

ALLENSWORTH

by James Benning

USA 2022

Forum | International premiere | Documentary Form

In 1908, Allensworth became the first self-administered African-American municipality in California. In lengthy shots, Benning surveys the buildings (school, church, library) of the now-abandoned town and looks for the traces of a Black cultural history.

Anqa

by Helin Çelik

Austria / Spain 2023

Forum | World premiere | Documentary Form

"I am not the remains. I exist." Three Jordanian women barely survived the violence inflicted on them by men. Çelik films them from as up close as possible in their flats, which they rarely leave, listening to them speak with the opaque logic of trauma.

Arturo a los 30 (*About Thirty*)

by Martín Shanly | with Martín Shanly, Camila Dougall, Julia Azcurra, Ivo Colonna Olsen, Paul Grinszpan

Argentina 2023

Forum | World premiere

This comedy of errors revolves around a hapless 30-year-old named Arturo. His penchant for indiscretions is as impossible to overlook as the finesse with which the film glides from March 2020 to the preceding decade and back again.

Being in a Place - A Portrait of Margaret Tait

by Luke Fowler

United Kingdom 2022

Forum | International premiere | Documentary Form

Luke Fowler's portrait of Scottish poet and filmmaker Margaret Tait takes its inspiration from her unrealised project about her home region of Orkney, drawing and riffing on her notes and footage to produce a blissful union of two artistic sensibilities.

The Bride

by Myriam U. Birara | with Sandra Umulisa, Aline Amike, Daniel Gaga, Fabiola Mukasekuru, Beata Mukakamanzi

Rwanda 2023

Forum | World premiere | Debut film

Rwanda, 1997. Three years after the genocide against the Tutsi minority, Eva is kidnapped by a stranger and raped. Her aunts agree to a forced marriage. When Eva finds a confidante in the form of the man's cousin, she discovers the family's traumatic past.

Cidade Rabat

by Susana Nobre | with Raquel Castro, Paula Bárcia, Paula Só, Sara de Castro, Laura Afonso

Portugal / France 2023

Forum | World premiere

When her mother dies, 40-year-old Helena now has time for herself after years of taking care of her family. She works at a film production company, dances boisterously, gets drunk. A quiet film about letting go morphs into a coming-of-middle-age story.

De Facto

by Selma Doborac | with Christoph Bach, Cornelius Obonya

Austria / Germany 2023

Forum | World premiere | Documentary Form

How can cinema deal with complicity in crimes against humanity, extreme violence and state terror without conniving in it? *De Facto* finds answers to this question via two actors, a precisely compiled collage of texts and a deliberately reduced setting.

O estranho (*The Intrusion*)

by Flora Dias, Juruna Mallon | with Larissa Siqueira, Antonia Franco, Rômulo Braga, Patrícia Saravy, Thiago Calixto

Brazil / France 2023

Forum | World premiere

The name of Brazil's biggest airport, Guarulhos, references the fact that it was built on Indigenous territory. In a blend of realistic and stylised scenes, the film follows a member of the ground staff as she seeks her roots beneath the runway.

Le Gang des Bois du Temple (*The Temple Woods Gang*)

by Rabah Ameur-Zäimeche | with Régis Laroche, Philippe Petit, Marie Loustalot, Kenji Meunier, Salim Ameur-Zäimeche

France 2022

Forum | International premiere

Two neighbours, each as overwhelmed as the other: an ex-soldier grieves for his mother alone while a family father leads a criminal gang into a heist with fatal consequences. French genre cinema in the desaturated colours of a banlieue façade.

Gehen und Bleiben (*Leaving and Staying*)

by Volker Koepp | with Stuart Roberts, Judith Zander, Erhard Siewert, Peter Kurth, Hans-Jürgen Syberberg

Germany 2023

Forum | World premiere | Documentary Form

Meetings with readers, acquaintances and contemporaries of writer Uwe Johnson at the places where he lived. Volker Koepp, who is also from Pomerania, looks for Johnson's sophisticated literary voice in the landscapes of the region they both stem from.

