

SELECTED WORK / 2026

Paulina Pisarek

Cinematography &
collective filmmaking

*Light, reality, landscape.
Writing through images.*

Founder of Joy of Light
Co-founder of Free Bullet
Paris, France



Writing through images

My cinematographic practice begins with an encounter: a particular light, a gesture, a landscape, or the feeling of being welcomed into a place.

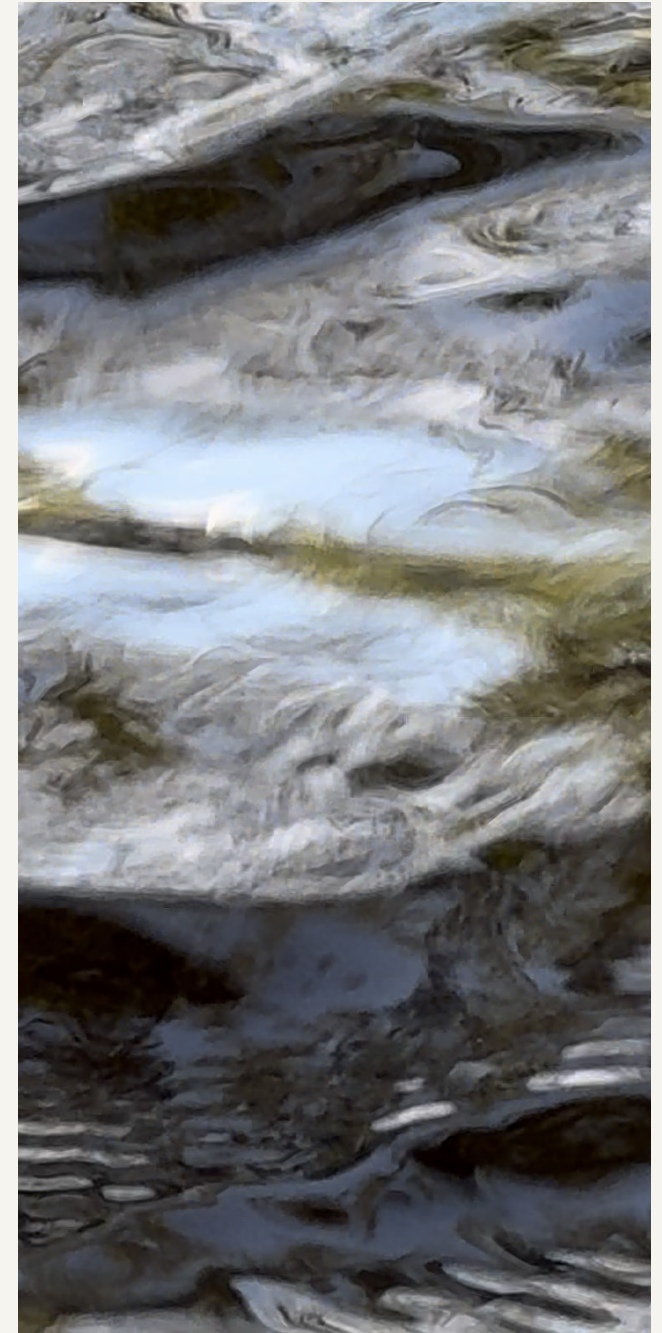
I am interested in the space between the person filming and the world being filmed. Light, bodies and everyday situations become active elements in making an image. The camera is a way of thinking, discovering and entering into a relationship with what unfolds.

The Image Protocol

Before filming, participants establish visual rules together: how to approach light, distance, framing, duration or movement. This shared structure leaves room for instinct, unexpected encounters and individual ways of seeing.

Through filming and looking together, images become a form of writing. I bring this practice to cinema, performance and collective projects between Europe and West Africa.

Selected cinematography, photographic work and collective filmmaking.



JOY OF LIGHT

A transnational and transcultural filmmaking project



Founder & creator
Paulina Pisarek

A three-year project developing a feature-length fiction film through eight sessions involving different participants.

Joy of Light carries my methodology into a sustained process of collective creation. Each session brings new perspectives into the work, allowing a shared story to grow through the meeting of people, places and ways of seeing.

In Dakar, sessions developed with Centre Yennenga bring together women to explore the camera as a means of personal and collective expression, working with light, movement, sound and their environment.

Dakar sessions: February 2025 and February 2026.
Free Bullet / Centre Yennenga.

Films made through the sessions

Collective filmmaking / Dakar / Free Bullet & Centre Yennenga



Biir ak Biti / Film still

01 / FIRST SESSION

Biir ak Biti

Made during the first Joy of Light session in Dakar. The film grew through collective authorship, writing with images and editing as a form of discovery.

[WATCH BIIR AK BITI](#)

Viewing access available on request

02 / SECOND SESSION

Tëjuu

The second short film developed through Joy of Light's collaborative process in Dakar.

[WATCH TËJU](#)

Viewing access available on request

DENTRO

Cinematography / Documentary feature / Directed by Elsa Amiel



Les Films du Bilboquet / Bande à part films. Interreligious Award, Visions du Réel, 2026. Swiss theatrical release: 4 November 2026.

