

Some information on this page is only available in Dutch

## FARAH RAHMAN

Multi-sensory, ethnobotanical art projects, ritual and medicinal uses of plants, remixing archives into new narratives, ol-factory, analog photography techniques, camera less photography, video/analog projection art

The artist as ethnobotanist Farah's artistic research practice is similar to the work of an ethnobotanist, who analyses complex relationships between plants, people and cultures through field research. In doing so, Farah starts from her own family history in Suriname and India. She creates multisensory works involving long-forgotten memories and political and spiritual relationships between people and plants. How can we reshape our relationship to plants—other than as food sources or decoration—by connecting to the complex cultural meanings in which humans and plants are always intertwined? The exhibition as a place for collective research For the solo exhibit Plantas Harmonias, Farah takes visitors along to collectively explore during her working sessions in the exhibition space, workshops and expeditions in the Amstelpark. This way, the exhibition becomes a place for presentation and fieldwork, with the Amstelpark as a laboratory for collective research into the complex (post)colonial relationships between people and plants. Workshops During her exhibition Farah led public plant printmaking workshops. While collecting plants and materials gathered around the Amstelpark, we delve deeper into their meaning and history, allowing you to build your own personal narrative around the plants you choose. At the end of the workshop, participants can take their own prints home. Some prints were left behind and continued to develop as part of the exhibition.

### WEBSITES

[www.fariatie.nl](http://www.fariatie.nl)

### SOCIAL MEDIA

[www.instagram.com/fariatie/](https://www.instagram.com/fariatie/)

### MEMBER OF ARTISTS' INITIATIVE/COLLECTIVE/INCUBATOR

Masala Movement & Filmwerkplaats WORM Rotterdam.

### MEMBER OF A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION/ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION

Stroom Den Haag

### EDUCATION

2019 - Master Art Science Den Haag, Koninklijke  
2022 Academie van Beeldende Kunsten diploma

2002 - HBO Audiovisuele Vormgeving Rotterdam,  
2007 Willem de Kooning Academie diploma

1996 - Grafische vormgeving Grafisch Lyceum  
2000 Rotterdam diploma

2016 Scent creation, distilling, ol factory scent

- performance Mediamatic Amsterdam.Klara Rabat, Maki Ueda
- 2016 Workshop The Film Projector as an instrument worm filmwerkplaats rotterdam
- 2018 Workshop Movin slides worm filmwerkplaats rotterdam
- 2012 Workshop scenario schrijven ZEMOS98 Sevilla Spanje
- 2006 Workshop Super 8 film Willem de Kooning academie, Frank de Bruin Super8 lab
- 2017 Introductory 16mm film workshop worm filmwerkplaats rotterdam
- 2018 Workshop Perfume Mediamatic Amsterd
- Workshop Soap Mediamatic Amsterdam.Klara Rabat, Maki Ueda

## EXHIBITIONS

- 2024 Stroom Den Haag Den Haag, Netherlands Positions: Soft Intimacies. (Review except from Metropolis M magazine about the exhibit.) Indigo reappears in Farah Rahman's botanical research which includes a cinematic installation, archival materials, recipes and written reflections. Diapositives rhythmically rotate on a slide projector, transferring images of plants on the walls. Entitled Grantangi Plant Medicine (Thank you plant medicine), Rahman's work honours the ancestors who revered the healing power of plants, invoking their guidance. The artist imbues meaning into the indigo-blue colour, which she employs as a protective shield. 'Creole Surinamese people have a tradition of taking herbal baths with the indigofera plant to protect themselves against evil spirits', Rahman writes in a text accompanying the work. 'We were washed in blue waters as babies. It connects to our hybrid identity'. She also traces the historical journey of indigo, highlighting its presence on Surinamese plantations due to the forced displacement of enslaved people from Africa. Collecting

