

**Ruth Somalo Blanco**

Filmmaker/ Ph.D.Candidate/ Film Programmer  
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**PROFILE**

Ph.D candidate at Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. With 13 years of experience in the audiovisual field working in Spain, London and the US, Ruth is an independent artist, filmmaker and curator. Her film work ranges from cinéma vérité to experimental self-ethnography and touches upon issues like Labor Rights, Art processes, Memory and Death Rituals. Ruth's films have been shown in museums like the Ethnographic Museum of Rural Life in Catalonia, at MOMA PS1 (Expo1 NY), The Eye (Amsterdam) and in many International Film Festivals. Notably she is a Seventh Annual Television Academy Honoree for her producing work on 2014's Condé Nast series *Screw You Cancer*.  
**Skills:** Directing, Producing, Digital cinematography, Photography, Edit, Research, Curating & Film Festival Programming.

**EDUCATION**

- Graduate Researcher Visiting Scholar at the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, New York University, October 1 2015-september 30th 2016
- PhD. Candidate at Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. Dep. Lingüística General, Lenguas Modernas, Lógica y F<sup>a</sup> de la Ciencia, T<sup>a</sup> de la Literatura y Literatura Comparada. 2012-2017.  
Research title: *The expression of emotions of grief and mourning in first person documentary*. Supervisors: Javier Moscoso Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), and Maria Luisa Ortega (UAM)
- Research Scholarship (FPI) granted by the Cultural Council of Madrid. 1999-2003
- MA/PhD. Courses in European Culture at Universidad Europea de Madrid. 1999-2000
- Teaching Certificate (CAP) Instituto de Ciencias de la Educación (ICE). Madrid. 2000-2001
- Bachelor Degree in Journalism at Universidad Complutense de Madrid. 1993-1998
- Norfolk Senior High School, Nebraska, USA.1992
- Instituto de Bachillerato Práxedes Mateo Sagasta (Junior High), Rioja, Spain 1988-1991

**OTHER EDUCATION**

Various Cinema workshops at NYU School of Professional Studies/Union Docs/DCTV. NY 2008-2017  
Documentary Directing, Heron House Studios, London. 2006  
Dov S-Simens Film School. Raindance, London. 2004  
Documentary Cinema. Michael Rabiger, Madrid Institute of Radio and Television. 2003  
Editing certificate. Miguel González Sinde, ECAM (Cinematography School of Madrid). 2003  
Poetry in Documentary Film. José Luis Guerin, University of Lérida, Barcelona. 2003  
Authorship in Documentary. Patricio Guzmán, Casa de América, Madrid. 2002  
Directing Actors Certificate. Antonio Malonda, BULULÚ 2120 Theatre School. 2002  
Film Directing Certificate, Film Library's Cinema School, Madrid. 2001-2002  
Film Studies/Directing, School of Visual Arts, Madrid. 2000

**PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH PROJECTS**

- Member of the interdisciplinary research group History and Philosophy of Experience. (HIST-EX), Spanish Ministry for Science and Innovation, 2013-2017.
- Cultural history of wellbeing (HUM FFI2013-46361-R), a research project funded by the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad). 2016.
- Collaboration with Dr. Vicente Palop's team, the Fibromyalgia Unit Department at the Hospital Universitario de la Ribera, aiming to understand the narrative dimension of this disease

•Historical Epistemology: History and Philosophy of Emotions in the 19th and 20th centuries. Principal Investigator: Javier Moscoso. Funding: MICINN; 2012-2013.

### **SELECTED SYMPOSIUMS / CONFERENCES / SEMINARS / TEACHING**

- Mentor and member of docent team at Union Docs school Summer Intensive Documentary Workshop. August 2017
- Consulta 32, Lecture & audiovisual presentation XVII Congress of Spanish Society for the History of Medicine. June 2017
- The sense in images (El sentido en las imágenes) UNED Mallorca Summer University presenting the paper Grief, magic and memorialization in contemporary documentary. (Duelo, magia y memorialización en el documental contemporáneo).
- Flaherty International Film Seminar. Colgate University. 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016.
- Stalking the Essay 2 Conference, Columbia University School of the Arts Writing at The Italian Academy, NY, March 28 - 29, 2015.
- Codes and Modes: The Character of Documentary Culture. CUNY, Nov 7-9, 2014.
- Working symposium: Elementos subjetivos y objetivos en la historia cultural del bienestar (Well-Being), 1750-1950: epistemología histórica y economía moral, dirección Javier Moscoso y Juan Manuel Zaragoza. Communication: *Grief and Mourning in contemporary documentary practices*. CSIC. Madrid. June 10, 2014.
- I Jornada Fibromialgia y Narrativa. Audiovisual presentation: *El proceso documental como terapia para enfermos crónicos: Consulta 32*. Generalitat Valenciana Conselleria de Sanitat, Valencia. 2014.
- I ENCUENTRO TRANSDISCIPLINARIO GEE-MX LAB. GEE-MX LAB: Ciudad & Emociones. Facultad de Arquitectura, UNAM, México. 12-14 feb 2014.
- Harvard Sensory Ethnography Lab seminar. Audiovisual presentation: *Self ethnography and the search for artistic identity in the Visual Correspondences between filmmakers Ruth Somalo and Sandra Ruesga*. IPECC. Madrid. 10-12 March 2014.
- Artist talk/Panel (with Javier Ordoñez y Victoria Diehl). 2h session in Contemporary Humanities Seminar *Historia de las emociones y de la experiencia*, UAM. Madrid. April 19 2013.
- Orphan Film Symposium NYC 2012, 2013.
- Seminario de Epistemología Histórica. Communication: *Mournings of the past, griefs of the present*. Centro Superior de Investigaciones Científicas CSIC-CCSH. Madrid. 14 Oct 2012.
- Guest Lecturer at School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) for Pocket Visions LTD. 2006

