

A woman with light-colored hair is shown in profile, facing left. She is holding a small, dark-colored cup with both hands. The background is dark and out of focus, with some indistinct shapes and colors like blue and brown. The lighting is soft, highlighting her face and hands.

Weightless **Невагома**

A film by **Marta Hryniuk and Nick Thomas**
With **Khrystyna Bunii**

**synopsis &
directors' note**

Khrystyna Bunii travels solo across remote south-west Ukraine in pursuit of her anthropological research. As she encounters people and digitises their family photo archives, conversations and interconnections emerge. Conducting visual research into the trans-national region of Hutsulshchyna, Bunii pursues a political practice of self-narration from the margins of representation.

The sequences of this poetic journey do not simply elucidate the history of the region, but rather call for an associative labour from researcher and spectator alike, and finding people who want to talk about the region's past is not an easy task. Made through close collaboration between the film's directors and protagonist, Weightless combines observational and direct cinema style with staged performance and elements of documentary-essay.

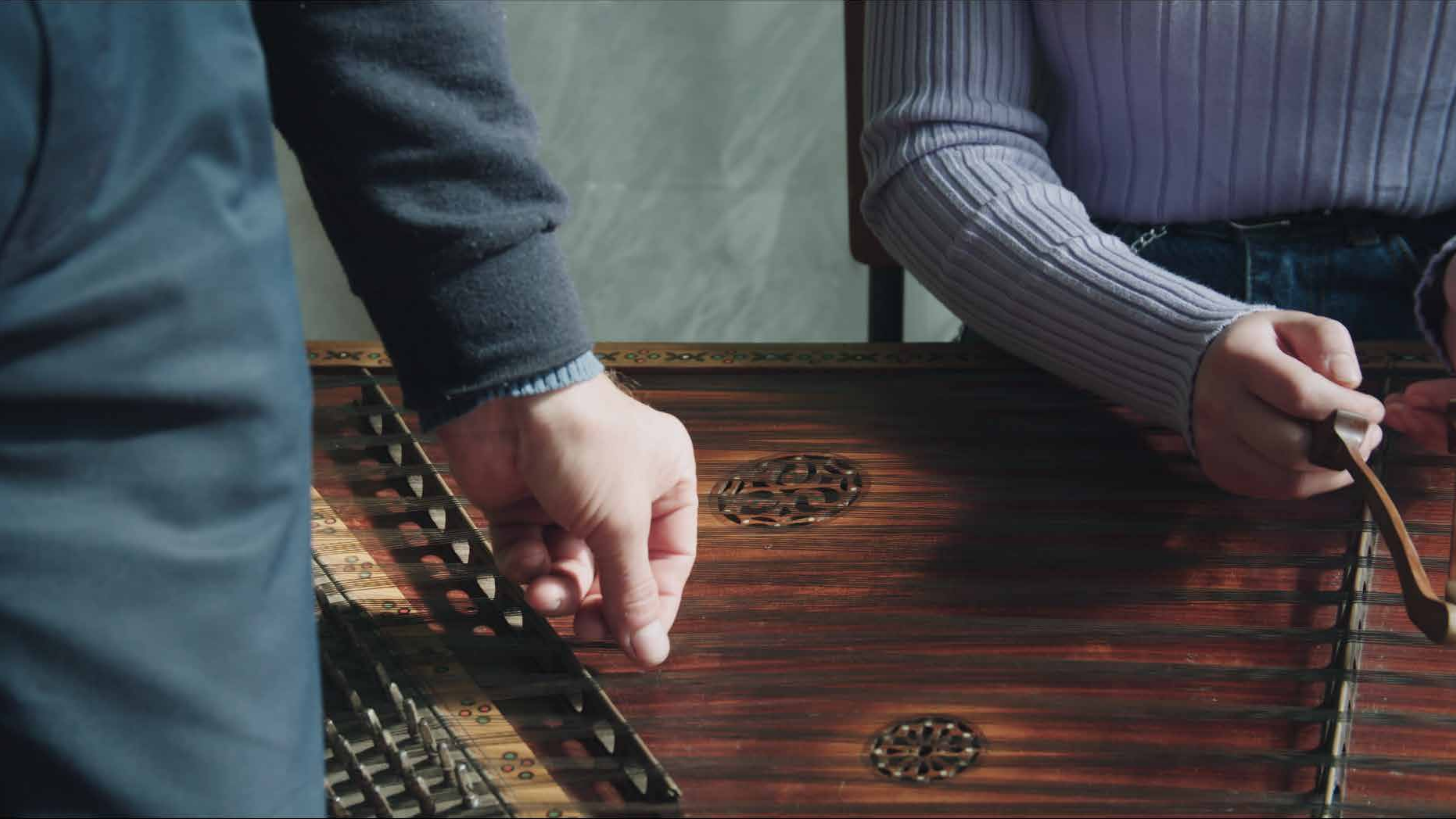
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We are interested in the complicated entanglements of eastern European countries - we want to know what can be learned and reclaimed from these histories and narratives, and how they shape people's intersubjective experiences. We see these narratives as a part of a shared political space, and as a catalyst for imagining alternative ways of living and working together.

