

ICAROS A VISION

directed by
LEONOR CARABALLO & MATTEO NORZI

Starring
ANA CECILIA STIEGLITZ
FILIPPO TIMI
ARTURO IZQUIERDO

A FILM SHAPED LIKE A SHAMANIC JOURNEY
STEEPED IN A PSYCHOACTIVE BREW
EXPLORING FEAR AND DESTINY IN THE JUNGLE OF THE MIND

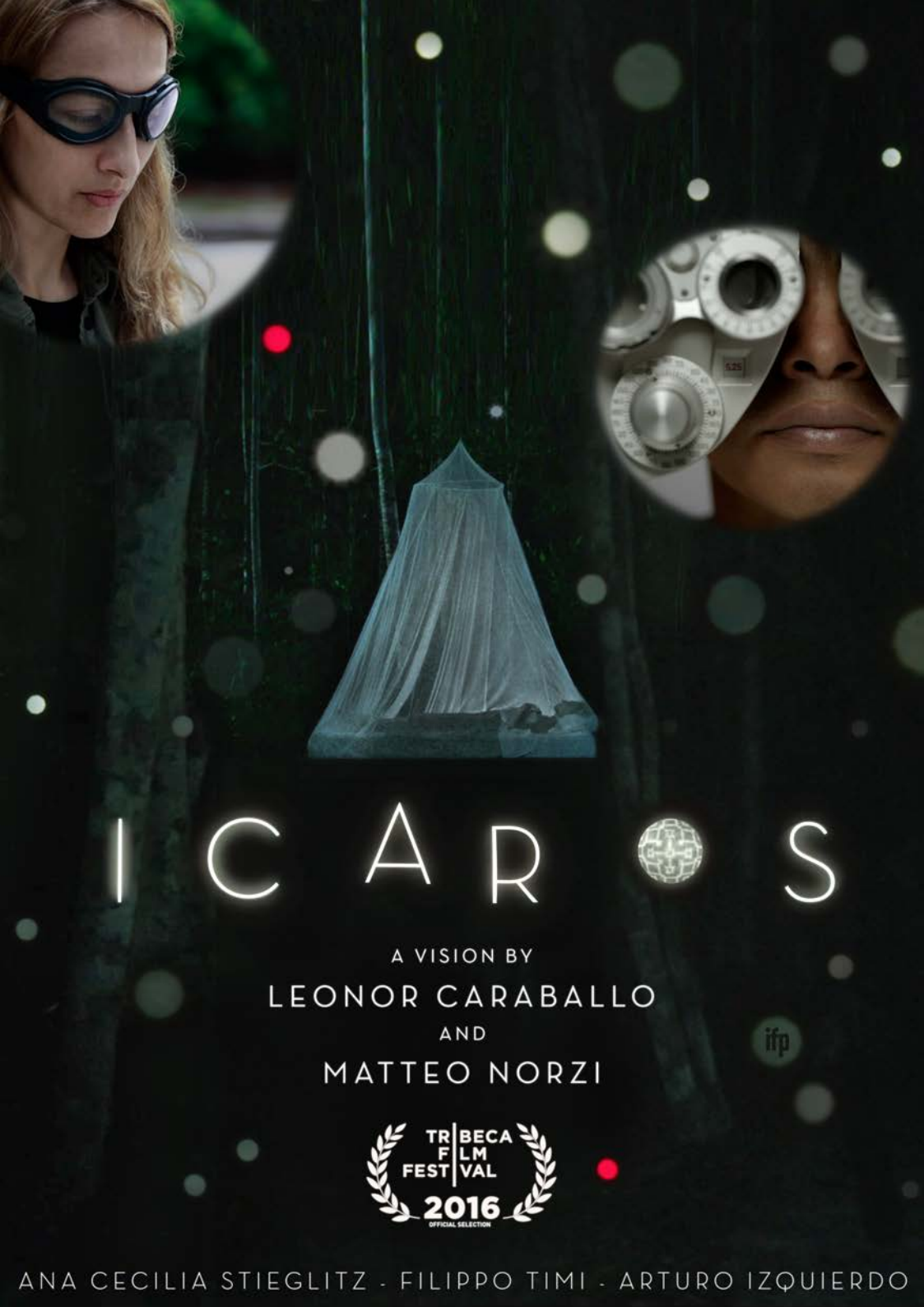


WORLD PREMIERE



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FACTORY 25
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VARIETY

“...a work of beguiling grace...
dramatized with almost trancelike beauty...
and never less than transfixing.”

