

Charles Fairbanks

photographer / filmmaker

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education

Master of Fine Arts, School of Art & Design, University of Michigan, 2010

Bachelor of Arts in Art and STS (Science, Technology, and Society), Stanford, 2003

Werner Herzog's Rogue Film School, 2010

Sound Image Culture (SIC) Master Class, Brussels, 2008-09

filmography

Tumü Musokyuy: The Modern Jungle (2013) length TBD, Mexico

Flexing Muscles (2012) 21 minutes, Mexico / USA

Irma (2010) 12 minutes, Mexico / USA

Wrestling with my Father (2010) 5 minutes, USA

The Men (2010) 3 minutes, USA

Pioneers (2009) 33 minutes, USA / Belgium

solo screenings & exhibitions

Leedy-Voulkos Art Center (Kansas City, Missouri) The Space Between Our Selves, 2012

The Ross (Lincoln, Nebraska) Tender Muscles: five films by Charles Fairbanks, 2012

CONCORD (Los Angeles, California) Tender Muscles: five films by Charles Fairbanks, 2012

Anthology Film Archives (New York, New York) Tender Muscles: five films by Charles Fairbanks, 2011

Deluge (Victoria, Canada) Wrestling with my Father, 2011

SOMA (Mexico City, Mexico) Luchando sobre los roles de género, 2011

2739 Edwin (Detroit, Michigan) Flexing Muscles, 2010

The Arena Sports Bar (Ann Arbor, Michigan) Wrestling with Representation, 2008

San Angel Folk Art (San Antonio, Texas) As part of FotoSeptiembre, 2005

Irene Carlsen Photography Gallery (LaVerne College, California) Wrestling with Representation 2005

Artists' Television Access (ATA) (San Francisco, California) ¡Que Viva la Lucha! 2004

Galería Municipal de Cintalapa (Cintalapa, Mexico) El Nacimiento del Gato Tuerto, 2004