Khrystyna's practice is an example of writing this history from below, in her home region, with a grassroots methodology. She works on a human scale and her methods are non-totalising, concerned with the lives of ordinary people. Her archiving forms a collective memory, and a call not to forget but to live with the joy and difficulty of Hutsulshchyna's history.







directors

Marta Hryniuk (b.1991 Poland) and Nick Thomas (b.1990 UK) are visual artists and filmmakers based in Rotterdam, Netherlands. They have worked together since 2019 collaborating on films, as well as leading workshops, programming, and assisting others in video and sound production.

Hryniuk and Thomas are founding members of [WET film](#) - a production and distribution cooperative for film, video and artists’ moving image, and are members of [Filmwerkplaats](#), an artist-run lab for 16mm film processing.

They have presented their work internationally, predominantly as video and film installations. ‘Weightless’ is their first feature length film. Their film ‘Forces’ is in the Eye Experimental collection.

Before relocating to Rotterdam, both artists combined their individual practises with cultural organising. Hryniuk co-founded an artist-run space Silverado (2013-17, Poznań); Thomas worked as programme assistant at LUX Scotland, and a committee member at Transmission Gallery Glasgow.

- Filmography:
- Weightless, 70 min, 2023
 - School Number One, 2-4 channel video installation, 2022
 - The Close River, 16mm transferred to digital, 27min, 2020
 - Forces, 16mm transferred to digital, 11min, 2020
 - Noordzee / North Sea (Nick Thomas, Sophie Bates), 29min, 2020
 - Sohaila (Marta Hryniuk), 3min, 2019
 - Balkon van Europa (Marta Hryniuk, Erika Roux), 14min, 2018
 - de Spiegel (Marta Hryniuk), 5min, 2018
 - Cold Body Shining, (Marta Hryniuk), video installation, 2017





ВЕРХОВ



Khrystyna Bunii

Khrystyna Bunii is a self-taught visual anthropologist based in Nadvirna, Ukraine. Throughout regular field trips Bunii engages with the history of her home region, requesting access to people's personal archives, and scanning photographs and documents from inhabitants of rural Hutsulhschyna and Pokuttia. She is usually a solo traveler, autonomous from academic requirements and unaffiliated with any institution, favouring face-to-face encounters in her approach. She shares her research through exhibitions, and on Instagram at [@carpathiancult](#)

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We met Khrystya during a field trip to Ukraine in 2019. She hosted us and we ended up spending some time together. She introduced us to a mycologist friend and left-wing activists in her home town of Nadvirna, took us to visit a community of artists cohabiting in the mountains, showed us examples of Hutsul-modernist architecture, and was generally our guide in the region. After this initial trip we stayed in touch and began to develop the idea for a film.