“A literal and psychological Heart of Darkness.”

“This one-of-a-kind narrative invites audiences
to experience the Amazon
as an almost hallucinogenic escape.”

NICK SCHAGER

Indiewire

“...a strong and strange new film that combines the unknown with
the very relatable search to actually know anything.”

KATE ERB•ND

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

“A very personal film made with a meditative and observant resolve.”

STEVE DOL•R

THE NEW YORKER

“[The filmmakers portray the film’s] surroundings with an ecstatic
stillness, and they capture the medicinally induced hallucinations
with a visual imagination of rare specificity and fury.”

RICHARD BRODY

ICAROS
A VISION BY
LEONOR CARABALLO
AND
MATTEO NORZI



ANA CECILIA STIEGLITZ - FILIPPO TIMI - ARTURO IZQUIERDO

—Logline:

Her medical options exhausted, an American woman travels to the Amazon in search of a miracle. Thanks to a young ayahuasca shaman who is losing his eyesight, she learns instead to confront her 'susto': the disease of fear.

—Synopsis:

Looking for a miracle, Angelina lands at a healing center in the Peruvian Amazon where shamans minister to a group of foreign psychonauts seeking transcendence, companionship, and the secrets of life and death. Her perceptions altered by the ancient psychedelic plant known as ayahuasca, she bonds with Arturo, a young indigenous shaman who is losing his eyesight. In their hallucinogenic journeys together they attain a different sense of their destinies. She learns to accept her fears while Arturo, in turn, realizes that he will be able to see in the dark and sing his ceremonial healing songs, the icaros.

Filmmakers Leonor Caraballo and Matteo Norzi have deftly handled this drama by drawing from their own experiences, allowing for a uniquely stirring film that touches on the notions of friendship, familial bonds, and the fear of the unknown. Visually inventive and hypnotic in nature, *Icaros: A Vision* captivates with its meditative look at a little-seen world, punctuated by truly trippy depictions of ceremonial splendor.

—Loren Hammonds, Associate Programmer, Tribeca Film Festival



ICAROS: A VISION is a story about fear and the release from fear – the fear of illness and of death, but also the fear of life and living. It's about the possibility of living through one's fear – which is what the Amazonian plant Ayahuasca is good at getting you to do. Centered on the nightly ceremonies that are the main feature of shamanic retreats, Icaros revels in darkness, replicating a shamanic journey.

The film mixes in elements of reality. Set in an actual Ayahuasca retreat in Peru, it features real shamans and indigenous non-actors from the Shipibo community, mixed in with western actors. Aspects of the film are based on co-director Leonor Caraballo's true experiences. She had metastatic breast cancer when the shoot began. Although she dedicated herself to the project until the very end, sadly she died before she could see the film finished.

The film is also driven by the conviction that acknowledging the power of plants is the best way to change the jeopardized future of the Amazon – itself like a dying patient. The exploitation of Shipibo lands and communities by oil and timber companies continues. Over the next 20 years, massive tracts will be destroyed to produce only enough oil to sate U.S. demand for, at the most, two weeks. The men and women who have the knowledge of healing plants are finding few in the younger generation who will cultivate their practices. Thus part of the film's goal is to bring attention to the work, life and knowledge of the Shipibo Conibo people.

ICAROS: A VISION is a filmic tapestry about the meeting of cultures, a West in search of its lost soul and the indigenous Shipibo adapting their expansive practices and unique view of the universe.

Finally, the story takes place in Iquitos, the same town where Herzog's Fitzcarraldo was shot more than 30 years ago, and the hotel Casa Fitzcarraldo hosts a key scene in the film.