DENTRO

Light, presence and the spaces between people



Selected frames / Cinematography: Paulina Pisarek. Director: Elsa Amiel.

L'ÉCOUTE DES SOLS

Cinematography / Science-fiction short / Directed by Chloé Sassi



Institut Français / Cross Project / Centre Wallonie-Bruxelles, Paris. Cinematography: Paulina Pisarek.

FREE BULLET

Cinematography & co-direction / With Caroline Detournay / Le G.R.E.C.



An encounter with a place, a body and the desire to leave.

On Nioumone Island in Senegal, Boniface, a young priest, leaves his parish. His journey through mangroves and towards the Mauritanian desert becomes an exploration of presence, desire and freedom.

Selected recognition

Best Documentary Film, Message to Man.
Clermont-Ferrand, National Competition; Off-Courts
Trouville; Ciné Droit Libre; Istanbul International
Documentary Film Festival; The Window / Image ouverte,
Paris.

[VIEW THE FILM](#)

Viewing access available on request



I DON'T TOUCH THE GOLD

Cinematography & direction / With Beautiful Village, a related short work



Living and creating together in Bantako.

A project developed over two years in a gold-mining village in Senegal, with Mama Cissokho, Anna Rzepka and the people who welcomed us. Everyday life and the rhythm of the landscape became part of the filmmaking process.

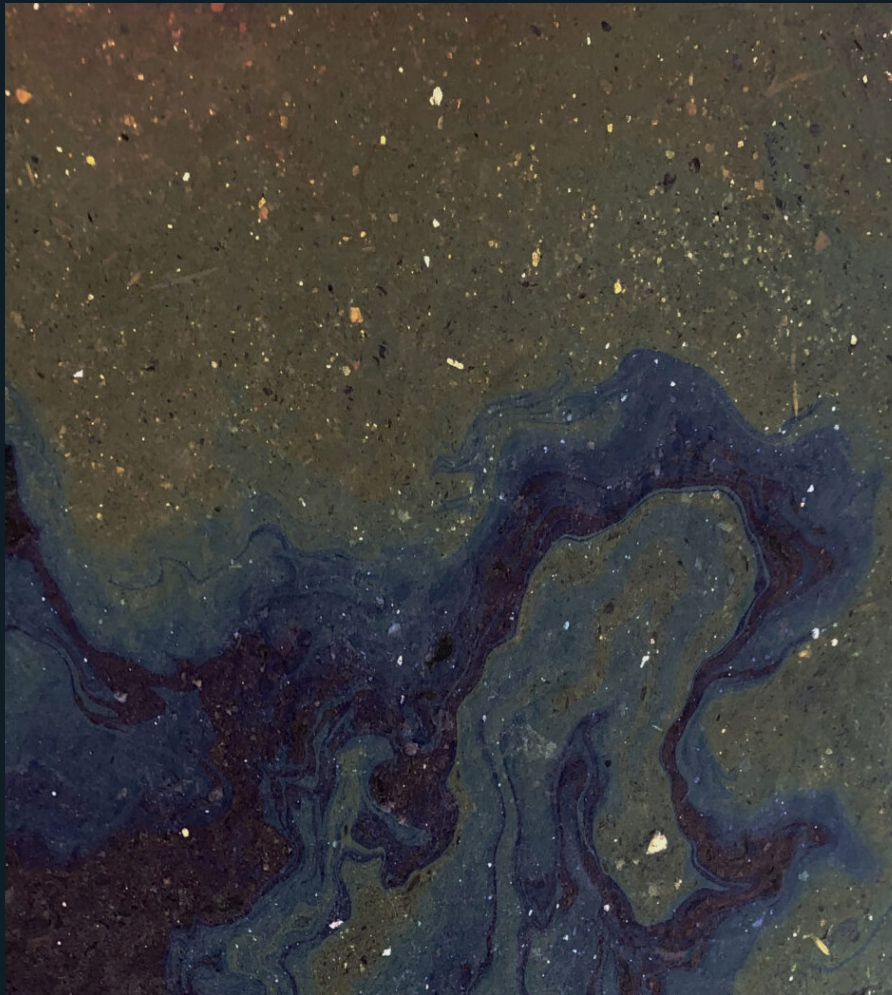
Villagers were invited to experiment with GoPro cameras, opening ways of seeing and telling stories from within the community.

Dreamon Cinema / Central Électrique.
Best Human Image Award, Baghdad International Film Festival.

[VIEW BEAUTIFUL VILLAGE](#)

BABYRACER

Cinematography & co-direction / With Caroline Detournay / 2021



Movement, materials and the intensity of a place.



A 60-minute documentary/fiction hybrid, co-directed with Caroline Detournay. Court-Jus / Free Bullet. Presented at AI Este International Film Festival, Peru.

[VIEW THE FILM](#)

Viewing access available on request

SELECTED FICTION

SAINT-DÉSIR

Cinematography & co-direction
With Caroline Detournay

Charlotte and Jérémie move
through the village of Saint-Désir,
young and forgotten, with a
hunting rifle between them.

Fiction short, 27 min.
Aurora Films.

