

DOLISSA MEDINA (b. 1971 USA)
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PROJECTS IN PRODUCTION

“A Light for Ambiguous Loss” (Producer/Director/Writer) - a feature documentary about “grief in suspension” and how a new technique for identifying missing migrants may radically change the face of forensics throughout the world.

Grito Viejito Project - “Portals of Silence” (Producer/Facilitator/Camera) - Produced in collaboration with Gera Ananias, a series of short films documenting creative healing through transformative movement, poetry, and puppetry.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY (Producer/Director/Writer)

“Viejito/Grito/Enfermito - Old Man/Sick Man/Shout” (10 min./4K video/2023)

A portrait of a long-term HIV survivor as he reinterprets a traditional Mexican folk dance. The film premiered on World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, 2023 at the Whitney Museum and more than 150 venues world-wide as part of *Visual AIDS's* “Day With(out) Art” initiative. First in the “Portals of Silences” series.

“The Crow Furnace” (30 min./16mm found footage & live action/2015)

A hybrid narrative poem-essay about San Francisco’s history.

“The Moon Song of Assassination” (7 min./found footage collage video/2010)

A “docu-legend” about Tex-Mex pop singer Selena Quintanilla.

“Half Shell” (4 min./hand processed 16mm & video/2010)

An intimate portrait of Dana, a visually impaired trans woman, and her experiences of beauty.

“Cartography of Ashes” (45 min./S8 & 16mm film/2006)

A poetic documentary about the fire that destroyed San Francisco after the 1906 earthquake.

“19: Victoria, Texas” (4 min./archival video/2006)

An award-winning immersive short about one of the worst migrant death tragedies in U.S. history.

“Grounds” (11 min./16mm/2000)

A personal documentary about the scent of history and migratory memory.

SELECTED GRANTS, COMMISSIONS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

2025	Creative Capital Award
2023	Visual AIDS “Day With(out) Art” video commission (as “Grito Viejito” collaborative)
2019	The Puffin Foundation
2017	Super-8 commission from Echo Park Film Center /The Andy Warhol Foundation
2010	Fulbright Fellowship in Filmmaking
2009	UC-San Diego Humanities Center Grant
2005	San Francisco Arts Commission Cultural Equity Grant/Individual Artist Commission
2005	Bay Area Video Coalition Mediamaker Award
2005	Pacific Pioneer Fund
2005	The LEF Foundation
2002	Film Arts Foundation Personal Works Grant

SELECTED FESTIVAL AWARDS

- 2025 Festival Director's Award - Tag! Queer Shorts Festival, Portland (*For "Viejito"*)
2006 Juror's Citation 2nd Prize Black Maria Film Festival (*For "19: Victoria, Texas"*)
2006 Dignity and Courage Award, BH Latina Film Fest (*For "19: Victoria, Texas"*)

SELECTED SCREENINGS

- 2025 Superfest Disability Film Festival, San Francisco, CA
2023 Day With(out) Art Video Screenings, Whitney Museum Premiere, New York City
2018 MIX NYC 30th Anniversary Edition, New York City
2015 Interfilm Berlin film festival, Germany
2012 Oberhausen on Tour (Migration Program), 21 countries worldwide
2007 International Film Festival Rotterdam, The Netherlands

COLLECTIONS

Duke University • UC-Irvine • University of Houston-Victoria • UT-San Antonio •
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor • University of Arizona-Tucson • University of Kentucky • San
Francisco State University • Oberhausen Distribution Catalogue

SELECTED TALKS

- 2021 Artist talk/screening – AMIA Association of Moving Image Archivists
2020 Panel – LGBTQ Activism on the Borderlands, Crossroads Fest, Brownsville, Tx
2018 Artist talk/screening – Gloria Anzaldúa: Translating B/borders Conference, Paris

SELECTED WRITING

"Holding a Human: Caretaking, Play, and Design as a Social Act," Howlround Theatre
Commons [online](#) platform (Oct. 12, 2023)

"Review: MIRAAA Experimental Fest, Rio Grande Valley Texas," *The Moving Image*, Issue 22.2 (2023)

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

"Spectacles of Loss in Medina's 'The Crow Furnace' by David Finkelstein, *Film International*, May 2015

"A Tribute to Selena," by Joey Guerra, *Houston Chronicle*, July 24, 2012

EDUCATION

University of California-San Diego, Master of Fine Arts, Visual Art, 2012
San Francisco State University, Bachelor of Arts, Journalism (major) and History (minor), 1996