Khrystya is an enthusiast of traditional crafts, and a fluent user of contemporary technology; a proponent of maintaining certain traditions, and a figure who leads an unorthodox lifestyle, challenging gender roles and social expectations. Devoted to living and working in an area that could be regarded as marginal, or provincial, she is committed to her people, though not without criticality. Getting to know her and her peers we started to notice differences between the generation of people born in the mid 1990s - just after the collapse of the Soviet Union and the rise of capitalism - and their parents. The young generation are confident and critical, resisting the necessity for economic migration to big cities, or abroad, and putting forward a proposition for a life outside of what is considered 'cosmopolitan'. Care for the others and for the region's ecology are key in how they want to live their lives.

This proposition was put on hold with the current iteration of the Russian war in Ukraine. Urgencies shifted, and even though Khrystyna's home region is less brutalised (due to its geographical location), the war is ever-present in the lives of its inhabitants. The film, shot in 2021, portrays a time just before this latest phase of the war.







credits

Filmed in western Ukraine in 2021

Film by
Marta Hryniuk and Nick Thomas

With
Khrystyna Bunii

Produced by
Marta Hryniuk and Nick Thomas

Edited by
Diana Toucedo

Camera
Marta Hryniuk

Location sound
Nick Thomas

Mixage
Hugo Dijkstal

Grade and deliveries
Laurent Fluttert

Location manager
Oleksandr Debych

Production adviser
Manon Bovenkerk (near/by films)

specifications

English title
Weightless

Original title
Hebaroma

Country of production
Netherlands, 2023

Film genre
documentary

Duration
70 min

Shooting format
digital 4K

Picture
colour

Frame rate
24 fps

Aspect ratio
1,85:1 (1998 x 1080 /2K)

Sound
5.1

Spoken language
Ukrainian

Subtitles
English

Available formats
DCP

additional
credits

Transcription
Natalka Babalyk

Translation
Ostap Bohoslavets
Khrystyna Bunii
Marta Hryniuk
Mariia Ponomarova

With the participation of:
Hanna Shovheniuk
Vasylyna Romanchych
Anna Slochak
Petro Dudenchuk
Kalyna Bilak
Manusia Humeniuk
Mariia Tatarchuk
Ostap Bohoslavets
Mykola Kolesnykov
Alina Volyntseva

Photo archives
Hanna Litynska
Mariia Verezhak
Mariia Novits’ka
Hanna Shovheniuk
Ivan Marusiak
Vasylyna Romanchych
Kalyna Bilak
Mariia Tatarchuk
Anna Slochak
Petro Dudenchuk
Mykola Debryniuk

Music
‘Hutsulka’, Ukrainian folk song
Performed by Myroslava Tymchuk (drums)
Roman Strutynskyy, Roksolana Tymchuk (tsymbaly)

Anhelina Tymchuk
Pylypo Zub’yuk
Nazar Iliun

Volodya Prokopyshyn
Nazar Bilak
Zakhar Hlushko
Khrystyna Ziuziak
Vasyl Tymchuk (teacher)

‘Dmitryi’ spivanochka
Composed and performed by Manusia Humeniuk

Thanks
Oleksandr Debych
The community of the village Zamahora and Polonyna Krynta
Hurt Legenda
Ivan Hrechuk
Oleksandra Klym
Yulia Serdyukova
Sashko Protyah
Kari Robertson
Santiago Pinyol
Albert Kuhn
Naomi Pacifique
Tim Leyendekker
Maciej Nowacki
Manon Bovenkerk
Wendelien van Oldenborgh
Oksana Kazmina
Sophie Bates
Erika Roux
Anna Łuczak
WET
Josje Hattink
Nienke Doekes
Absaline Hehakaya
Edith van der Heijde
Renée van der Grinten

Special thanks
Khrystyna Bunii
Diana Toucedo



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supported by





Marta Hryniuk
Nick Thomas
2023