

KAWSAK SACHA – THE LIVING FOREST RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

DATE

2022 -
2023

LOCATION

SARAYAKU - ECUADOR



Kawsak Sacha / The Living Forest

OVERVIEW



We are made from stories.

Those already told, those happening now and those yet to come.

Often the story, the lens through which we see and understand the world, is largely unquestioned and we assume it to be the only reality.

The question of who is allowed to tell a story is not just of great ethical importance, it is an essential driver for how the future of humanity will play out.

The dominant story that shapes our world today was conceived of hundreds of years ago.

At its core lies a hierarchical vision that we, humanity, stand apart from nature and from each other.

It relegates people to see themselves only as individuals and declares that nature is merely a resource for extraction.

Some humans are better than other humans, all humans are better than other species.

It's a story that is an existential danger to us all, destined to end badly.

In its telling, greater stories have been left untold.

The Kichwa people of Sarayaku in the Ecuadorian Amazon have declared the children of the world are ready for Tiam, a metamorphosis, a different story from the one that currently dominates most of the world's collective imagination.

Their story tells us that we are not separate from nature at all.

Instead all life forms throughout the cosmos are part of a vast ecology of intercommunicating living selves called Kawsak Sacha, the Living Forest.

Intent & Collaboration



For centuries outsiders have sought to 'civilise' the inhabitants of the Amazon and extract gold, rubber, oil, wood and minerals from the forest.

Nina Gualinga's community in Sarayaku is famous throughout Ecuador and the world for its activism which focuses on territorial rights, Indigenous self determination and the fight against extractive industries.

They call for a new way of relating to the forest and its beings, by recognising it as a vast ecology of intercommunicating living selves rather than as a collection of objects to be exploited for human gain.

In our current state of climate catastrophe, it is critical to understand our interconnectedness with the natural world. By embodying the indigenous view of the living world as a network of beings we can start to dispel the myth of our separation, and explore what is to be something other than human – perhaps more-than-human.

At the invitation of **Nina Gualinga** and the community of Sarayaku, **Marshmallow Laser Feast** and **Marc Silver** are embarking on a research and development trip to explore the Living Forest as a collective artistic interpretation and inspiring educational resource, along with the creation of an archive of illuminating cinematic images and interviews.

The intent of the Research and Development phase is to be immersed in the Sarayaku community, their shared living environment, their stories and cosmologies and collectively strategise the best expression of artistic communication.

The research trip allows us to bring new forms of immersive technologies to the Sarayaku community to collectively dream of the best possible outcome.

This multi-threaded worldbuilding process cements the collaborative process of the project and allows team to gather cinematic content, volumetric, sonic and scenic environmental data from the living forest of Sarayaku..

Nina Gualinga

Nina Gualinga is an Ecuadorian environmental and indigenous rights activist. She is part of the Kichwa-speaking community and has spent most of her life advocating for better environmental protection of the Ecuadorian Amazon and the inhabitant wildlife as well as the people who are dependent on this environment.

Her family was active in the Kichwa Sarayaku community's fight against the exploitation of the Amazon rainforest by companies and the Ecuadorian government. Gualinga's advocacy for indigenous and territorial rights started when an oil company with the help of Ecuadorian government military troops violently started exploiting her community's indigenous land. This intrusion led to a legal battle between the Ecuadorian government and Sarayaku community before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which eventually resulted to a victory for the Sarayaku community. At the age of 18, Gualinga represented the youth of Sarayaku at the final hearing of the case.



Eriberto Gualinga



Eriberto Gualinga is a Kichwa indigenous filmmaker from the Kichwa People of sarayaku in the Ecuadorian Amazon. He started his journey as a filmmaker when an oil company violently entered his people's ancestral territory. His footage has later used in international court to showcase the human rights abuses committed by Ecuadorian military.

Since then, Eriberto has made several documentaries on Indigenous Peoples' resistance against extractive industries in Ecuador. His film Sachata Kishipichik Mani / I Am the Defender of the Forest (2003) won numerous awards in Latin America, including Best Documentary at the 2004 Premio Anaconda festival. His film The Children of the Jaguar (2012) was awarded Best Documentary at National Geographic's All Roads film festival. The Return (2021) premiered at Sheffield Documentary Festival winning several awards around the world.



Marc Silver



Marc Silver is a multi award winning filmmaker and story consultant who, over the last two decades, has created a body of work that probes the systems of power that shape our world.

Themes that Marc has focussed on include Black Lives Matter, migration, conflict and refugees, indigenous knowledge and Big Tech.

