

Maximilian Le Cain



Maximilian Le Cain (b.1978)

closewatchfilms@gmail.com | maximilianlecaain.com

Maximilian Le Cain has created a prolific body of experimental moving image work including features, shorts, installations and film-related performances. He was Arts Council/UCC Film Artist in Residence 2023 at University College Cork. His most recent feature *Solitaire* (2023), made with the support of an Arts Council Project Award, premiered at Cork International Film Festival 2023. Other recent works include *Daughter of the Sun* (2021), a short based on the Irish legend of the Cailleach Beara, and *Blissed* (2022) an erotic feature film heralded for pushing the envelope of Irish cinema. His filmmaking proposes a personal relationship with cinema as a site of haunting. Accepted visual and storytelling codes are encouraged to collapse into a more personalised system that approaches moving imagery as an experiential construct open to possession by multiple claims of memory and interpretation.

Le Cain is currently completing a new film, *Now & Forever*, made in collaboration with Shelly Kamiel, that is scheduled for release in late 2024. His film adaptation of composer Jennifer Walshe's *Dordán*, commissioned by The Quiet Music Ensemble, is also slated for a 2024 release.

He is affiliated with Experimental Film Society (EFS), an autonomous entity designed for producing cinema through experimentation. His work featured in an exhibition and event series at Project Arts Centre, Dublin in May/June 2021 to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of EFS.

Le Cain is also known for his collaborations with Vicky Langan which created an intimate but unsettling personal universe in film and performance across more than a decade. *Inside*, their Arts Council funded feature film, was exhibited at, among others, TULCA 2017 and VISUAL, Carlow, and was acquired for the Arts Council Collection in 2020.

Le Cain is also a film programmer and critic. He is co-director of The CineSalon Experimental Film Festival which will hold its inaugural festival in September 2024. He programmes Triskel Christchurch Cinema's experimental film strand. He was founder and editor of Cork Film Centre's online experimental film journal *Experimental Conversations* (2008-2014). In 2017, he co-edited the book *Luminous Void: Experimental Film Society Documents*, a history of Experimental Film Society and its follow-up volume, *Luminous Void: Twenty Years of Experimental Film Society* that was published in late 2020. He holds an MA (first class honours) in Art & Process from Crawford College of Art & Design, Cork.

To browse his full filmography, please visit maximilianlecaain.com

Selected screenings / performances / exhibitions include:

The IFI, Dublin; Cork Film Festival; Project Arts Centre, Dublin; Temple Bar Gallery + Studios, Dublin; Oberhausen Film Festival; Microscope Gallery, New York; Lausanne Underground Film & Music Festival; TULCA Festival of Visual Arts, Galway; VISUAL, Carlow; Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris; Cork Midsummer Festival; Museum of Contemporary Art, Tehran; Berlin Experimental Film Festival; 12 Star Gallery, London; Cinemateca Museu de Arte Moderna, Rio de Janeiro; Cinemateca Nacional de Ecuador, Quito; Loft Project Etagi, St.Petersburg; Tabakalera, San Sebastian; Triskel Arts Centre, Cork; National Sculpture Factory, Cork.

Experimental Film Society

Le Cain is affiliated with Experimental Film Society (EFS). Founded and run by filmmaker Rouzbeh Rashidi, this autonomous entity produces and promotes the work of a group of international filmmakers who are linked by a dedication to personal experimental cinema and an exploratory, non script-based approach to their work. Le Cain's work has been featured as part of EFS screenings over the past fifteen years in, among dozens of other national and international venues: Project Arts Centre, Dublin; Spectacle Theater, New York; The American Gallery, New York; Temple Bar Gallery + Studios, Dublin; Museum of Contemporary Art, Tehran; Lichtblick-Kino, Berlin; Cinemateca Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Galway Arts Centre; Ormston House, Limerick; Triskel Arts Centre, Cork; Bogota Experimental Film Festival; ECRA Festival, Rio de Janeiro; Cork Film Festival; Ormeau Baths Gallery, Belfast; Lucca Film Festival, Italy; University of the Philippines Film Institute; MUSAC (Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla, León), Spain; Drifting Clouds, London; CineB Festival, Chile. experimentalfilmsociety.com