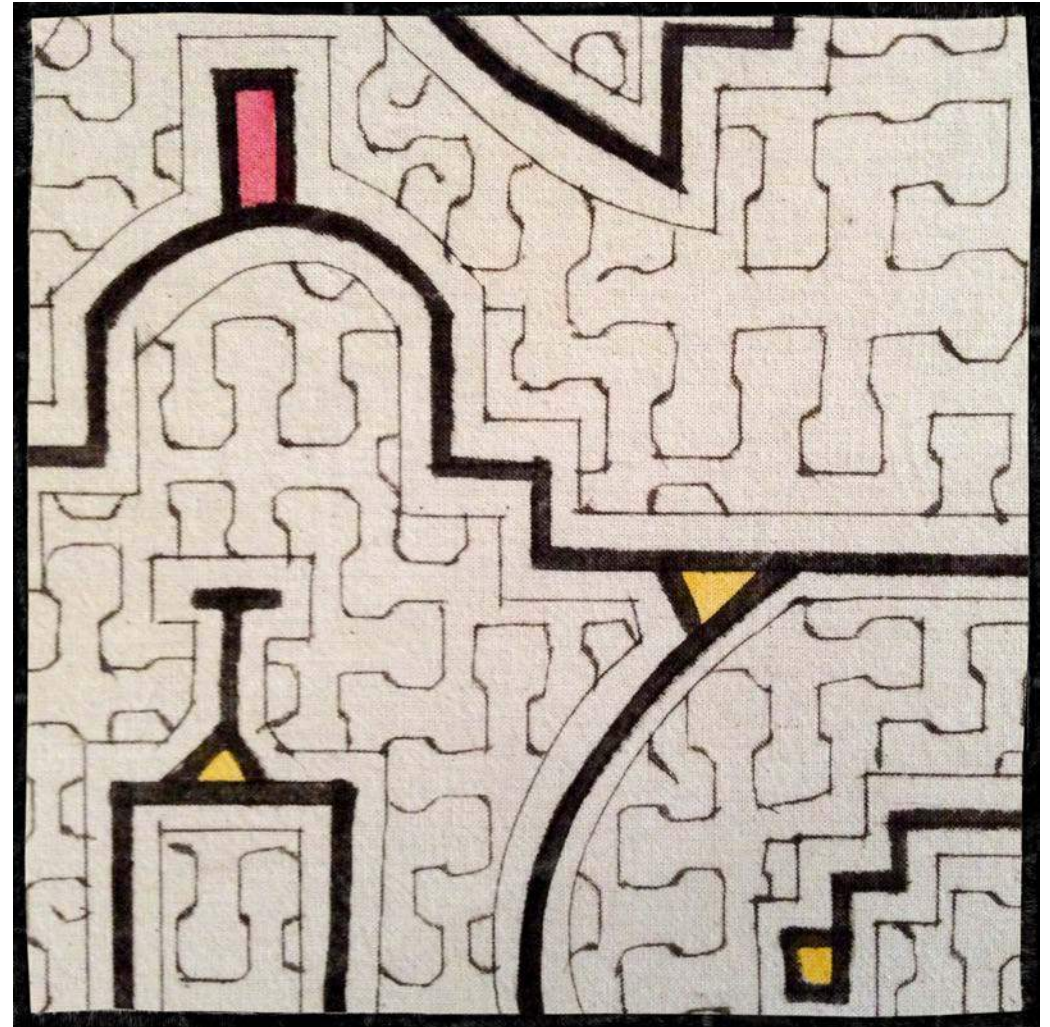


LEONOR CARABALLO - WRITER / DIRECTOR

Leonor worked as a photographer and video artist between Buenos Aires and New York. She won important fellowships and grants, including the Latin American Guggenheim Fellowship, New York Foundation for the Arts grant and an Eyebeam Art and Technology Center residency. Her experimental videos have been shown internationally in venues such as the Tate Modern, PS1/MOMA, Artists Space, and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. 'Icaros: a vision' is her first feature film. Her interest in the Amazon started when she was introduced to shamanism and plant medicine as practiced by the Shipibo-Conibo communities in Peru. She traveled to the Amazon and up and down the Ucayali river, experimenting with her life, death and artistic practice. Leonor died on Saturday January 24th, 2015 before completing the film.

MATTEO NORZI - WRITER / DIRECTOR

Matteo is a visual artist, from Uruguay and Italy, living in NYC. His explorative artistic practice took him through several extensive journeys along six continents. His art has been supported by important institutions, including Art in General, NY; Headlands Center for the Arts, CA; Artists Space, NY; Spinola-Banna Foundation for the Arts, Italy. As part of the collaborative duo Isola&Norzi he has exhibited internationally at venues such as GAM, Turin; NMNM, Monaco; David Roberts Art Foundation, London; Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa, Venice; Museion, Bozen. 'Icaros: a vision' marks his debut as a feature film writer and director. He brings with him years of personal experience and extensive research on Shipibo-Conibo history, culture and knowledge.