festivals & screenings

Visions du Réel (Nyon, Switzerland) 2012

Athens International Film & Video Festival (Athens, Ohio) 2012

Ann Arbor Film Festival (Ann Arbor, Michigan) 2012

ETHNOCINECA (Vienna, Austria) 2012

EFF Portland (Portland, Oregon) 2012

VLADY (Mexico City, Mexico) Ciclo de Cine de Lucha Libre, 2012

Berlinale Directors Lounge (Berlin, Germany) 2012

ICDOCS (Iowa City, Iowa) 2012

MECAL (Barcelona, Spain) 2012

Bradford International Film Festival (Bradford, England) 2012

CINEMAROSA at the Queens Museum (Queens, New York) 2012

Strange Beauty (Durham, North Carolina) 2012

Thin Line Film Festival (Denton, Texas) 2012

Oxford Film Festival (Oxford, Mississippi) 2012

Macon Film Festival (Macon, Georgia) 2012

[The Effort presents Mucha Lucha](#) (London, England) 2012
[Festival Les Inattendus](#) (Lyon, France) 2012
[VIDEOMEDEJA](#) (Novi Sad, Serbia) 2011
[Chicago Underground Film Festival](#) (Chicago, Illinois) Salonathon at Beauty Bar, 2011
[SF Doc Fest](#) (San Francisco, California) 2011
[Indie Memphis](#) (Memphis, Tennessee) 2011
[Interfilm](#) (Berlin, Germany) 2011
[Filmer à tout prix](#) (Brussels, Belgium) 2011
[KLEX](#) (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia) 2011
[Lone Star Film Festival](#) (Fort Worth, Texas) 2011
[Festival International du Documentaire Étudiant](#) (Paris, France) 2011
[Biblioteca Benjamín Franklin](#) (Mexico City, Mexico) *La Lucha de Corazones: LOLA CONTRA IRMA*, 2011
[Lightbox](#) (London, England) Lightbox Presents: Supershorts, 2011
[LACLA: the Latin American Cinema of Los Angeles](#) (Los Angeles, California) Cine Sin Fronteras, 2011
[Dallas Video Fest](#) (Dallas, Texas) 2011
[Antimatter](#) (Victoria, Canada) 2011
[Video Dumbo](#) (Brooklyn, New York) 2011
[New Orleans Film Festival](#) (New Orleans, Louisiana) 2011
[Basement Media Fest](#) (Cambridge, Massachusetts) 2011
[São Paulo International Short Film Festival](#) (São Paulo, Brazil) 2011
[WNDX](#) (Winnipeg, Canada) 2011
[Olympia Film Festival](#) (Olympia, Washington) 2011
[Chicago Filmmakers' New Documentary Showcase](#) (Chicago, Illinois) 2011
[Host Gallery](#) (London, England) *Irma*, 2011
[Syracuse International Film Festival](#) (Syracuse, New York) 2011
[New York International Latino Film Festival](#) (New York, New York) 2011
[Dokufest Kosovo](#) (Prizren, Kosovo) 2011
[Edindocs](#) (Edinburgh, Scotland) 2011
[NET: Nebraska Educational Television](#) (statewide broadcast) 2011
[Filmstreams Local Filmmakers Showcase](#) (Omaha, Nebraska) 2011
[New Filmmakers](#) (New York, New York) 2011
[Rooftop Films](#) (New York, New York) 2011
[SilverDocs](#) (Washington, D.C.) 2011
[Cut and Run Tour](#) (various locations) 2011
[Chicago Underground Film Festival](#) (Chicago, Illinois) 2011
[Festival de Cinema de Huesca](#) (Huesca, Spain) 2011
[National Gallery of Armenia](#) (Yerevan, Armenia), 2011
[London International Documentary Festival](#) (London, England) 2011
[IndieLisboa](#) (Lisbon, Portugal) 2011
[Frameline Film Festival](#) (San Francisco, California) 2011
[Independent Film Festival Boston](#) (Boston, Massachusetts) 2011
[BUFF: the Boston Underground Film Festival](#) (Boston, Massachusetts) 2011
[Athens International Film Festival](#) (Athens, Ohio) 2011
[Full Frame Documentary Film Festival](#) (Durham, North Carolina) 2011
[Images Festival](#) (Toronto, Canada) 2011
[ICdocs](#) (Iowa City, Iowa) 2011
[Australian International Experimental Film Festival](#) (Melbourne, Australia) 2011
[Film Fest Dresden](#) (Dresden, Germany) 2011
[Black Maria Film Festival](#) (Jersey City, New Jersey) 2011
[DOXA](#) (Vancouver, Canada) 2011
[Arizona International Film Festival](#) (Tucson, Arizona) 2011
[Indie Spirit Film Festival](#) (Colorado Springs, Colorado) 2011
[Santa Cruz Film Festival](#) (Santa Cruz, California) 2011
[Play-Doc](#) (Tui, Spain) 2011
[Strange Beauty](#) (Durham, North Carolina) 2011

[Carolina Film + Video Fest](#) (Greensboro, North Carolina) 2011
[Florida Film Festival](#) (Orlando, Florida) 2011
[Big Muddy Film Festival](#) (Carbondale, Illinois) 2011
[Slamdance Film Festival](#) (Park City, Utah) 2011
[FLEX: the Florida Experimental Film Festival](#) (Gainesville, Florida) 2011
[Stuttgart Filmwinter](#) (Stuttgart, Germany) 2011
[Festival International de Film Ethnographique du Québec](#) (Montreal, Canada) 2011
[Omaha Film Festival](#) (Omaha, Nebraska) 2011
[Big Sky Documentary Film Festival](#) (Missoula, Montana) 2011
[Sebastopol Documentary Film Festival](#) (Sebastopol, California) 2011
[Oxford Film Festival](#) (Oxford, Mississippi) 2011
[Festival des Cinémas Différents et Expérimentaux de Paris](#) (Paris, France) 2010
[Aarhus Film Festival](#) (Aarhus, Denmark) 2010
[Image + Nation](#) (Montreal, Canada) 2010
[Festival de Cine Cero Latitud](#) (Quito, Ecuador) 2010
[Virginia Film Festival](#) (Charlottesville, Virginia) 2010
[Festival dei Popoli](#) (Florence, Italy) 2010
[CPH:DOX](#) (Copenhagen, Denmark) 2010
[Morelia International Film Festival](#) (Morélia, Mexico) 2010
[DocsDF](#) (Mexico City, Mexico) 2010
[ExGround Film Festival](#) (Wiesbaden, Germany) 2010
[ATA Film & Video Festival](#) (San Francisco, CA) 2010
[Tucson Film & Music Festival](#) (Tucson, AZ) 2010
[Gangrene Comedy Film Festival](#) (Layton, Utah) 2010
[Scrummage Moving Pictures](#) (Detroit, MI) 2010
[Flagstaff Film Festival](#) (Flagstaff, AZ) 2010
[Nevada City Film Festival](#) (Nevada City, California) 2010
[Media City Film Festival](#) (Windsor, Canada) 2010
[Hamburg International Short Film Festival](#) (Hamburg, Germany), 2010
[MUFF: Montreal Underground Film Festival](#) (Montreal, Canada) 2010
[Videopolis](#) (Baltimore, Maryland) 2010
[Athens International Film & Video Festival](#) (Athens, Ohio) 2010
[Hott Lava](#) (Ann Arbor, Michigan) 2010
[Sans Canal Fixe](#) (Tours, France) Filmer Sa Famille, 2010
[KranFilm](#) (Brussels, Belgium) Mom and Dad: three documentary films, 2009
[B-Docs cinéclub](#) (Liège, Belgium) Filmer Ses Parents, 2009
[Botanique](#) (Brussels, Belgium) Regards Croisés, 2009
[Les Brigittines](#) (Brussels, Belgium) SIC screenings, 2009
[Netwerk](#) (Aalst, Belgium) SIC screenings, 2009

