



# POLOUTOPIA

HDK-Valand | Master's programme in Film | 2023

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**“WHERE DO YOU GO  
WHEN YOU DON'T  
FEEL SAFE?”**

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Where do you go when you don't feel safe?

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# SYNOPSIS

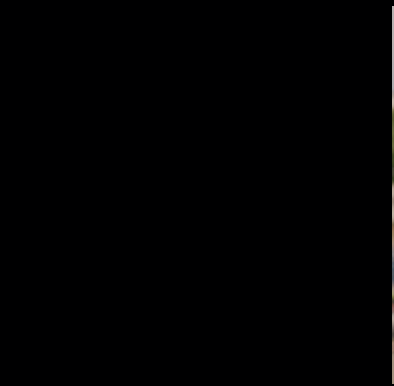
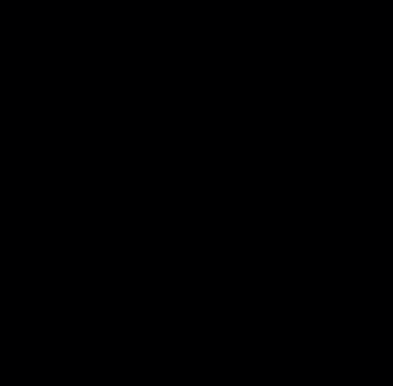
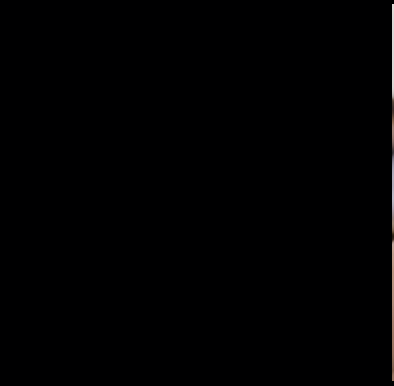
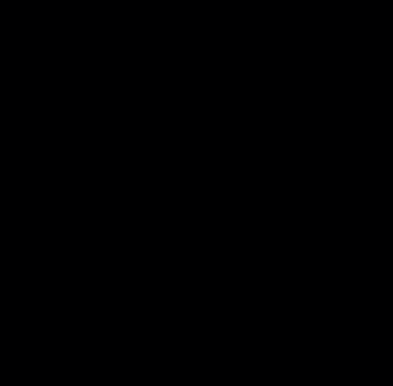
A trip from the inside to the outside, from the individual to the collective, from a safe space to other places through the bike and bike polo, a mixed-gender sport. The filmmaker narrates the story as if it were a conversation between herself and her memories of her mother, who has passed. Her thoughts are reflected in life experiences, including traveling, biking, and bike polo friend(s)/community.



# BIKE POLO & FLINTA

Bike polo is a mixed gender sport, open to transgender and non-binary people. It is played on bicycles in exchange for horses. The objective of the game is to pass the ball through the opponent's goal. I have been playing bike polo since 2014 and I stand as a FLINTA player (stands for Female, Lesbian, Intersex, Transex, and Agender). It was critical for me to incorporate open dialogues between FLINTA players as a method into my creative processes to inform my documentary practice. Non-hierarchical dialogues between communities and knowledge facilitators channel the changes we—you, me, everyone—wish to apport to the spaces inhabited. The

discussions were crucial because, as a player and part of the bike polo community, me and other FLINTA have been involved in undesired circumstances that need to be brought to light so that we all contribute to change in the community to which we belong. In fact, we want to keep it as a safe haven for ourselves and newcomers. The creative process behind *PoloUtopia* was thought to be a collective practice, then became very individual, which ended up playing a role as a negotiation to connect individual experiences reflected in the collective ones.



THIS IS WHAT  
**FLINTA**  
BIKE POLO PLAYERS  
LOOK LIKE

# DEALING WITH MY MOTHER'S GRIEF

The law of life; we are born, we live, and then we die. Surely, no one is prepared to suffer the death of the person who gave them life. My biggest fear was knowing that one day my mom would pass away. My biggest fear came true while I was starting my studies in my master's degree. Definitely, grief is unpredictable, it was taking more energy than expected, my head was definitely elsewhere while I was making my short film. I decided to work with my experiences, grief, and bike polo in one place. That was the stand point to create *PoloUtopia*, as if it were a dialogue between personal and collective experiences.

An aerial photograph of a coastline, showing a white line (likely a road or path) on the left side, leading towards a body of water. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

# ARTIST STATEMENT

Lina Maria's interest in filmmaking started when she found an intense connection with biking. It led her to discover social activism, feminism, bike polo, and solo traveling. She refers to herself as a decolonial feminist. Her artistic research is focused on the intersection of decolonial feminist practices and collective filmmaking. She sees filmmaking as a tool for social change and for creating alternative ways to share knowledge through participatory and collaborative practices.

Beltran explores her artistic and visual interests through sensorial filmmaking by playing with images and music at a rhythmic pace. She is interested in developing methodologies for participatory and collaborative filmmaking, expanding her research within the bike polo community, and her social project, Rakas Bike Polo. As a decolonial feminist, Lina is interested in questioning and exploring her family history and cultural heritage; she wants to continue exploring issues around memory and mourning.





## ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Lina Ma. Córdoba Beltrán (b. Bogotá 1989)

Decolonial feminist. As a maker, she sees filmmaking as a tool for social change. Her artistic research is focused on the intersection of decolonial feminist practices and participatory filmmaking. Her interests are activism, feminism, biking, bike polo, and solo traveling. Lina wants to continue his artistic exploration through sensory filmmaking



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