



NEW COMMISSION of artist film exploring the deep-rooted connection to horses in the Scottish Borders, to be exhibited in Hawick this March and April by Alchemy Film & Arts.



Rhona Mühlebach's *The River, the Horse and the Woman* is a new film installation commissioned by Alchemy Film & Arts and filmed with local horse riders in the Scottish Borders.

It is the fourth and final showcase of artist moving image installation in Alchemy Film & Arts' **Exhibition Programme 2018 - 19**, situated within Hawick Town Centre. Alchemy continually presents the most groundbreaking film and moving image from around the world and offers opportunities to engage with the work and its subject matters to both international and local audiences.

THE EXHIBITION

The River, the Horse and the Woman is an imaginative multiscreen video installation, inspired by the deep-rooted history and connection between the Scottish Borders and horses.

Artist Rhona Mühlebach was commissioned by Alchemy Film & Arts to create a new film installation set in the Scottish Borders. Inspired by both Western classics and the Borders Reivers, Rhona began filming her fiction-based *The River, the Horse and the Woman* in January 2019, collaborating with local riders and drawing upon the unique vistas of Hawick's surrounding landscape.

With more horses per head of population than anywhere else in Scotland, as well as a rich heritage of tracks and trails dating back thousands of years and traditional boundary ride-outs taking place annually, horses are as characteristic to the Scottish Borders as its rivers and architecture.

The film sees Rhona in character as The Narrator, telling the story of a river, a horse and a woman. Not as tame as the narrator initially thought, the horse-and-rider protagonists quickly take over the show, rendering the narrator redundant.



THE ARTIST

Rhona Mühlebach is an artist and filmmaker based in Glasgow. Influenced by nature and science documentaries, and how we discover the world through them, Rhona is fascinated by incorporating fiction into narration-based video works. Rhona comes from a cinema background and often manipulates the form and technical traditions of big-production movies and TV documentaries in her contemporary practice.

Rather than the passive observation of reality, which she associates with TV documentaries, Rhona aims to create room for alternative possible realities in her narrative-based films. The uncanny narratives she creates aim to distort reality and invite fiction as a mechanism for problem solving.

Rhona was part of Bloomberg New Contemporaries in 2017, and her work was exhibited at Art Basel as part of the Swiss Art Awards 2018. Her films have been shown at numerous international Film Festivals, including 2018's edition of Alchemy Film and Moving Image Festival, and the Festival del Film Locarno, where her work was awarded several prizes.

ALCHEMY FILM & ARTS

Alchemy Film & Arts was founded in 2010 and exists to champion the development of independent arts and film related projects in the Scottish Borders region and Scotland as a whole. It aims to advance the arts through an engagement with the practice, knowledge, understanding and appreciation of visual arts and film. Alchemy Film & Arts has produced eight editions of the Alchemy Film and Moving Image

Festival, runs annual exhibitions, and offers further opportunities via community engagement programming, artist residencies and commissions. www.alchemyfilmmandarts.org.uk



The River, the Horse and the Woman

Saturday 30 March – Friday 12 April 2019

Opening Hours: Wednesday – Saturday 11am – 4pm

Venue: Yeomans, 53 High Street, Hawick, TD9 9BP

Public Preview and Artist Q&A: Friday 29 March, 6 – 8pm

A public Programme Launch revealing the line-up of Alchemy Film and Moving Image Festival 2019 (2 – 6 May) will take place in the exhibition on 3 April at 6.30pm.

More information here: <https://alchemyfilmfestival.org.uk/2019/festival-programme-launch-2019/>

For **further information** please contact Rachael Disbury, Programme Manager at Alchemy Film & Arts, at rachael@alchemyfilmfestival.org.uk or visit alchemyfilmmandarts.org.uk

This exhibition has been supported by:



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL



Alchemy Film & Arts is a registered Scottish Charity: SC042142