group exhibitions

[Netwerk: Aalst](#) (Aalst, Belgium) SoundImageCulture: Poetics of Observation, 2011
[Transformer Gallery](#) (Washington, DC) Storefront Video, 2011
[Cobalt Studio](#) (Chicago, Illinois) ¡Action Figures!, 2011
[Gallery Project](#) (Ann Arbor, Michigan) Extremes, 2011
[EDELO](#) (San Cristobal, Mexico) Atemporal e Individual, 2011
[The Natatorium](#) (Ann Arbor, Michigan) Ann Arbor Exile, 2009
[Hot Dog](#) (Omaha, Nebraska) Yesterday, 2009
[Sheppard Gallery](#) (Reno, Nevada) I Like Winners: Sports and Selfhood, 2009
[Gallery Project](#) (Ann Arbor, Michigan) Gender Agenda, 2008
[SH\cüt\](#) (Ann Arbor, Michigan) wrestling burlesque performance with Malcolm Tulip, 2008
[Work](#) (Detroit, Michigan) Consistency and Change, 2008
[Temporary Gallery](#) (Grand Rapids, Michigan) The Bad Show, 2007
[Robbins Gallery](#) (Ann Arbor, Michigan) Waiting for Translation, 2007
[ACT Station](#) (Hikone, Japan) Do you live here?, 2007

Eyedrum (Atlanta, Georgia) Fingers + Codes: the contemporary portrait, 2007
Torrance Art Museum (Los Angeles, California) Command + Z, 2007
ebayaday (curated online exhibition: ebayaday.com) December 2006
Guggenheim Gallery (Los Angeles, California) HI RES / LO RES, 2006
Work (Ann Arbor, Michigan) Remnants from Passage, 2006
Los Angeles Center for Digital Art (LACDA) (Los Angeles, California) New Math, 2006
Spark Festival of Electronic Music and Art (Minneapolis, Minnesota) 2006
Bemis Art Center (Omaha, Nebraska) Lucky Sevens, 2005
Regis Art Center (Minneapolis, Minnesota) FreshWorks, 2005
Pingyao International Photo Festival (Pingyao, China) 2005
The Luggage Store Gallery (San Francisco, California) Frenzy II, 2004
Millard Sheets Gallery (Los Angeles, California) L.A. County Fair: New Photography Competition, 2004
Cummings Art Building (Stanford, California) Undergraduate Fine Arts Exhibition, 2003
Stanford Art Gallery (Stanford, California) Undergraduate Grant Winners Exhibition, 2002

awards

Second Prize, ICDocs, 2012
The Eileen Maitland Award (best movie concerning women's experience), Ann Arbor Film Festival, 2012
Best Movie in three categories, Official Best of Fest Awards, for WRESTLING WITH MY FATHER, 2012
Best Movie in one category, Official Best of Fest Awards, for IRMA, 2012
Special Mention of the Jury, VIDEOMEDEJA, 2011
Best Documentary – Honorable Mention, Carolina Film Festival, 2011
Best Experimental Film – Honorable Mention, Oxford Film Festival, 2011
Best of Festival – Honorable Mention, Stuttgart Filmwinter, 2011
SHORT:DOX Prize, CPH:DOX, 2010
Best of Festival, Gangrene Comedy Film Festival, 2010
First Place, Michigan Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Championship, 2010
Winner, LACDA (Los Angeles Center for Digital Art) Juried Show, 2005
First Place, Los Angeles County Fair: New Photography Competition, 2004
Humanities Award in Studio Art, Stanford University, 2003
Year's Best Photography, PDN Photo-Annual, 2003
PAC-10 Academic All-Conference Wrestling Team, 2000
Nebraska State Wrestling Champion, 1998