### **CURATING / PROGRAMMING**

- Associate Director & Programmer of IIFF DOCS (Impugning Impunity Human Rights Film Festival. 2017  
Programmer and Jury Coordinator at DocumentaMadrid Film Festival 2017-2018
- Programmer, Flaherty NYC, Anthology Film Archives. My program *Broken Senses* was selected for 2017 Winter season.
- Associate Programmer, DOC NYC Film Festival. NYC. 2015-2017
- Curator, The Limit of Our Gaze: Spanish Women Filmmakers and Contemporary Documentary. First annual showcase and symposium. KJCC. Sponsored by NYU King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center, NYU Department of Spanish and Portuguese and Acción Cultural Española (AC/E). 2015.
- Programming Team/Pre screener DOC NYC (2012-2014) and Nantucket Film Festival. 2012-2013.
- Programmer of documentary films at Pocket Visions. Anthropology Department. University College of London. 2006- 2007.

### **SELECT FILMOGRAPHY**

2017 Feature Documentary: *Consulta 32*. Researcher/Producer/Director/ Camera/Editor  
2016 Experimental short: *Relocating One's Own Shame*. Director/Producer/Writer/Camera/editor  
2015 Ethnographic short: *Eusebio, el Americano*. Director/Producer/Writer/Camera/editor.  
2014 Short doc: *Play Me*. Director/Producer/Camera/editor  
2014 Experimental Short: *Sensorium* produced at *The Colony* art residency at MOMA PS1.

2013 Short: 71% selected by MOMA PS1 Expo 1.  
2012 Short film: *Machine for Life*. Director/Producer/Writer/Camera/editor  
2011 Short commissioned by Catalonia's Museum of Rural Life: *The ancient power of men's hands*.  
Director/Camera/Editor  
2010 Feature Documentary: *Till You're Told To Stop: James Blunt*. Producer/Director/Camera/Editor  
2008 Short Documentary: *Beginning in Islington*. Producer/Director/ Camera/Editor  
2007 Short Documentary: *Going Places: Attempting an international mobility biography*. Producer/  
Director/Camera/Editor  
2006 Short Documentary: *Thank you Dr. Gowne*. Producer/Director/Camera/ Editor  
2004 Feature Doc: *200Km*. Co-producer/co-Director/Camera/Script (colectivo Discusión 14)  
2004 Short Auto-fiction: *Spanish Eyes*. Producer/Director/Actress/Voice over.  
2003 Short Fiction: *From the Bathtub* (Desde la Bañera). Producer/Director/ Editor.  
2003 Short Doc: *Call Center: a new memory* (Locutorio: Una nueva memoria). Producer/Director.

#### **FILMS IN PROGRESS**

Feature Documentary: *Momento Mori*: Personal loss and the therapeutic possibilities of the  
documentary experience. To be presented with my PhD. thesis defense. Researcher/Producer/  
Director/ Camera/Editor  
Feature Documentary: *The Tear Project*. Researcher/ Producer/Director/ Camera  
Feature Documentary: *Loserville* (In post-production). Producer/Director/ Camera/Editor  
Feature Documentary: *Sweeping The Streets*. Producer/Director/Camera/Editor  
Short: *Utam Uncle*. Producer/Director/Camera/Editor

#### **AWARDS / SELECTED SCREENINGS & EXHIBITIONS / ARTIST RESIDENCIES**

*The American: Eusebio*, screening at Directed by Women Spain Festival (BCN - MAD) sept 2016.  
Hewnoaks artist in residency, ME USA, August 2016.  
*The American: Eusebio*, screening at Festival Internacional de Cinema de València Cinema Jove, 2016  
*The American: Eusebio*, programmed by The Eye Film Institute, Amsterdam, 2016.  
*Sensorium* screening Fifth Under the Subway Video Art Night, The ANNEX Art Social Space, NYC,  
USA, June 20, 2015 Alcances-Muestra Cinematográfica del Atlántico, 2015  
Project Space Kleiner Salon, Berlin. June, 2015  
3S Artspace, Portsmouth, NH, The Colony of Light, Artist in Residency, 2015  
Architecture and Design Film Festival, 2014.  
Seventh Annual Television Academy Honoree, Series Producer *Screw You Cancer*, 2014  
Basilica Hudson, The Colony of Light, Artist in Residency, 2014. Audiovisual presentation: *Utopia,*  
*collective living, death, and dark optimism in "Sensorium" and "The American*.  
MOMA PS1, The Colony of Light, Artist in Residency and screenings of my work, 2013  
71%, MOMA PS1 Rockaway Call for Ideas Winning Proposal and screening, June 2013  
*Machine for Life* screening Seattle Design Film Festival, 2013  
*The China Affect*, Salon Show Extravaganza, Greenpoint Gallery, NYC, December, 2013  
Director's Choice Award at the Rincon International Film Festival, 2012  
Best International Documentary Award RIFF, 2010  
Best European Documentary Award, International Film Festival South Africa, 2010  
Best Film of the Festival, Best Documentary, and Best Director award at Tenerife International Film  
Festival, 2010  
Golden Palm Award at Mexico International Film Festival, 2010  
Accolade Award of Merit for Feature Documentary, 2010  
Best Documentary Script Award at Golden Gate San Francisco International Film Festival, 2005  
Barcelona de Cinema Award, 2005.

Official Selections at: DocumentaMadrid, NXNE, International Film Festival Thailand, Docuwest Film  
Festival, Tucson Film & Music Festival, Granada International Film Festival, Nashville film Festival,  
Female Eye Film Festival, Roving Eye-Rhode Island Film Festival, ADFE, RIFF, Sycamore Film Festival,  
Lifetree Film Festival.