperio, Gabriel Rodríguez Ángeles | Mexico | 2020
- **Ellas** Angélica Itzel Cano López, Guillermo Gael Estrada Ortiz, César Arturo Govea Olvera, Vivian Leonor Santillán, Alejandra Pérez Valdez | Mexico | 2020
- **Escuela de todos. Kalnemachtiloyan** | School of All (Kalnemachtiloya) Iván Zamora Méndez, Alexa Stephanie Chávez Bravo, Gustavo Jiménez García, José Antonio Rivera Contreras | Mexico | 2020
- **Todo lo posible** María del Rosario Robles Martínez, Nancy Samara Guerrero Miranda, Itzel María Guzmán Torres, Aldo Alejandro Ter-veen Calderón, Alejandra Pérez Valdez | Mexico | 2020
- **Yolik (Despacio)** Epifanía Martínez Rosete, Zahira Aldana Ramírez, María Fernanda Islas Montero, Aldo Alejandro Ter-veen Calderón | Mexico | 2020

“The sixth generation of Ambulante Beyond reflects the growing plurality of voices in the Mexican documentary filmmaking, specially of female voices. Besides encouraging women through the camera—four films are directed by women and one is codirected by a woman—female figures dominate the screen itself, starring in films with topics so diverse like puberty, education, field abandonment, old age, linguistic diversity, social movements, resilience, and sorority,” explained María Inés Roqué, Training and Production Director at Ambulante.

**Special screenings**
In the context of its programming dedicated to Mexican documentary films, Ambulante Film Festival will organize special screenings of the film *Nómadas*, by Emiliano Ruprah (Mexico, United States, 2019).

**Ambulante Film Festival will travel to eight states between March 19 and May 28, 2020:**
Querétaro, (March 19 to March 26), Durango (March 26 to April 2), Coahuila (April 2 to April 9), Mexico City (April 15 to April 30), Chihuahua (April 30 to May 7), Veracruz (May 7 to May 14), Oaxaca (May 14 to May 21) and Puebla (May 21 to May 28).
More info on the programming of the Ambulante Film Festival 2020:
www.ambulante.org
Watch the trailer of Radio Silence, by Juliana Fanjul: https://www.youtube.com/user/ambulante

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Ambulante is an organization devoted to supporting and promoting documentary film as a tool for social and cultural change. Founded in Mexico in 2005 by Gael García Bernal, Diego Luna and Elena Fortes, and currently directed by Paulina Suárez, the organization brings documentary films to places with low screening and training offer in this genre, in order to promote a multi-stakeholder dialogue and the reflection on relevant issues.

Ambulante Film Festival is the largest documentary film festival in Mexico and a unique exhibition space in the world. Each year, it tours Mexican states for over two months with an international exhibit that includes around a hundred titles, over a hundred guests, and one hundred and fifty venues. The festival is non-competitive and offers more than 70% of its programming for free.