grants + fellowships

Guggenheim Fellowship, 2012
Flaherty Seminar Fellowship, 2010
Smuckers-Wagstaff Graduate Research Grant, University of Michigan, 2010
Jacob K. Javits Memorial Fellowship, 2007-10
Graduate Residency, The Center for World Performance Studies, University of Michigan, 2008
Rackham Graduate School Research Grant, University of Michigan, 2007
Graduate Fellowship & Pioneer Scholarship, University of Minnesota, 2005
Stanford Undergraduate Research Award in Studio Art, 2001 & 2002

lectures + publications

Tepoztlán Institute, Mexico, 2010
Microresidency and Lecture, Kitchen Budapest, February 2009
Staging Truth and Performing the Nation: Choreographies of Border Militarism in Early Nonfiction Cinema.
research paper for the History in the Making Conference: Sources of Controversy (Montreal) 2008
We Cannot Be Colorblind: op-ed article for the Michigan Daily about Proposition 2, election day 2006
Writer, Consultant, and Artist for Reframing Photography: Theory and Practice (Routledge, 2010), 2006
Emerging Digerati Lecture, Institute for New Media Studies, Weisman Art Museum, Minneapolis, 2005
Hired by Fortune Magazine to photograph Pro-Wrestlers for their August 1 issue, 2005
PDN Photo-Annual: Year's Best Photography 2003

press + media

Artland (Lincoln, Nebraska) _____, 2012

Rumore (Rome, Italy), Charles Fairbanks, by Giona Nazzaro, February 2011

The Reader (Omaha, Nebraska), Passion Unmasked, by Leo Adam Biga, February 2011

Kearney Hub (Kearney, Nebraska), Lex Native is One-Eyed-Cat, Filmmaker in Mexico, January 2011

KRVN (Lexington, Nebraska), radio interview with Dave Schroeder, November 2010

Lexington Clipper-Herald (Nebraska), Chuck Fairbanks: The Man Behind the Mask, 23 October 2010

Omaha World Herald (Nebraska), Showcase is a Reminder of the Creativity Among Us, 12 August 2010

Omaha.net (Omaha, Nebraska), Local Filmmakers Showcase Dreams Big, 5 August 2010

The Reader (Omaha, Nebraska), Declaration of Independents, 4 August 2010

Omaha World Herald - Showcased Films Vast, Varied, 5 August 2010

Montreal Mirror - Cinematic Cojones, 14 May 2010

Detroit MetroTimes - Flexing Muscles a Pick of the Week, 10 April 2010

WDET, Detroit - radio interview by Rebecca Mazzei, April 2010

teaching and related work

Assistant Professor of Media Arts, Antioch College, 2012+

Cel-Phone Videography Instructor for a U.S. State Department-funded course for young, indigenous, women activists (Oaxaca, Mexico) 2011-2012

Programmer and Producer for the Courtisane Film Festival (Ghent, Belgium) 2011-12

Translator of the program guide and essays, from French to English, Filmer à tout prix (Brussels, Belgium) 2011

Video instructor and consultant to Jovenes en Acción (Mexico City, Mexico) 2011

Visiting Professor of Visual Arts, UNICACH-Universidad de Ciencias y Artes de Chiapas (Tuxtla, Mexico) 2011

Wrestling Instructor & Choreographer, theatrical production of Trafford Tanzi, Directed by Malcolm Tulip, 2010

Graduate Student Instructor: Art & Design Senior Independent Project, co-taught with professors Phoebe

Gloeckner and Tirtza Even, University of Michigan, 2009-10

Graduate Student Instructor: Art & Design Senior Independent Project, co-taught with professors Satoru

Takahashi and Marionetta Porter, University of Michigan, 2007-8

Research assistant and programmer for artist Tirtza Even, 2007

Graduate Student Instructor: Art and Society, taught with professor Nick Tobier, University of Michigan, 2007

Graduate Student Instructor: Art & Design Perspectives: The Creators, University of Michigan, 2006

Writer, Consultant, and Artist for Reframing Photography: Theory and Practice (Routledge, 2010), 2006

Photography Instructor, University of Minnesota, 2006

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Sound Art, taught with Abinadi Meza, University of Minnesota, 2006

Graduate Teaching Assistant: Photography, University of Minnesota, 2005-6

Artist-in-residence and Photography instructor, Museum of Nebraska Art (Kearney, Nebraska) 2004-5

Artist-in-residence and Photography instructor, Galería Municipal (Cintalapa, Mexico) 2004

Research assistant for artist Paul Demarinis, 2003

Art Instructor, Boys and Girls Club (Menlo Park, California) 2003

Art Instructor for sixth graders (Palo Alto and East Palo Alto, California) 2003

Art Instructor and English Tutor, Middle School ESL classroom (Lexington, Nebraska) 2002