## PROJECTS

- 2024 Positions: Soft Intimacies Stroom Den Haag (NL) Den Haag, Netherlands [stroom.nl/activiteiten/tentoonstelling.php?t\\_id=4468688](https://stroom.nl/activiteiten/tentoonstelling.php?t_id=4468688) Positions: Soft Intimacies is een groepstentoonstelling van vijf Haagse kunstenaars die werken op het snijvlak van spiritualiteit, ecologie, cultureel erfgoed en mondelinge geschiedenis. Eugenie Boon, Yair Callender, Haevan Lee, Farah Rahman en Amber Toorop nodigen de bezoeker uit om de ambiguïteit van persoonlijke en collectieve manieren van herinneren te verkennen. Hun artistieke praktijk is gevormd door poëtische reflecties, ontleend aan persoonlijke ervaringen en achtergronden.
- 2023 Plantas Harmonias: connecting continents through medicinal and ritual plants is a solo exhibition Zone2Source Amsterdam, Netherlands [zone2source.net/tentoonstelling/plantas-harmonias/](https://zone2source.net/tentoonstelling/plantas-harmonias/) Plantas Harmonias: connecting continents through medicinal and ritual plants is een solotentoonstelling waarin Farah Rahman bestaand en nieuw werk presenteert dat ze tijdens openingstijden verder in het Amstelpark ontwikkelt. Plantas Harmonias maakt deel uit van een reeks

	<p>the plants and medicinal mushrooms locally in the Hague, Rahman seeks to revive forgotten practices, strengthening her ties with her ancestors and embracing the resilience inherent in these practices and traditions.</p> <p><a href="https://metropolism.com/nl/recensie/the-gaps-and-grasps-from-positions-soft-intimacies-at-stroom-den-haag/">metropolism.com/nl/recensie/the-gaps-and-grasps-from-positions-soft-intimacies-at-stroom-den-haag/</a> Group</p>		<p>solotentoonstellingen bij Zone2Source, waarin kunstenaars gevraagd worden het artistieke onderzoek en maakproces van hun werk met het publiek te delen. De kunstenaar als etnobotanist Farah's artistieke onderzoekspraktijk is vergelijkbaar met het werk van een etnobotanist, die de complexe relaties tussen planten, volkeren en culturen analyseert door middel van veldonderzoek. Daarbij vertrekt ze vanuit haar eigen familiegeschiedenis in Suriname en India. Farah maakt multizintuigelijke werken waarin lang vergane herinneringen, politieke en spirituele relaties tussen mensen en planten een rol spelen. Hoe kunnen we onze relatie tot planten, anders dan als voedselbron of decoratie, opnieuw vorm geven in onze hedendaagse maatschappij vanuit de complexe culturele betekenissen waarin mens en plant verweven zijn?</p>
2024	<p>Podium Noord The Hague, Netherlands In het blauwe huisje in wijkpark de Horst is deze zomer een expositie te zien van hedendaagse kunstenaars. Deelnemende kunstenaars: Paul Combrink, Maria Ilieva, Farah Rahman en Emma Sebregts, Since Today (Gwenda Jakobs en Jonathan Looman). Podium NOORD kan sinds kort tijdelijk gebruik maken van het befaamde blauwe huisje in het park net achter het winkelcentrum Het Kleine Loo. Als een van de eerste activiteiten geeft zij nu de ruimte aan kunstenaars om de lege ruimte optimaal te benutten. De werken variëren van installaties, schilderijen, tekeningen tot een ingreep in de ruimte.</p> <p><a href="https://podiumnoord.nl/productie/expositie-blauwhout/4729/">podiumnoord.nl/productie/expositie-blauwhout/4729/</a> Group</p>	2018	<p>Anushtaan try-out performance Worm, Rotterdam Rotterdam, Netherlands <a href="https://vimeo.com/305043104">vimeo.com/305043104</a> Trailer work-in-progress: <a href="https://vimeo.com/305043104">https://vimeo.com/305043104</a> Password: ancestors2018</p>
		2018	<p>Into the Great wide open Nederland, Vlieland, Netherlands</p>
		2016	<p>Anthocyan - 16mm analog film projections installation Worm, Rotterdam Analog Film and Sound festival at WORM Filmwerkplaats Rotterdam, Netherlands 16mm analog film developer made with the use of bio chemistry plant processes. Exploring questions around the use of plants in colonial, medicinal and ritual acts and of environmental consciousness around analog photochemistry. The 16mm film projector's are used as a research instrument to examine form, structure and patterns in cuttings from plants.</p>
2024	<p>Positions: Soft Intimacies Stroom Den Haag Den Haag, Netherlands Positions: Soft Intimacies is een groepstentoonstelling van vijf Haagse kunstenaars die werken op het snijvlak van spiritualiteit, ecologie, cultureel erfgoed en mondelinge geschiedenis. Eugenie Boon, Yair Callender, Haevan Lee, Farah Rahman en Amber Toorop nodigen de bezoeker uit om de ambiguïteit van persoonlijke en collectieve manieren van herinneren te verkennen. Hun artistieke praktijk is gevormd door poëtische reflecties, ontleend aan persoonlijke ervaringen en achtergronden.</p> <p><a href="https://stroom.nl/activiteiten/tentoonstelling.php?t_id=4468688">stroom.nl/activiteiten/tentoonstelling.php?t_id=4468688</a> Group</p>	2016	<p>Deelname aan Open Atelier Route Noordwal 117 Vereniging Atelierroute</p>
		2014	
		2013	<p>Organisatie en workshop @VLO Festival Noordwal 117 Vereniging Kunst recycle festival door kunstenaars voor kinderen van 5 tot 12 jaar.</p>
2023	<p>Solo Exhibit, Plantas Harmonias: connecting continents through medicinal and ritual plants Zone2source Amsterdam, Netherlands</p>	2013	<p>Curator and facilitator for the 'Lost in Translation' project in The Hague PIP</p>