His first feature length film 'Who is Dayani Cristal?' premiered at the Sundance Festival 2013 where it won the Cinematography Award: World Cinema Documentary and the Amnesty International Best Documentary Award 2014.

His Oscar shortlisted and Emmy nominated film '3 ½ Minutes, Ten Bullets' premiered at the Sundance Festival 2015 winning the U.S. Documentary Special Jury Award for Social Impact.

From 2018-20 Marc was an embedded Creative Storytelling Fellow within Amnesty International's digital rights team.

He had been working with Nina Gualinga since 2015.



Marshmallow Laser Feast



Marshmallow Laser Feast (Barney Steel, Ersin Han Ersin, Robin McNicholas) is an experiential art collective working at the intersection of ecology, technology and new media art employing a wealth of creative disciplines, from installation to kinetic sculpture, film to live performance, inviting participants to navigate with a sensory perception beyond their daily experience.

MLF's work reinterprets the idea of human perception and experience, which are underpinned by research, and fundamental to life on Earth. MLF's approach is one of collaboration with artists, engineers and scientists, building bespoke software and hardware systems to realise their visions.

MLF has designed and directed for the likes of critically acclaimed Saatchi Gallery debut; *We Live in an Ocean of Air*, *'In The Eyes Of The Animal'*, which won the Wired Innovation Award. Most recently, Tribeca Film Festival Storyscapes Award for Innovation in Storytelling and Best VR Film at VR Arles Festival for *'TreeHugger, Wawona'*.



Ask & Process



We need you help to fund the initial development phase of the project.

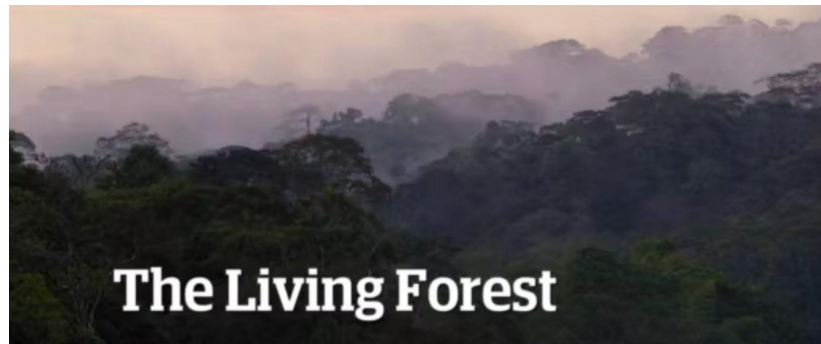
A two week trip to Sarayaku to

1. Learn about the Living Forest from Sarayaku's key thinkers and strategists.
2. To show Sarayaku MLF's past VR work.
3. To creatively discuss how best to bring the Living Forest idea into experiential context.
4. Identify and scan a tree and area of forest.

Upon return to the UK

1. Collate all of the research, create test sequences and strategize next steps.
2. Fund raise for the development of full The Living Forest concept.

Past short films from Sarayaku



Directed By Marc Silver in Collaboration
with Nina Gualinga and Sarayaku People

The Kichwa tribe in the Sarayaku region of the Amazon in Ecuador believe in the 'living forest', where humans, animals and plants live in harmony. They are fighting oil companies who want to exploit their ancestral land. A delegation of indigenous people are at the Paris COP21 climate conference to make sure their voices are heard. Can they win their battle? Produced by the Guardian.

[Link to the Video](#)

