

# THE EARTH MASTERS

When climate change jeopardizes life as we know it...  
How far are we willing to go to maintain our unsustainable lifestyles?



## Logline

THE EARTH MASTERS is a creative documentary on a scientific topic: Climate Engineering. It will challenge our views exploring the most radical and surprising proposals to tackle climate change from a women's perspective. How far are we willing to go to maintain our unsustainable lifestyles?

## Sinopsis

Given the tragic path we seem to have taken regarding climate change, scientists are investigating how to manipulate climate systems at a planetary scale, but will these proposals lure us into a yet more complicated future?

THE EARTH MASTERS takes us on a journey through the issues that Climate Engineering forces us to confront, and unrolls the inner conflicts that come up as soon as we start thinking about the future of our planet. From the Arctic Pole to the Pacific Islands, we explore together with artists, philosophers, scientists and civil society the latests responses to the impacts and threats of human-made climate change. Anticipating the future raises questions about humanity's relationship with

the Earth and challenges us to envisage, with imagination and creativity, who we want to be.

## Motivation and point of view

This project is timely; it comes at an important political moment in climate change negotiations: the agreement that emerged from cop21 in Paris last December regards Climate Engineering as a measure to fix the climate. This film is motivated by the need to broaden societal awareness and debate on the subject of climate engineering, which, potentially has existential consequent for many species on Earth.

Our film approaches Climate Engineering from our own perspective, a woman's perspective. We are a team of four female professionals from the fields of creative documentary, film production, philosophy and environmental sociology. We are particularly keen on an ecological feminist approach which encompasses the perspective of ethics of care in our project. This moral approach has been developed through the historical roles that women have

played as 'carers' and has led to a perception of how we are deeply connected to others. Interdependence and interconnection are key concepts when understanding the human impact on the climate and, especially, when thinking up creative responses to the crisis. The arrogance, greed, hubris and domineering self-interest that largely characterise how we have pursued our relationship with nature in modern industrial societies (as Geoengineering so clearly illustrates) could be replaced by an emphasis on virtues such as care, respect, humility, love and generosity.

### **Access to the topic / characters and state of our research**

We are collaborating with Professor Maialen Galarraga, a philosopher involved in a climate engineering research group in the UK. Through her, we've been invited in the Climate Engineering Conference of Berlin 2014, and The Climate Engineering Conference of Cambridge in 2015, where we had the chance to meet and film our scientists protagonists. We are also collaborating with Professor Amaranta Herrero, activist, social environmentalist and researcher in Norway, who introduced us to the female characters of our film at the Climate Summit 2015 in Paris. We already filmed with all of them. Maialen and Amaranta are both part of the creative team of the film and participate in the research and writing process.

### **Visual approach and narrative**

The narrative of the film is a love letter to an imaginary lover with whom we have lost connection. This letter, that we will hear as a female voice over, will develop throughout the film over scenes of natural, industrial and computer manipulated landscapes. These scenes will be intertwined with scenes where we follow our characters. We will visit them at their homes and their workspaces, travelling from the Arctic, in the North of Sweden, to Oxford, Paris and California. We will meet geoengineers in their laboratories and out in the field, doing their experiments, and women philosophers and activists who propose radically different solutions. We will visit indigenous communities threatened by climate change, where women will show us different ways of relating with our planet.

The music will play a very important role. Like in Eric Gandini's films, we will use cool soundtracks

that will give a fresh and trepidant rhythm to the film. We want to reach a wide range of people, including the younger generations, and we want to seduce and involve them emotionally with the topic. This is not only about science. This is about us and about how the choices we make today affect our future.

### **Main characters**

*Prof. Ken Caldeira*, scientist at Stanford University, one of the most well-known advocates of Geoengineering, studies how blocking the sun can keep the poles from melting.

Cambridge Professor *Hugh Hunt*, an engineer in one of the most famous Geoengineering projects, whose last hopes for the survival of the planet are put into Climate Engineering experiments.

*Vandana Shiva*, Indian environmental philosopher and eco-feminist, thinks that Geoengineering is an arrogant solution to a problem that cannot be solved with the same mindset that created it.

*Silvia Ribeiro* from ETC group, denounces the risk to deviate from plans to reduce Co2 emissions when presented with Geoengineering proposals, and points out to the links between science, ideology, gender, and the interests of our economic system.

*Jenni Laiti*, climate change artist denouncing how climate change is threatening the life and culture of her Sámi community in the North of Sweden.

### **Funders / broadcasters**

We have a research fund from SGAE, the Spanish society for writers and publishers. We are in touch with TV3, the Catalan broadcaster, with German broadcaster rbb/ ARTE and Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg. We will also present the project to the Catalan Regional Film Funds and to other German regional and national funds.

#### **THE EARTH MASTERS**

90 min feature documentary + TV version  
in pre-production (to be finished in 2017)

#### **Contact:**

Nadja Smith  
T: +49 176 304 957 01  
E: info@nadjasmith.de

 **SMITH**  
FILMPRODUKTION