



**OFFICIAL
SELECTION**

INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL
ROTTERDAM
2024

LOS DOS LADOS DE LA TORTUGA

a film by Oscar X. Illingworth

Título: Los dos lados de la tortuga

Title: Two Sides of a tortoise

Synopsis:

An explorer from the past (or present) arrives to the Galapagos Islands for the first time to have a tactile encounter with rocks and tortoises. In the darkness of the volcanic tunnels the beasts transfigure freely. Giant tortoises hold the mystery of the universe in the scars on their backs, and to their misfortune they are also a coveted food for hungry sailors who aimlessly prowl the Pacific Ocean.

Screenings:

International Film Festival Rotterdam – Tiger Short Competition /
Netherlands

IBAFF – Festival Int. Cine de Murcia / Spain

DOXA – Documentary Film Festival / Canada

Statement:

Over the years, the Galapagos Islands have been filmed over and over by the nature-oriented filmmaking industry. In contrast, poetic filmmaking hasn't explored this territory yet. From this idea two main questions arise: How to film this island without falling into the repetition of the canonical look of televised nature documentaries? How to create a film of a territory that endures the test of time?

In 1840, Herman Melville visited the Galapagos Islands and wrote a ten short story book about the fiction and non-fiction stories he encountered on the islands, mixing his own experience with pirate myths. This film is the first chapter of an ongoing exploration to adapt Herman Melville's book, which he himself describes as a sketch.

Since their discovery, Galapagos tortoises and the islands they inhabit, have been victims of human hunger. In this film I explore the relationship between myth and nature, focusing on the tortoise history. The rocky texture that surrounds the island is central to understand its origins. The film explores the act of touching: rocks, tortoise shells, human skin, light and shadow.



Biography:

Ecuadorian non-fiction filmmaker and editor. His work explores memory, identity and nature in the form of film-collage. His films have been shown at festivals such as: EDOC, IFFR, Festival de Cartagena, DOXA, Transcinema, and Cámara Lúcida. He edited the film Ozogoché which premiered in IDFA 2023.

His first feature film *Amago de un Incendio* (Fire Drill) currently in development stage, addresses the historical relationship between his hometown and fire.

Filmography:

Los dos lados de la tortuga - 11' (2024)

Flores de fuego - 18' (2020)

La gaviota y el pez dormido - 9' (2019)

La casa de Walter - 28' (2016)

Credits:

Director: Oscar X. Illingworth

Producer: Oscar X. Illingworth, Gossen Films S.A.

Sound Mixing: Nicolás Fernández

Production Assistant: Gabriela Muñoz

Film Development: Negativeland

Details:

11 minutes

Shot in Super8 Kodak

Exhibition format: DCP