

For immediate release

# barbican

## Land Cinema

Wed 5 Nov – Wed 26 Nov 2025

## Barbican Cinema

<https://www.barbican.org.uk/whats-on/2025/series/land-cinema>

This November, Barbican Cinema presents **Land Cinema**, a season of rare films rooted in the global environmentalist movement of the past half-century, which sowed the seeds for climate justice today.

Curated by **Becca Voelcker**, author of the new book *Land Cinema in an Age of Extraction* (University of California Press), this season of archive and contemporary documentary shorts and experimental features from Japan, Boston, Orkney, Colombia's Cauca region and Brasília spans over 60 years and introduces an urgent genre for our time.

Diving into little-known regions and archives, **Land Cinema** unearths a green counterculture that resonates across space and time. Ranging from filmed garden diaries to indigenous documentaries about farmers' rights, the season includes works by **Anne Charlotte Robertson** and **Margaret Tait**, **Ogawa Productions** and **Marta Rodríguez** and **Jorge Silva**, plus a celebration of contemporary Brazilian filmmaker **Ana Vaz**.



*Red Persimmons (Manzan benigaki)* Ogawa Productions and Peng Xiaolian

**Becca Voelcker, Curator of the Barbican's Land Cinema season**, said, "*We are surrounded by anxious images of climate breakdown and injustice, and it can be hard to know how to act. Today more than ever we need to open horizons of possibility rather than foreclose them. A closer look at history reveals that there have always been alternatives, self-seeding in even the most paved and polluted of places. Made in resistance to extractive capitalism, and in imaginative and practical approaches to the future, films that belong to a genre I am calling 'land cinema' activate a way of thinking that is both critical and creative*".

Becca Voelcker will introduce each screening and host on-stage conversations with writer Lucy Jones and filmmaker Ana Vaz.

**Garden Films (PG\*) + ScreenTalk with Becca Voelcker and writer Lucy Jones on land cinema, women and gardens.**

***Magazine Mouth***

US 1983, Dir Anne Charlotte Robertson, 7 min

***Five Year Diary: Reel 80 Emily Died***

US 1994, Dir Anne Charlotte Robertson, 27 min

***Portrait of Ga***

UK 1952, Dir Margaret Tait, 4 min

***Garden Pieces***

UK 1998, Dir Margaret Tait, 11 min)

**Wed 5 Nov 7pm**

**Cinema 3**

Explore the garden as a place of personal healing and political growth in this programme of four experimental films and animations. In suburban Boston and remote Orkney, Anne Charlotte Robertson and Margaret Tait filmed their surroundings in lyrical appreciation of the natural world. But beneath their vibrant images lie feelings of loss and anxiety. With diary-like directness, their films document changes in the land, and in senses of self and community, over many seasons and years.

***Red Persimmons (Manzan benigaki)* (U\*) + Intro by season curator Becca Voelcker**

Japan 2001, Dirs Ogawa Productions and Peng Xiaolian, 90 min

**Wed 12 Nov 6.45pm**

**Cinema 3**

This rapturous and unusual documentary, made patiently over two decades by Ogawa Productions as the collective lived, farmed and filmed together in rural Yamagata, is an ode to rural Japan. It carefully chronicles the growing, drying, peeling and packaging of persimmons. Shot during a period of rapid modernisation in the 1980s, the film immerses viewers in the slower, seasonal world of agrarian tradition. Directed by Ogawa Productions, founded by documentarian Ogawa Shinsuke in 1968, the film was completed posthumously by Peng Xiaolian.

***Our Voice of the Earth, Memory and the Future (Nuestra voz de tierra, memoria y futuro)***

**(12A\*) + Intro by season curator Becca Voelcker**

Colombia 1981, Dirs Marta Rodríguez and Jorge Silva, 107 min

**Wed 19 Nov, 6.30pm**

**Cinema 3**

A vital work of Latin American political cinema, *Our Voice of the Earth, Memory and the Future* is also a milestone in indigenous land activism. Haunting and expressive, this experimental documentary from Colombia portrays a landscape troubled by centuries of colonialism and reanimated by indigenous resistance. Made over five years by Marta Rodríguez and Jorge Silva in collaboration with indigenous advisers from Colombia's Cauca region, the film merges documentary and fiction as it incorporates indigenous modes of storytelling to dramatize a history of imperial land grabbing and grassroots opposition.