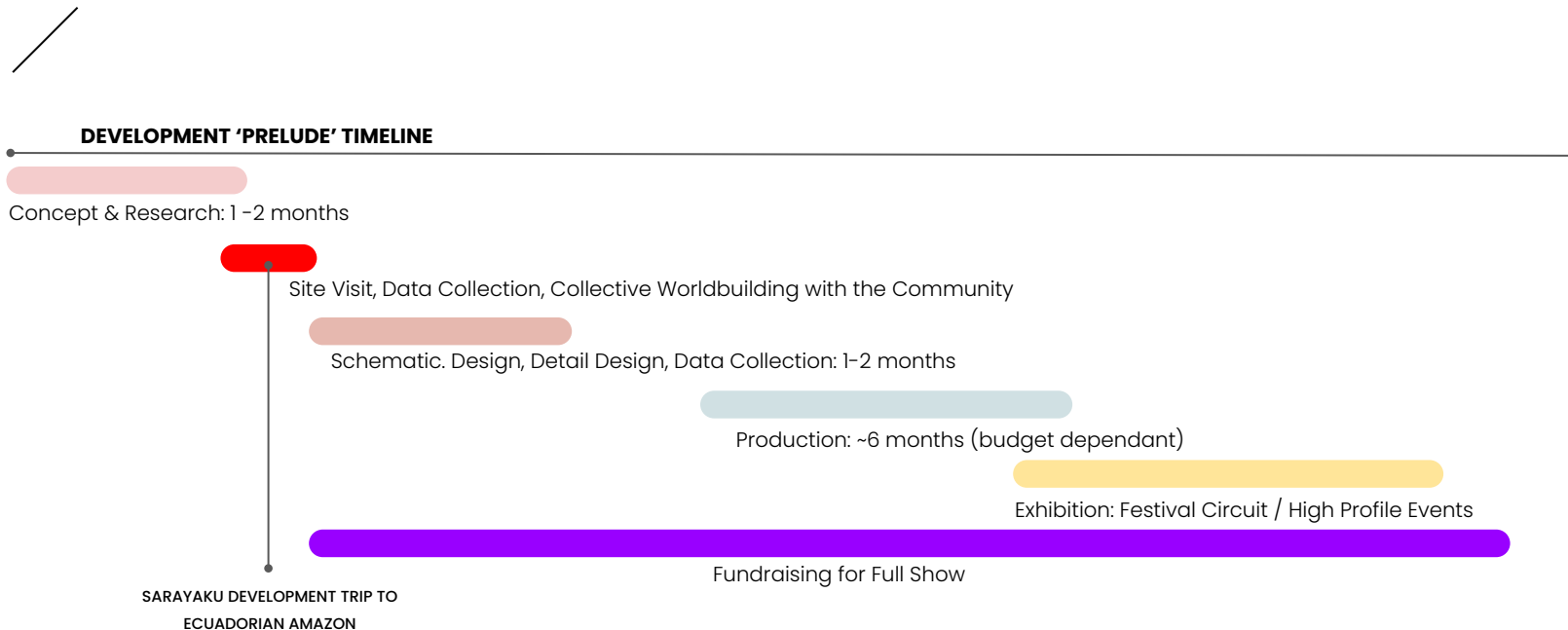


Directed By Eriberto Gualinga and Produced by
Marc Siler and Nina Gualinga

While millions of people around the world have gone into lockdown amid the coronavirus crisis, a family in the Ecuadorian Amazon has opted to move deeper into the relative safety of the jungle. As they reconnect with The Living Forest,, away from the distractions of modern life, their affinity with nature begins to flourish. As news spreads that Ecuador might lift lockdown soon, will the family stay?

[Link to the Video](#)

TYPICAL TIMELINE (DEVELOPMENT)



LIDAR SCAN & DATA COLLECTION



As a leading experiential studio MLF operate at the intersection of art and technology. MLF have been exploring the nascent Virtual, Augmented and Mixed reality markets creating projects that have resonated with audiences all over the world. At the heart of all those projects is Lidar and MLF see a huge value in the use of lidar scanning and volumetric capture in our work moving forward.

