

RAFAEL RAMÍREZ

FILMMAKER · SOUND ARTIST · WRITER

Cuba, 1983

Based in Athens, Greece



01 PROFILE

Rafael Ramírez is a Cuban filmmaker, sound artist and writer based in Athens. He studied Audiovisual Communication at the Instituto Superior de Arte in Havana and later specialised in documentary filmmaking at the Escuela Internacional de Cine y TV de San Antonio de los Baños.

His films move between cinema of the real and fiction, while incorporating procedures drawn from experimental cinema and the essay film. They emerge from processes of research and writing in which anthropology, science fiction, philosophical essay and sound art converge within the same cinematic construction. The document is never treated as fully legible evidence; it is brought into contact with apocryphal narratives, imaginary archives, esoteric systems of knowledge and materials produced by obsolete technologies.

The relationship between language and the world runs throughout his filmography. His films function as formal laboratories: works that interrogate narrative conventions and destabilise the distinction between the real and the delirious. This concern runs through The Language Trilogy, comprising Amundsen's Dogs, Winter Campaigns and Wardencliff. Across different temporal contexts, the three films address conquest, labour, war and the production of historical meaning.

Ramírez uses the term Ethno≡hauntology to describe a field of research concerned with the persistence of unresolved histories in territories and recorded objects. Within this framework, the archive is understood as incomplete matter, exposed to deterioration, omission and rewriting. A forgotten film, a degraded recording or a broken record becomes evidence of the historical conditions that produced it and of the exclusions that made it disappear.

This research also extends into sound: in Forensic Acoustics 1, a collection of damaged vinyl records belonging to his uncle, who died during the COVID pandemic, becomes the material of a work of mourning. Erosion and physical manipulation make audible the absence of a life and of the futures that disappeared with it. Through Tsarichina · Institute of Acoustic Ruins, Ramírez develops projects centred on archival rewriting and the material transformation of recorded sound.

In 2026, he and Iakovos Vroutsis directed the Ethno≡hauntology Volume I Festival in Athens. Its first edition traced the ghosts of war, colonialism, migration and the persistence of national narratives in Latin American cinema.

His films, installations and auralworks have been presented at Locarno Film Festival, International Film Festival Rotterdam, IDFA, DocLisboa, FIC Valdivia, Mar del Plata International Film Festival, Frames of Representation, DocumentaMadrid and documenta fifteen Kassel, among others.

His practice extends into literature through a network of heteronyms. He has published the work of fiction Umbralismo: una antología and Spanish translations of Emily Dickinson and Robinson Jeffers. As a composer, he has created original music for films presented at Berlinale Forum, Sundance Film Festival, International Film Festival Rotterdam, Visions du Réel, DOK Leipzig, DocumentaMadrid and Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival.

Teaching has remained closely connected to these processes of research and creation. Ramírez has taught film history, cinema of the real and contemporary moving-image practices in Latin America and Europe. Since 2020, he has directed the EICTV's INTERZONA Master's programme together with Jorge Yglesias, devoted to hybrid practices in filmmaking. He is also the founder and director of Rial, a master's programme focused on artificial intelligence and the cinema of the real.

02 EDUCATION

Documentary Filmmaking

Escuela Internacional de Cine y TV de San Antonio de los Baños (EICTV), Cuba

BA in Audiovisual Communication

Instituto Superior de Arte / University of the Arts, Havana, Cuba

03 SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY AND MOVING-IMAGE WORKS

2026 **Wardenclyffe. Tratado del Océano Sombrio**

Medium-length film · 45 min · Final film in The Language Trilogy · (not yet premiered)

2025 **This Terrible Century. An Inquiry into the First Prophetic Diagram**

Multichannel work · 12 min · Commissioned by Davide Tisato
Henry Dunant Museum.

2022 **Melancholics' Pavilion**

With Oderay P. de León · Hypermedia project
Irida Visions, Athens; documenta fifteen, Kassel.

2022 **Portrait of a Filmmaker**

Short film · 6 min
documenta fifteen, Kassel.