Plantas Harmonias: connecting continents through medicinal and ritual plants is a solo exhibition in which Farah Rahman presents existing and new work that she continues to develop during the exhibition's opening hours. Plantas Harmonias is part of a series of solo exhibitions at Zone2Source, in which artists share their artistic research and making processes with the public. The artist as ethnobotanist Farah's artistic research practice is similar to the work of an ethnobotanist, who analyses complex relationships between plants, people and cultures through field research. In doing so, Farah starts from her own family history in Suriname and India. She creates multisensorial works involving long-forgotten memories and political and spiritual relationships between people and plants. How can we reshape our relationship to plants—other than as food sources or decoration—by connecting to the complex cultural meanings in which humans and plants are always intertwined? The world exhibition The Amstelpark was created for a world horticultural exhibition, the 1972 Floriade: a typical modern colonial phenomenon where plants, animals and people are taken out of context and detached from their traditions and relationships. In Plantas Harmonias, Farah Rahman explores the cultural meanings of trees and plants from various places around the world and incorporates them into new artworks. The exhibition as a place for collective research For Plantas Harmonias, Farah takes visitors along to collectively explore during her working sessions in the exhibition space, workshops and expeditions in the Amstelpark. This way, the exhibition becomes a place for presentation and fieldwork, with the Amstelpark as a laboratory for collective research into the complex (post)colonial relationships between people and plants. Willows and Spores Presented in the exhibition is an installation of five treetrunks, Sensing Willow, which is an investigation into how a forest can be felt and experienced by listening to the sound

Bink36 part of "STREETS: Mapping and Connecting Young Creative Scenes in Europe" Platform Spartak Den Haag Art Jam The Hague, NL and Artist participation in 'Stories behind the city' project in Vranje Serbia part of "STREETS: Mapping and Connecting Young Creative Scenes in Europe"

of the tree and its surroundings. In the back space you can find the installation Symphony of Spores, which projects organic materials into the space. Another part of the exhibition is set up as a workshop, where each weekend Farah will develop her new research projects. Towards the end of the exhibition, Farah will research into the relationships and migration of the plants in the Amstelpark.