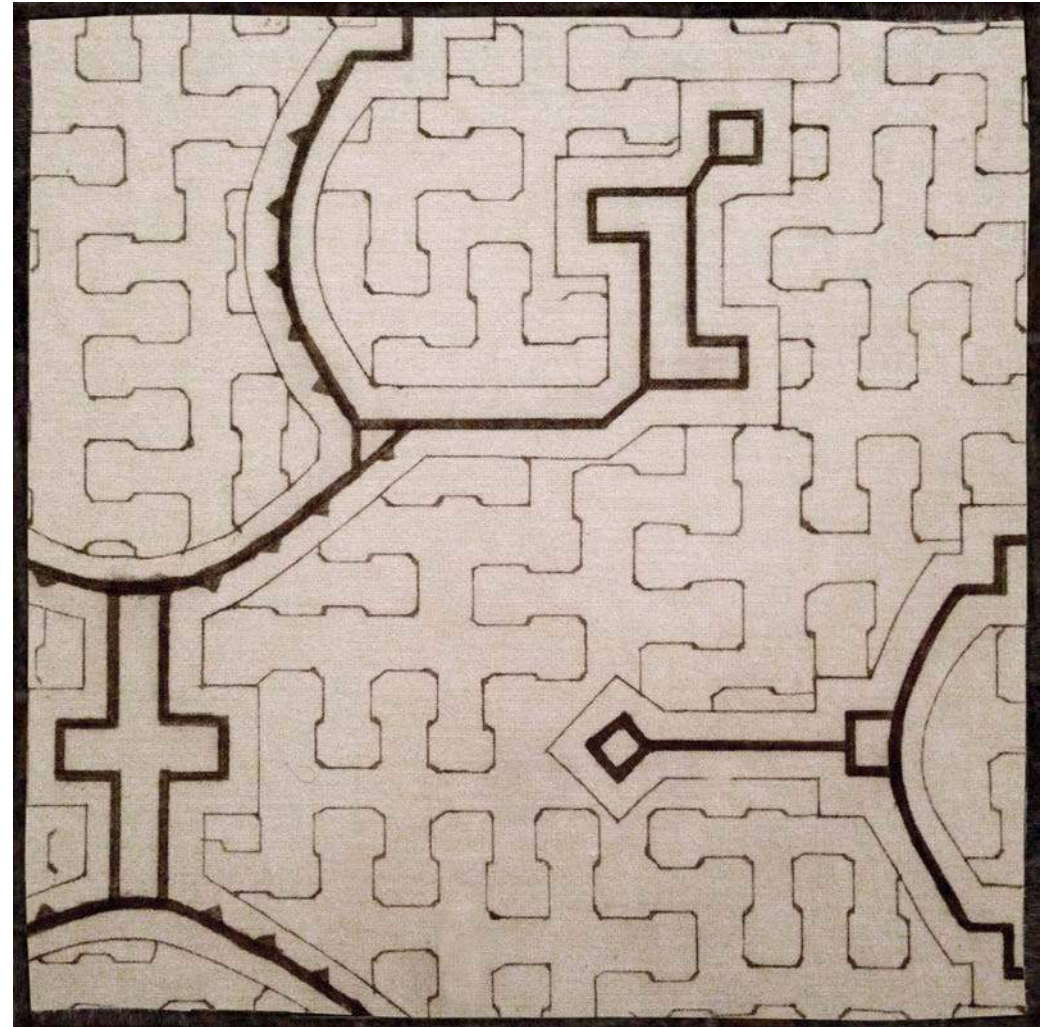


ABOU FARMAN - PRODUCER

Abou is a producer, artist and anthropologist teaching at the New School for Social Research. He has long worked with award-winning director Amir Naderi, with a producer credit on 'Vegas: Based on a True Story', an official selection in competition at the Venice and Tribeca Film Festivals; and co-writer on 'CUT!', selected for Venice, Tribeca, Toronto and Pusan. As part of the artist duo caraballo-farman, Abou has exhibited work internationally, including at the Tate Modern, UK, PS1/MOMA, NY, and the Havana Biennial. Published widely in Canada and the US, his essays have been nominated for a National Magazine Award in Canada and twice awarded the Critics Desk Award by Canada's national poetry magazine. He is the author of Clerks of the Passage.

