

FY2017
Media Arts
Panel Biographies

John Jota Leños is a Mestizo animator and media artist focusing on critical convergences of history, memory, social space, and decolonization. Leños is a 2012 Guggenheim Fellow and Creative Capital Foundation Grantee who has received the United States Artist Fellowship, the San Francisco Art Commission Individual Artist Grant, the MAP Fund Award and the Creative Work Fund Award. His work has been shown at the Sundance Film Festival, Cannes Short Corner, PBS.org, the Whitney Biennial, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago and a variety of other art and public contexts. He has been an artist-in-resident at the Center for Chicano Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, the Center for Arts in Society, Carnegie Mellon University, and the Headlands Center for the Arts. He is currently an Associate Professor in the Film and Digital Media Department at the University of California, Santa Cruz where he is Director of Graduate Studies for the Social Documentation program.

Danièle Wilmouth is fascinated by the weird science of movies and the prospect of conjuring up a soul from the cinematic machine. Her works are hybrids of performance art, dance, installation and cinema, which exploit the shifting hierarchies between live and screen space. In 1990 Wilmouth began a six-year residency in the Kansai region of Japan, where she trained in Butoh dance, and co-founded ***Hairless Films***, a multi-national independent filmmaking collective. Her award winning films have screened in festivals, museums, and on television around the globe - including the Kunst Museum Bonn, the National Gallery of Armenia, Television Canal+(a), Argentina, PBS WTTW Chicago, Arsenal Institute for Film and Video Art Berlin, Anthology Film Archives, Ann Arbor Film Festival, Cambridge International Film Festival, the American Dance Festival, Margaret Mead Film and Video Festival, Thessaloniki Film Festival, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, the National Gallery, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, among others. A collection of her short films was recently included in the 2016 *BODY+ACT* exhibition at the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art in Seoul, South Korea. In 2013, she was featured in Dance Films Association's *Meet the Artist* Series with a solo show at the Film Society of Lincoln Center. Retrospectives of Wilmouth's works have been held in Russia (2004, St. Petersburg International Dance Film Festival), and South Korea (2012, EXiS Film Festival, Korean Film Archives, Seoul). Please visit her website for more information: www.HairlessFilms.org

Shawn Lind, a graduate of Ohio University, joined the multimedia arts center, Appalshop, in 2005. Lind's first major production, "From Wood to Singing Guitar," had its world premier at Appalshop's annual Seedtime on the Cumberland Festival. Since then, "From Wood to Singing Guitar" has had a strong national broadcast on PBS stations all across the country and several national and international film festival awards. Lind's current productions include a portrait style documentary about blacksmiths in the Appalachian region ("Sharper Than Fire") and a character/personality driven documentary with innovative use of multiple art forms and artists. In between Lind's own films, he has worked on productions that have been funded by Sundance, broadcast on America ReFramed, or shown around the world. In recognition of artistic excellence, Shawn Lind is the 2012 recipient of an Emerging Artist Award from the Kentucky Arts Council, the state arts agency, which is supported by state tax dollars and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.