[zone2source.net/tentoonstelling/plantas-harmonias/](https://zone2source.net/tentoonstelling/plantas-harmonias/)  
Solo

2022 Djiera Nederlands Fotomuseum Rotterdam, Netherlands In her Djiera ('Cumin') series, Farah Rahman focuses on medicinal plants that found their way to her birth city of The Hague as a result of Dutch colonial history. She seeks to link them to the autobiographical story of her great-grandfather, Munshi Rahman Khan. The Djiera series consists of plant compositions featuring djiera, tajeblad (arrowleaf elephant ear), okra and sopropo: plants that Rahman buys at the main open-air market in The Hague and often uses in her cooking. Her photographs employ the analogue phytogram method: first a biochemical process using reactions between fresh plant material and other organic ingredients is used to produce an organic developing fluid. Rahman then creates her images by exposing the plants directly on photographic paper using sunlight. By employing these plants in her work, Rahman explores and reinforces her relationship to her historical cultural background. She connects in this way with the spirituality of plants, the resilience of past generations of her family, and the knowledge of medicinal plants that they carried with them in the colonial era and passed on to later generations.

[www.nederlandsfotomuseum.nl/tentoonstelling/verbeelding/](https://www.nederlandsfotomuseum.nl/tentoonstelling/verbeelding/)  
Group

2021 8.8 kilometers – A walk from W139 to Four Sisters W139 - presentation and production space for contemporary art Amsterdam, Netherlands Moving from the center to the edge of the city, this

slow walk will be accompanied by multimedia artist Farah Rahman, who will guide us through the wild plants and herbs we'll encounter along the way. The route, approximately 8.8km long, will pass through the parks and 'green spaces' of Amsterdam. The walk is meant to be a space to learn collectively and share knowledge about the spaces we are walking through and the plants we encounter. Once we reach the Four Sisters, we'll learn more about the garden and Muge's experiences, and we'll watch the sunset and eat together near the fire (with the little addition of our foraged herbs).

[w139.nl/en/event-8-8-kilometers-a-walk-from-w139-to-four-sisters/](https://w139.nl/en/event-8-8-kilometers-a-walk-from-w139-to-four-sisters/)  
Group

2021 Sensing Willow Royal Academy of Art - MA Art Science Graduation Show The Hague, Netherlands MA Art Science graduation work nominated for the Waag Technology and Society award. 'During many lockdown walks in Meijendel's constructed nature area I experimented with non-human relationships and other forms of listening by recording tree sounds via hydrophone and piezo microphones. These fieldrecordings are being transported through the wood in my installation. The work invites the audience to experience and imagine the sensorial experience of other species. By coming in physical contact with the wooden logs, subtle gestures to come closer and to relate and pay attention to the sound, scent composition and the texture of the tree as the other.' This work is part of an ongoing artistic research on how to sense a thinking forest. Listening to trees is part of a thinking and making process started by walking and wandering around in this area, sharpening my senses through my working method: different self made sensorial exercises. By exploring and perceiving the landscape around me I sat still, touched, smelled, looked, listened and interacted with my surroundings.

[fariatie.tumblr.com/Sensing%20Willow](https://fariatie.tumblr.com/Sensing%20Willow)  
Group

- 2019 Anushthan - A Decolonizing Ritual  
 Korzo Theatre and Vaillant Theatre The Hague, Netherlands In the name of our ancestors who have survived indentured labor and colonialism, and those who revolted against exploitation, oppression and dehumanization. Through this ritual where we make use of custom made henna rituals / self made incense / dance /light / sound that i made together with Fazle Shairmahomed , Devika Chotoe, Ludmila Rodrigues, An3 and Fred Janssen. We follow the footsteps of our ancestors in the fight for decolonization. Guided by the beats and sounds of ‘..Formerly known as..’ they set off on a journey towards the past to create healing for the future. The mechanisms and effects from the colonial past can still be felt, and through this ritual they create a joint moment to bring about healing and call for recognition of a shared history.  
[www.tinamustao.com/2019/10/06/anushthan/Group](http://www.tinamustao.com/2019/10/06/anushthan/Group)
- 2016 'Sarkaragraphy' exploring specific states of sugar HOOGTIJ, Holaa Festival Den Haag, Roodkapje Winterwolvern Festival Den Haag en Rotterdam, Netherlands Glass slide projections. A sugar crystal scented installation developed together with artist Wen Chin Fu. What does an audience feel when intertwined with scent and the enlarged projections of sugar crystals transforming slowly before their eyes?  
[fariatie.tumblr.com/SarkaragraphyDuo](http://fariatie.tumblr.com/SarkaragraphyDuo)
- 2016 'And now I am here' Europe by People, Muziekgebouw aan het IJ, Compagnie Theater Amsterdam Video installatie i.s.m. Creative Court. In 2015, two Dutch journalists went on a search for stories of statelessness in Europe. They came across complicated regulations, coping mechanisms and realism. Building on their findings, Creative Court developed ´ And now I am here ´ , a poetic video installation, that questions feelings of displacement from various angles. Interview excerpts and quotes from literature and philosophy merge with the images of video artist