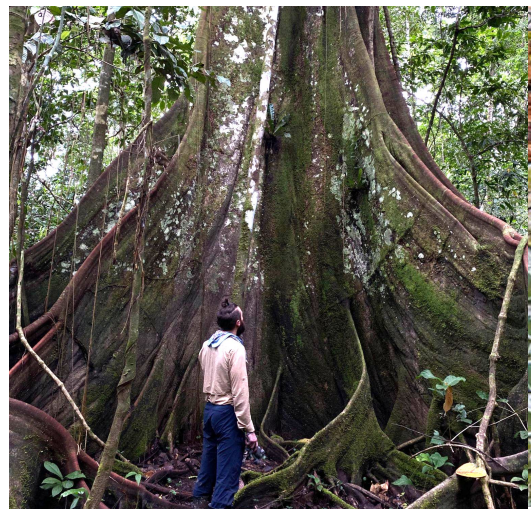
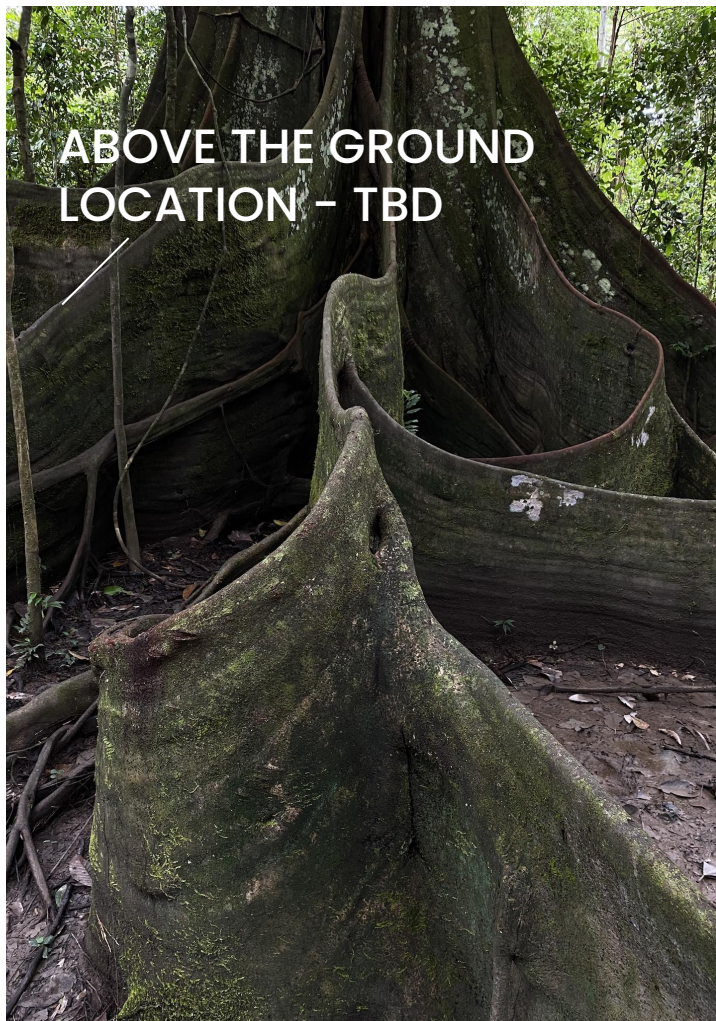
We will be capturing an native tree and the surrounding ecosystem with a wide range of cutting edge scanning, recording and capturing technologies that collectively allow us to digitally preserve and create an accurate virtual representation.

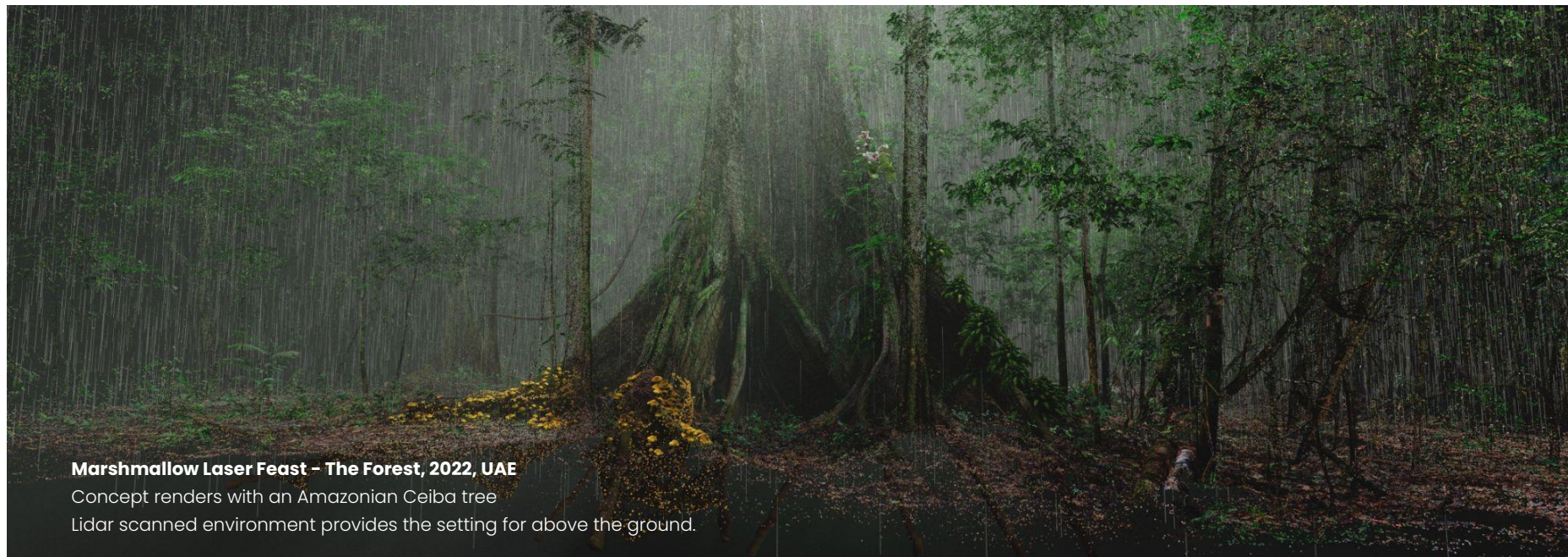
This approach offers participants an experience of the ecosystem that is far beyond the limits of human perception where they can pass through solid objects and explore visions beyond time itself.