GHASEM EBRAHIMIAN - DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Ghasem has worked with the internationally-acclaimed, award-winning art star Shirin Neshat, creating several video art films including 'Logic of Birds', 'Possessed', 'Fervor', 'K', 'Passage', 'Rapture', 'Turbulent'. Together with other directors, he directed the photography of features and documentaries as per 'Greater Things' and 'Roads to Mecca'. In the British television he worked in several episodes of 'The South Bank Show'. In addition, he has directed his own films such as 'Willie' and 'The Suitors'.





CAST

ANA CECILIA STIEGLITZ

ARTURO IZQUIERDO

FILIPPO TIMI

GUILLERMO ARÉVALO

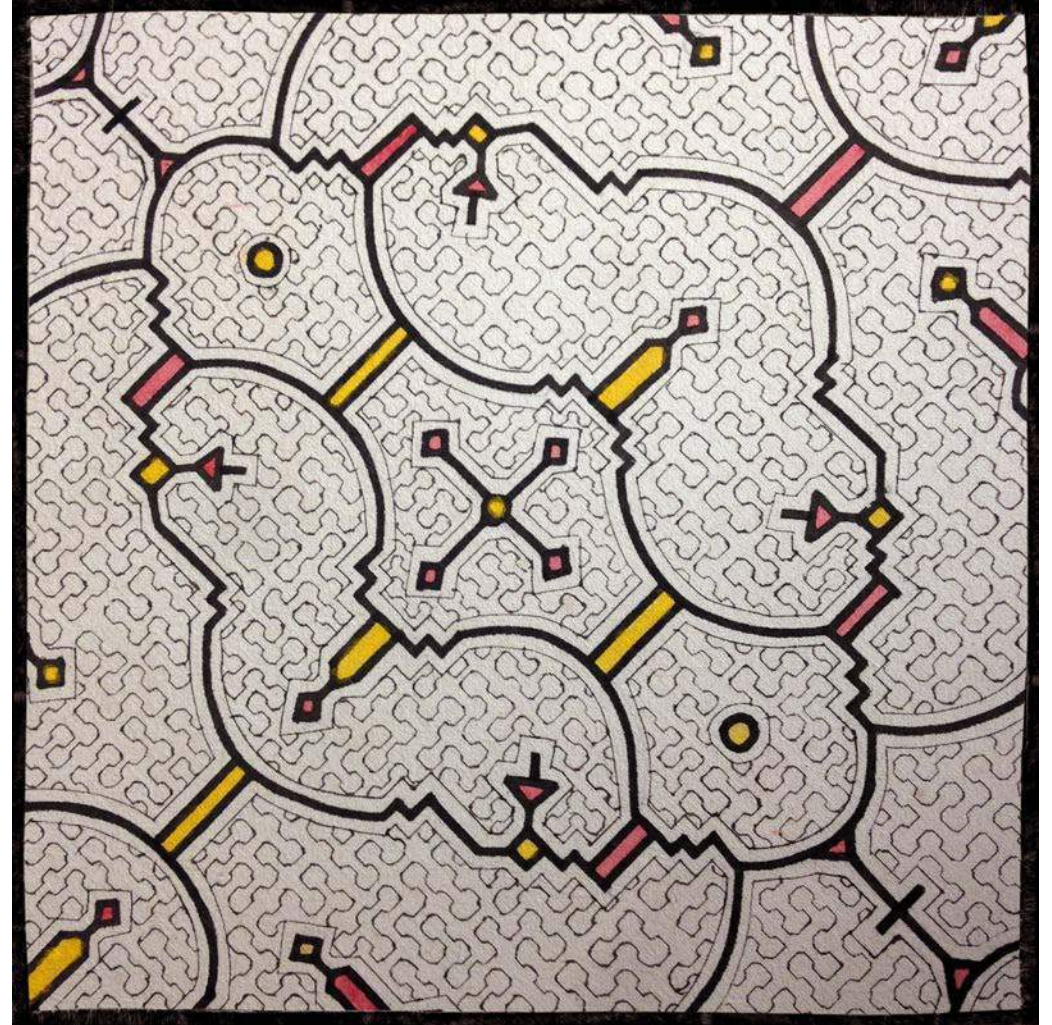
LURDES VALLES VARGAS

TAYLOR MARIE MILTON

RONALD SUAREZ

IKER AMAYA

DISNEY LOPEZ GUTIERREZ



AZIZ ISHAM - PRODUCER

ENID "PINKY" CAMPOS - PRODUCTION MANAGER PERU

ADEL - D JEVARDI - CO-PRODUCER

ÈLIA GASULL BA-D A - EDITOR

AMIR NADERI - CONSULTING EDITOR

SARA GUNNARSDÓTTIR - 2D ANIMATOR

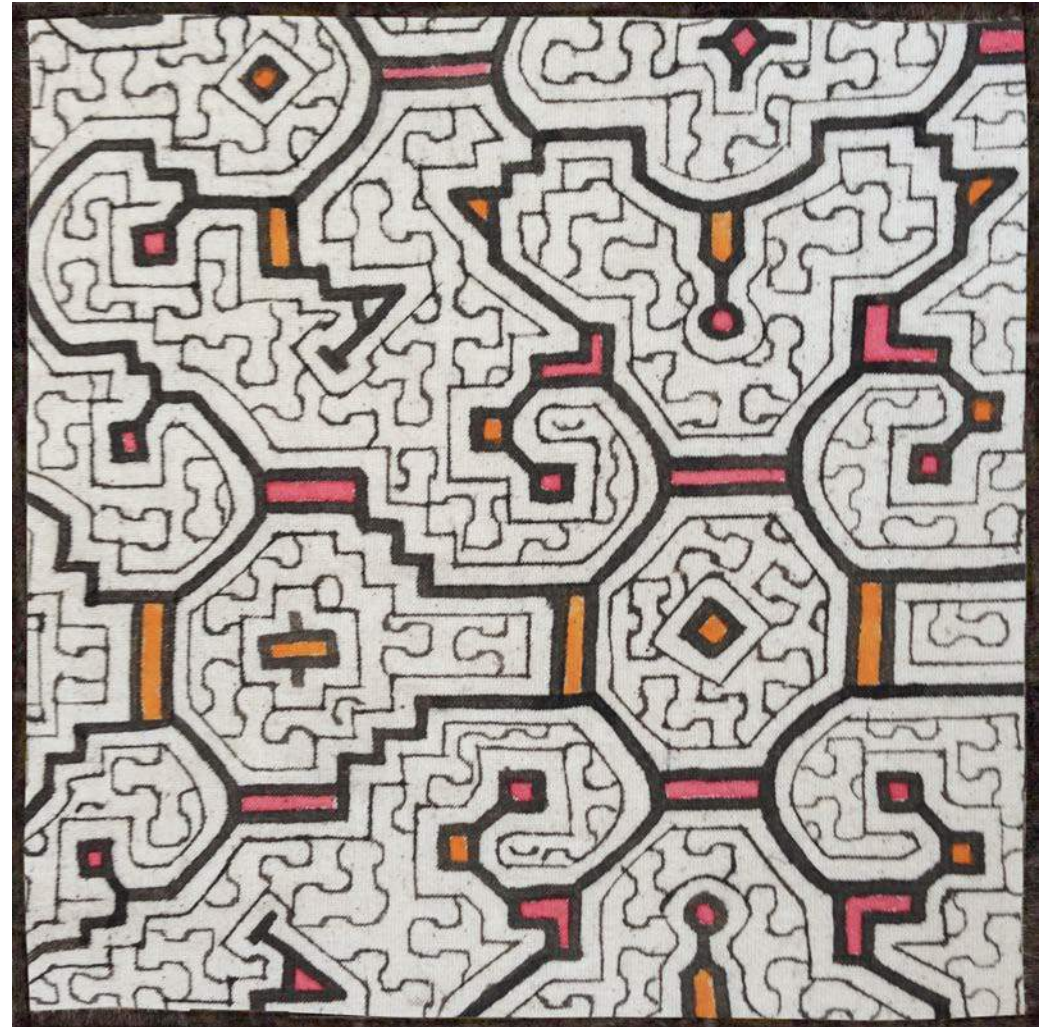
TOM PAUL - SOUND DESIGN & MIX

MARTIN HERNÁNDEZ - SOUND FX EDITOR

GUILLERMO ARÉVALO - SHAMAN

ARTURO IZQUIERDO - SHAMAN

WALTER MARTÍNEZ GUIMARAY - SHAMAN





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