Langan / Le Cain

Since 2010, Le Cain and sound/performance artist Vicky Langan have been working together in a unique creative audio-visual partnership. This is built on the strikingly fitting match between Langan's magnetic, often troublingly intense presence as a performer and Le Cain's distinctively jarring, disruptive visual rhythms. They have created seventeen moving image works together so far, which have screened nationally and internationally. Their work has received retrospective screenings at the Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris, and Lausanne Underground Film & Music Festival. In November 2019, they premiered a new film, *Personal Growth*, at Sirius Arts Centre, Cobh, as part of Cork Film Festival. In 2017, they received an Arts Council award to make *Inside*, their first feature film, which was exhibited at TULCA Festival of Visual Arts and VISUAL, Carlow and was acquired for the Arts Council Collection in 2020. In 2017, they extended their work together to include live performance collaborations and performed at Lausanne Underground Film & Music Festival and Cork Midsummer Festival. *Dirt* (2012) is hosted on The Wire magazine's website as a tie-in with an interview with Langan. *Light/Sound* (2010) is part of the permanent collection of the Collectif Jeune Cinéma, Paris where it featured as part of a screening to mark fifty years of the CJC in 2021.

CineSalon

Le Cain is co-director of CineSalon Experimental Film Festival, a new festival taking place in Cork City and online. It celebrates personal, poetic and formally experimental filmmaking from across the world, providing a platform for film artists to share and discuss their work with adventurous audiences in a relaxed atmosphere. Curated by filmmakers, this defiantly independent festival exists to showcase the wild reeds of visionary film that ignore accepted cinematic paradigms and are all the more inspiring for it. It grew out of CineSalon, a successful quarterly experimental film screening event that has taken place at The Guesthouse Project, Cork since June 2023 which was founded and co-curated by Le Cain and Benjamin Burns. cinesalon.org

Curation

Le Cain has been responsible for arranging retrospective screenings and talks in Cork by Abigail Child (in collaboration with The National Sculpture Factory), Vivienne Dick, James Fotopoulos and (in collaboration with Cork Film Festival) the Buharov Brothers and Christoph Girardet, and workshops by Peter Tscherkassky, Pip Chodorov and John Porter. Between 2009 and 2013, he was the film programmer for Black Sun, a regular, Cork-based experimental music/performance/film event which frequently featured Irish premieres of new and classic avant-garde cinema. In 2012, this strand of Black Sun expanded to include film-only events which took place at Triskel Arts Centre. Following the discontinuation of Black Sun in 2013, Le Cain started curating Phantoscope, an ongoing quarterly experimental film programme at Triskel Christchurch Cinema.

Criticism

An internationally recognised writer on film, Le Cain is a regular contributor to *Visual Artists Ireland*. He edited the online experimental film magazine *Experimental Conversations* (2008 – 2014). He co-edited the books *Luminous Void: Experimental Film Society Documents* and *Luminous Void: Twenty Years of Experimental Film Society*, histories of Experimental Film Society. He wrote booklet notes for the Re:Voir DVD releases of Philippe Garrel's *Les Huates Solitudes* and the Buharov Brothers' *Slow Mirror*. He has contributed texts to, amongst others: *documenta 14*, *Senses of Cinema*, *La Furia Umana*, *Vertigo* and *Film Ireland*. His essays also appear in the books *The Cinema of Roman Polanski: Dark Spaces of the World* (Wallflower Press, 2006), *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Documentary Film* (Routledge, 2005), two editions of the Lucca Film Festival annual publication, *Allan Dwan, a Dossier* (Lumiere, 2013) and *William A. Wellman: A Dossier* (La Furia Umana, 2012).