**Ana Vaz (PG\*) + ScreenTalk (online) with curator Becca Voelcker and director Ana Vaz**

***It Is Night in America (É Noite na América)***

France 2022, Dir. Ana Vaz, 66 min

## ***Ha Terra!***

Brazil/France 2016, Dir. Ana Vaz 13 min

**Wed 26 Nov, 6.30pm**

**Cinema 3**

Two experimental films by the contemporary Brazilian director Ana Vaz explore land as a site of encounter between different species, peoples, and ways of seeing the world. Visiting wild grasslands, modernist highways, and a zoo, Vaz traces how colonialism and modernity have sought to master people, land, animals and plants. Developing a filmic language that is at once political and poetic, she recalls the camera's historical role in objectifying colonised people and places – and repurposes it to tell other stories of struggle and resistance.

Land Cinema complements the forthcoming publication ***Land Cinema in an Age of Extraction*** by Becca Voelcker published by University of California Press in December.

<https://www.ucpress.edu/books/land-cinema-in-an-age-of-extraction/paper>

### **Speakers:**

#### **Becca Voelcker**

Becca Voelcker is Lecturer at Goldsmiths, University of London, and a BBC New Generation Thinker. She earned her PhD at Harvard University and has lived in Wales, England, Japan and the US.

#### **Ana Vaz**

Ana Vaz is an artist and filmmaker born in the Brazilian Midwest inhabited by the ghosts buried by its modernist capital: Brasília. Originally from the Cerrado and wanderer by choice, Ana has lived in the arid lands of central Brazil and southern Australia, in the mangroves of northern France and in the northeastern shores of the Atlantic. Her filmography activates and questions cinema as an art of the (in)visible and an instrument capable of dehumanising the human, expanding its connections with forms of life – other than human or spectral. Consequences or expansion of her cinematography, her activities are also embodied in writing, critical pedagogy, installations or collective walks.

#### **Lucy Jones**

Lucy Jones is a writer and journalist. She was Deputy Editor of NME.com and previously at the *Daily Telegraph*. Her latest book *Matrescence: On the Metamorphosis of Pregnancy, Childbirth and Motherhood* was published by Allen Lane in June 2023 and by Pantheon in the US in May 2024. It was a *New Statesman* and *Daily Mail* book of the year and was longlisted for the inaugural Women's Prize for Non-Fiction.

### **For further information contact:**

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Download images here:  [Land Cinema](#)

Box office: [www.barbican.org.uk](http://www.barbican.org.uk)

Standard: £13  
Members: £10.40  
Concessions: £11  
Corporate Members varied discount  
Under 18s: £6  
Young Barbican: £6

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All Barbican Centre press releases, news announcements and the Communications team's contact details are listed on our website at [www.barbican.org.uk/our-story/press-room](http://www.barbican.org.uk/our-story/press-room)

### **About the Barbican**

The Barbican is a catalyst for creativity, sparking possibilities for artists, audiences, and communities. We showcase the most exciting art from around the world, pushing traditional artistic boundaries to entertain and inspire millions of people, create connections, provoke debate, and reflect the world we live in.

We are an international arts and events centre rooted firmly in our own neighbourhood, collaborating with local communities and putting the City of London on the map as a destination for everybody. Central to our purpose is supporting emerging talent and shaping opportunities that will accelerate the next generation of creatives.

As a not-for-profit, we rely on the generosity of individuals and organisations, including our principal funder the City of London Corporation. Every ticket purchased, donation made, and pound earned supports our arts and learning programme and enables the widest possible range of people to experience the joy of the arts.

Opened in 1982, the Barbican is a unique and audacious building, recognised globally as an architectural icon. As well as our theatres, galleries, concert halls and cinemas, we have a large conservatory with over 1,500 species of plants and trees, a library, conference facilities, public and community spaces, restaurants, bars, and a picturesque lakeside oasis.

We're proud to be the home of the [London Symphony Orchestra](#), our Resident Orchestra, and a London base for the [Royal Shakespeare Company](#). We regularly co-commission, produce and showcase the work of our Artistic Associates the [Academy of Ancient Music](#), [BBC Symphony Orchestra](#), [Boy Blue](#), [Darbar Arts](#), [Cultural and Heritage Trust](#), and [Serious](#), who produce the [EFG London Jazz Festival](#), alongside other associates and partners including [Doc'n Roll Film Festival](#), [London Palestine Film Festival](#), and [Trafalgar Theatre Productions](#).

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