Între revoluții (*Between Revolutions*)

by Vlad Petri | with Victoria Stoiciu, Ilinca Harnut

Romania / Croatia / Qatar / Iran 2023

Forum | World premiere | Documentary Form

A semi-fictional correspondence between two women: one goes to Iran in 1979 to topple the Shah; the other experiences the onerous years of Ceaușescu's Romania. Their biographies run in parallel via images of everyday life and videograms of revolution.

Ishi ga aru (*There Is a Stone*)

by Tatsunari Ota | with An Ogawa, Tsuchi Kanou

Japan 2022

Forum | International premiere

A young woman spends a day in some non-place between town and countryside, has random encounters and watches stones skip over the surface of the river. Tatsunari Ota's film explores a world without productivity and finds joy in idle time and playfulness.

Jaii keh khoda nist (*Where God Is Not*)

by Mehran Tamadon

France / Switzerland 2023

Forum | World premiere | Documentary Form

A prison cell is set up in an empty room on the edge of Paris. Three former political prisoners from Iran re-enact how they were once interrogated and tortured. With quiet scepticism, the film asks whether their experiences can be accessed in this way.

Notre corps (*Our Body*)

by Claire Simon

France 2023

Forum | World premiere | Documentary Form

At first observational and later hugely personal, Claire Simon's film is an example of the sheer power of documentary cinema. With a gaze full of tenderness, she explores a gynaecological clinic in Paris to ascertain what it means to live in a female body.

Or de vie (*A Golden Life*)

by Boubacar Sangaré

Burkina Faso / Benin / France 2023

Forum | World premiere | Documentary Form

In Burkina Faso, young men search under the earth for gold – and a better future. As a result, 16-year-old Rasmané barely seems like a teenager any more. This mainly observational film follows him into the 100-metre abyss of small-scale mining.

El rostro de la medusa (*The Face of the Jellyfish*)

by Melisa Liebenthal | with Rocío Stellato, Irene Bosch, Vladimir Durán, Federico Sack, Alicia Labraga

Argentina 2022

Forum | International premiere

One day, Marina no longer recognises herself. Is she ill, a different person, prettier? Those around her take it in their stride, her doctor is puzzled, the authorities block her ID card. A gentle comedy that poses serious questions about the human face.

Subete no Yoru wo Omoidasu (*Remembering Every Night*)

by Yui Kiyohara | with Kumi Hyodo, Minami Ohba, Ai Mikami, Guama Uchida, Tadashi Okuno

Japan 2022

Forum | International premiere

A visit to the employment office, practicing dance steps, making music with friends: several women's everyday lives are captured in long shots and with a superb sense of place. A film like a summer's day, bright, friendly, with the occasional chill.

Unutma Biçimleri (*Forms of Forgetting*)

by Burak Çevik | with Erdem Şenocak, Nesrin Uçarlar

Turkey 2023

Forum | World premiere

Nesrin and Erdem talk about their relationship, which they don't remember in exactly the same way. Çevik's visually stunning essay uses their conversations to forge a pensive treatise on what it means to forget, where word and image play an equal role.

Uriwa sanggwaneopsi (*Regardless of Us*)

by Yoo Heong-jun | with Cho Hyunjin, Cho Soyeon, Kwak Minkyu, Kim Misook, Choi Sungwon

South Korea 2023

Forum | World premiere | Debut film

After suffering a stroke, actor Hwaryeong is visited in hospital by her colleagues. With its garrulous film people and disparate relationships, this formally sparse film in elegant black and white comes across like a Hong Sangsoo fever dream.

W Ukraine (*In Ukraine*)

by Piotr Pawlus, Tomasz Wolski

Poland / Germany 2023

Forum | World premiere | Documentary Form

Bombed-out streets, destroyed Russian tanks, evening meals in an Underground station repurposed into a shelter. Image by image, the directors push beyond easily reproducible images of war to enter the reality the country has experienced since February 24, 2022.