Film Workout Award, FIFIB Bordeaux.
Clermont-Ferrand; Sapporo Short Fest; Off-Courts
Trouville; Bueu; Cinéma Lux, Caen.

[VIEW THE FILM](#)

Viewing access available on request



TOUTES LES NUITS

Cinematography / Directed by Elsa Amiel / Théâtre LÉTHÉ / AFDAS



Light, bodies and performance.

A fiction short and an image-making workshop: a meeting between cinematographic practice and collective experimentation.

FEATURE FICTION / IN DEVELOPMENT

ZETA

Le tigre qui pleure

Co-directed with Caroline Detournay.
Feature-film writing grant, Image Normandie.

In Normandy, Zéo works with horses. An alert from the virtual world VEGALOST disrupts her reality. The sale of a mare named See the Stars takes her to Dakar and into the desert, where real and virtual worlds begin to mingle.

A project moving between landscapes, images and imagined worlds.



ILWIS

Silesia, Poland / A photographic sequence



Photography remains part of my relationship with light, people and place.

A practice across cinema and collective creation

PROFILE

Polish cinematographer and filmmaker based in France since 2012.
Co-founder of Free Bullet and founder of Joy of Light. Working across documentary, fiction, experimental cinema, performance and visual art.

EDUCATION

Krzysztof Kieślowski Film School, University of Silesia, Poland - Department of Cinematography.
ZPAF, Warsaw - Photography.

WORKSHOPS & MASTERCLASSES

2026 - International cinema expert / masterclass, Dakar; EUNIC for Institut Musso.
2026 - Salon du cinéma au féminin, Côte d'Ivoire.
2024 - L'orage passe la mer, with Elsa Amiel; Théâtre LÉTHÉ / AFDAS.
2023 - O, with Elsa Amiel; Théâtre LÉTHÉ / AFDAS.
2022 - Toutes les nuits; Théâtre LÉTHÉ / AFDAS.

PRODUCTION SUPPORT

Le G.R.E.C. and SCAM, Brouillon d'un rêve, for Free Bullet. Image Normandie support for Saint-Désir, Babyracer, Crowd and Zeta.

ADDITIONAL SELECTED CINEMATOGRAPHY

Absent - Documentary feature; Rongchang Liu.
Demain dans la bataille - Maria Pinto; cinematography with Hugues Gemignani.
Semi Senso - Chloé Sassi; 16mm; cinematography and editing consultation.
Droit à l'oubli / The Right to Be Forgotten - Romina Shama; Musée Transitoire.
Crowd - Gisèle Vienne; ARTE TV / Philharmonie de Paris.
Pinocchio Live - Alice Laloy; Galerie Québec.

ADDITIONAL DIRECTING

A Symbolic Act of Love - Documentary in development.
Un grave défaut - Documentary/fiction; Free Bullet / DRAC.

RECOGNITION FOR FILMS

Dentro - Interreligious Award, Visions du Réel, 2026.
Free Bullet - Best Documentary Film, Message to Man.
I Don't Touch the Gold - Best Human Image Award, Baghdad.
Saint-Désir - Film Workout Award, FIFIB Bordeaux.

Where the work has travelled

Film festivals, cinemas, galleries and photographic exhibitions

FILM FESTIVALS

Visions du Réel (Nyon); FIFAM (Amiens); Cinemed (Montpellier); Brussels Art Film Festival; Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival; Message to Man (Saint Petersburg); Sapporo Short Fest; Off-Courts Trouville; FIFIB (Bordeaux); Bueu International Short Film Festival; Al Este (Peru); Cinébanlieue (Dakar); Ciné Droit Libre (Burkina Faso); Istanbul International Documentary Film Festival; Göttingen International Ethnographic Film Festival; Croatia Etno Film; Experiments in Cinema (USA); Baghdad International Film Festival.

SCREENINGS & ART PRESENTATIONS

The Window / Image ouverte, Paris; Festival Image Ouvert; Centre Yennenga, Senegal; Cinéma Lux, Caen; Month of Documentary Film / Normandy media libraries; Les Inrocks Lab, création vidéo / La Gaîté Lyrique, Paris; Galerie Québec; Philharmonie de Paris.

PHOTOGRAPHY

ZPAF Gallery, Warsaw; Month of Photography, Kraków; Homeless Gallery, Warsaw and Kraków; Dance the Building NGO, Warsaw; Heaven Gallery, Kisses, Chicago.

Continue through the films

Viewing links / Access to protected films available on request.

JOY OF LIGHT / FIRST SESSION

Biir ak Biti

<https://vimeo.com/1063362837>

CINEMATOGRAPHY & CO-DIRECTION

Free Bullet

<https://vimeo.com/110923370>

CINEMATOGRAPHY & CO-DIRECTION

Babyracer

<https://vimeo.com/460752196>

JOY OF LIGHT / SECOND SESSION

Tëjuu

<https://vimeo.com/1169557160>

CINEMATOGRAPHY & CO-DIRECTION

Saint-Désir

<https://vimeo.com/188433568>

SHORT FILM

Beautiful Village

<https://vimeo.com/123830988>

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