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Bilbao

society and contemporary culture **BILBAO** 

## AZKUNA ZENTROA ASSOCIATED ARTIST

## Laida Lertxundi <sup>8 topaketa</sup>

8 Topaketa is conceived as an ephemeral school that combines pedagogical practices with the dismantling of the production processes of a film to create something new. Eight workshops and collaborative filming that will result in a work in 16 mm. Here are some notes and anecdotes about the 2021 meetings:

The first meeting took place in June with Usoa Fullaondo and we worked on a text by Anne Carson on Safó. Taking the ideas from the text to a formal plane we triangulated desire: through a series of objects in space we devised a gesture in which later another person intervened, thus creating a triangle. A few days later, we took the trip to Urkiola and filmed there with the objects in various configurations, in addition to running uphill and filming the flora and fauna.

The second meeting with Sirah Badiola and Keira Greene dealt with the body, in tribute to Anna Halprin. Led by Sirah, we followed the Feldenkrais method and dance exercises in the auditorium of Azkuna Zentroa. The next day, we set off, this time downhill, in search of the beech forest on Mount Orixol (on the map it says Oriol), a long journey for the group. In the beech forest, barefoot, we did a Skotomorphogenesis exercise, as a kind of ritual. We filmed special scenes with Bea Setién, her body and a beech tree. We watched Ivonne Rainer movies.





The third meeting took us to Anboto, in search of sounds with which to make the landscape soundtrack. We were on a hill that surprised us with very low temperatures, and despite being mid-July,







we were cold. The workshop at Azkuna Zentroa with Alex Alonso Díaz consisted of in-depth listening exercises by Pauline de Oliveros and the staging of a sound performance by Cornelius Cardew. We talked and discussed the organization or dissolution of hierarchies within the practice of an experimental composition. We watched Kenneth Anger movies.

We always start the meetings with a map of Euskal Herria in which we mark the way to the mountain where we are going to shoot. In the fourth meeting Ren Ebel guided us through a generous exercise of creating maps, drawing and writing about a place that we know very well. We subsequently joined these places collectively and created a new map. We watched films by David Lamelas. In Gorbea we took a very long hike uphill with changing weather which left us little time to film, but we found a labyrinth in which Jimmy Schaus walked with a kind of dog-bear, our ephemeral friend.

The fifth meeting brought us to Clara Schulmann, with whom we transcribed voice-overs that we selected solo and created a collective exercise by giving the body back to these voices. The next day we went up to Mugarrekolanda, a hard climb in full sun. We stood at one point and created a choreography of bodies, texts and voices in 16mm. We watched movies by Tracey Emin, Annie MacDonell and Maïder Fortuné.

We will be waiting for you at this year's meetings - there are only 3 left! Adi Egon!

Laida Lertxundi