2019 **Winter Campaigns**

Feature film · 75 min · Second film in The Language Trilogy
International Film Festival Rotterdam; Festival Internacional del Nuevo Cine Latinoamericano.

2017 **Amundsen's Dogs**

Short film · 27 min · First film in The Language Trilogy
Locarno Film Festival; FIC Valdivia; Mar del Plata International Film Festival; Frames of Representation;
DocumentaMadrid; FestCurtas; Frontera Sur; Neighboring Scenes.

2017 **Alona**

Short film · 12 min
Mar del Plata International Film Festival; DocumentaMadrid; Muestra Joven ICAIC.

2016 **Traces of the Inscribed**

Short film · 6 min
Mar del Plata International Film Festival.

2016 **Limbo**

Short documentary · 12 min
DocumentaMadrid; Muestra Joven ICAIC; Yale Film Festival; Mar del Plata International Film Festival.

2015 **Diary of the Mist**

Short film · 12 min
Munich Student Film Festival; Mar del Plata International Film Festival.

2008 **Tractatus**

Medium-length film · 40 min
Muestra Joven ICAIC; Almacén de la Imagen.

2007 **Filmar Pedro Páramo**
Documentary · 24 min
Muestra Joven ICAIC.

04 **AURALWORKS**

2025 **Forensic Acoustics 2**
Auralwork · 42 min
Composed for the restored Cuban amateur silent films El Cayo de la Muerte (1958) and Lobos de mar (1955).
Commissioned by the Archivist Salvajes collective.

2023 **Forensic Acoustics 1**
Auralwork · 59 min
Developed from a damaged collection of vinyl records belonging to Ramírez's uncle, who died during the COVID-19 crisis in Cuba.

2022 **Phantomglyph**
Auralwork · 51 min

2022 **ZUKUNFTBILDER**
Sound work
Premiered at Irida Visions, Athens.

2021 **The Centered Orb 2**
Album · 38 min

2020 **The Centered Orb 1**
Album · 57 min

05 **MUSIC FOR FILMS**

Ramírez has composed original music for the following films:

Mi sangre es petróleo 2026
Dir. Vania Quevedo

El regresado 2026
Dir. Armando Capó

La historia se escribe de noche 2024
Dir. Alejandro Alonso

La tierra de la ballena 2024
Dir. Armando Capó

Matar a un hombre 2024
Dir. Orlando Mora

Tartessos Dune 2023
Dir. Josué G. Gómez

Tundra 2021
Dir. José Luis Aparicio

Nara 2021
Dir. Rosa María Rodríguez

Entre perro y lobo 2020
Dir. Irene Gutiérrez

Centella 2019
Dir. Claudia Claremi

El proyecto 2017
Dir. Alejandro Alonso

TEACHING

SINCE 2024	Professor Instituto de Cine de Madrid, Spain
2023-2025	Professor University of O'Higgins, Chile
SINCE 2020	Director, Master INTERZONA Escuela Internacional de Cine y TV de San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba
2017-2020	Professor and Coordinator of the Humanities Department Escuela Internacional de Cine y TV de San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba
2009-2013	Professor Fine Arts Academy El Alba, Cuba
2008-2013	Professor Instituto Superior de Arte / University of the Arts, Cuba
CURRENT	Founder and Director, RiaL Master's Programme in AI and Cinema of the Real

His teaching has involved students from screenwriting, editing, cinematography and sound, as well as the documentary and fiction directing fields. He has also worked as a visiting professor and project adviser at film schools, universities and independent educational programmes in Latin America and Europe.

PUBLICATIONS AND TRANSLATIONS

2024	Ethno≡hauntology Manifesto With Oderay Ponce de León and Carlos T. Vargas · First published in Fantasma Material
2024	Etno≡hauntología. Espectros de la imagen y territorios aurales With Oderay Ponce de León and Carlos T. Vargas · Revista Post(s)
2017	Los poemas de Tor House Spanish translations of poetry by Robinson Jeffers
2015	Purple Traffic Spanish translations of poetry by Emily Dickinson
2014	Umbralismo: una antología Fiction