



74 minutes running time. To be followed by a discussion with the filmmakers. All welcome.

The Origins presents a compelling argument that human imagination and art was evolved due to ancient art of persistence hunting (running and tracking down animals). The film is loosely based on the doctoral thesis work “Fragments of the Hunt: Persistence Hunting, Tracking and Prehistoric Art” (Aalto University 2017) by researcher and media artist Mikko Ijäs. The thesis deals with the early connection between trance rituals, persistence hunting and visual arts among the early hunter-gatherer societies.

The principal cinematography was executed among the Ju/'hoan hunter-gatherers at the Nyae Nyae Conservancy in the Kalahari desert in Namibia and among the Rarámuri of the Mexican Sierra Madre.

The movie has two parallel story lines. The first layer is the story of how symbolic and visual culture might have originated from persistence hunting. The second layer is the story of how the modern culture is rapidly invading the last bits of land in the Kalahari and in the remote canyons in Northern Mexico and destroying the last indigenous cultures.

During the filming process the hunter-gatherers of the Kalahari have once more faced mass transportations away from their ancestral lands and this time they might actually lose their lands and their culture to give space for western trophy hunters. The drug violence that finally reached the “barrancas” of the Sierra Madre will also jeopardize the fragile culture of the Rarámuri.

The movie tells about the origins of human culture and the struggles of the last indigenous people in the Kalahari and in the Mexican Sierra Madre with minimal explanatory notes telling the story. The music for the film was composed by Maija Kaunismaa and it was performed together in collaboration with Vox Aurea youth choir from Jyväskylä, Finland, saxophonist Jukka Perko, throat singer and igil player Imre Peemot and singer Rabbe Sandström. Vox Aurea is specialized performing traditional African music together with their conductor and researcher Sanna Salminen.

Showing of Documentary
The Origins:
Fragments of the Hunt
Sunday, February 26
11:00 a.m.
by Zen Peacemakers
from Finland
Filmmaker: Mikko Ijas
Composer: Maija Kaunismaa