Lidar Scan Process & Data







The Amazon, a place where 55 million years of coevolution has lead to some of the most unusual and intimate relationships between plants, animals and fungi.

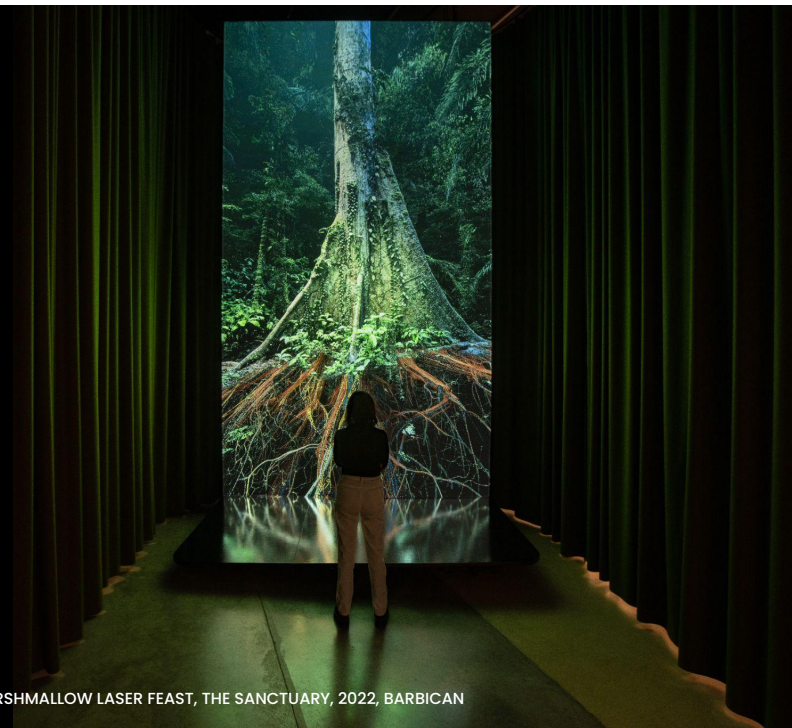


Concept renders with an Amazonian Ceiba tree.
Lidar scanned environment provides the setting for above the ground.

References for Immersive Video installations



MARSHMALLOW LASER FEAST, THE FOREST, 2022, UAE



MARSHMALLOW LASER FEAST, THE SANCTUARY, 2022, BARBICAN

References for Touring Immersive installations

SUNDANCE NEW FRONTIERS

19 - 29 JAN 2016
PARK CITY, UTAH, USA



AND ARTS FESTIVAL

LAKE DISTRICT, UK
SEPTEMBER 2015



YAMAGUCHI CENTER FOR ARTS AND MEDIA, YAMAGUCHI, JAPAN

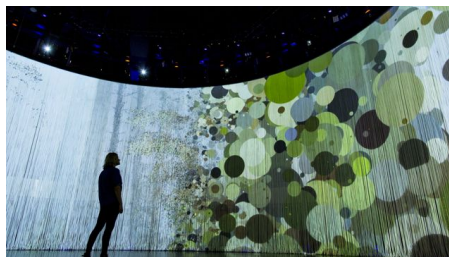
06-10 OCT 2015

[YCAM VIDEO](#)



RON ARAD'S CURTAIN CALL

THE ROUNDHOUSE, LONDON UK. JULY 2016
[WEBSITE](#)



CLOCKENFLAP 2016,

HONG KONG, CHINA
[WEBSITE](#)



ITEOTA FULLDOME

MUTEK ARTS FESTIVAL, MEXICO
SEPTEMBER 2016



SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF

ARTS, CURTAIN CALL
SEPTEMBER 2016



BRADFORD SCIENCE AND MEDIA

MUSEUM, UK
JULY - OCTOBER 2017



SELECTED TOUR LOCATIONS

IN THE EYES OF THE ANIMAL: 2015 - 2018

Contact

Nell Whitley

Tel - +44 (0) 7766 088169

Email - Nell@marshmallowlaserfeast.com

Marc Silver

Tel - +44 (0) 7815 891861

Email - marc@marcsilver.net

WINNER :



FEATURED :



REUTERS



designboom



NewScientist