Farah Rahman, whose work revolves around migration.

[fariatie.tumblr.com/andnowiamhere](http://fariatie.tumblr.com/andnowiamhere)

Duo

2016 'Het geluk daar is niet zoals hier'  
MUSEON Den Haag, Ongekend  
Bijzonder Festival. Den Haag  
Audiovisuele Installatie/performance  
i.s.m. kunstenaar Mark Ridder. Van 16  
april tot en met 21 mei 2016  
programmeert het Museon de  
multimedia-installatie 'Het geluk daar is  
niet zoals hier', die bezoekers  
meeneemt in de gedachten van  
vluchtelingen over vrijheid en  
onvrijheid. Deze installatie is  
ontwikkeld door de mediakunstenaars  
Farah Rahman en Mark Ridder, die op  
een aantal zondagen ook live  
performances geven in het Museon.  
Zelf kiezen en mixen De basis van 'Het  
geluk daar is niet zoals hier' is een grote  
hoeveelheid audiomateriaal uit het  
interviewproject Ongekend Bijzonder.  
Circa 50 tot 60 interviewfragmenten  
zijn gemixt met eigen film opnames in  
samenwerking GRNDPA film productie.  
Bezoekers kunnen de 'samples' zelf  
afwisselen op verschillende schermen.  
Zo ontstaat een dynamisch beeld dat  
steeds verandert door de keuzes van  
de bezoekers.

Duo

2016 Eurovisions Live Cinema Performance  
Framer Framed Gallery Ams, Biennale  
van Venetië preview days Realise - the  
resilience of art in liquid crises, EYE  
Film Institute, European Cultural  
Foundation Amsterdam, Creative  
Commons Festival at Museu D'Art  
Contemporani De Barcelona & Madrid  
at La Casa Encendida

Group

2015 Lalla Rookh Revisited Live Cinema  
Performance Zuiderstrand Theater,  
Dakota Theater, Vaillant Theater

Group

2015 Today's Art Festival The Hague and  
Roodkapje Winterwolven Festival  
Rotterdam Den Haag en Rotterdam,  
Netherlands Live video camerafeed  
performance

Duo



- 2014 Blikopener Festival Delft De Watertoren  
Delft Found Footage slide installation  
[Duo](#)
- 2012 European Souvenirs Live Cinema  
Performance British Film Institute,  
Mapping Festival Geneve, DokuFest  
Kosovo, Imagining Europe De Balie  
Amsterdam, ZEMOS98 Festival in  
Sevilla, Hondakin Festival in Bilbao, S8  
Festival in La Coruña  
[Group](#)
- 2011 Polystyrene projections. Live  
videomapping performance Todays Art  
Festival BYOB, Fiber Festival  
Amsterdam, De Haagse Grote Kerk, De  
Nacht van de Hoop.  
[Group](#)
- 2008 Award of Excellence at The World One  
Minute Exhibition. Beijing China  
(Contemporary Art museum) Brussels  
Belgium, Lisbon Portugal (Gulbenkian  
museum) Sao Paulo Brasil (Museum of  
Art) Vertoning van 'Cosmic-Giggle' en  
'Oxygen2' op The World One Minute  
Exhibition  
[Group](#)

## INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES/RESIDENCIES

- 2014 Londen (UK) artists-in-residence Light  
Surgeons Studio 2012
- 2014 Sevilla (Spain), artists-in-residence  
ZEMOS98 Festival
- 2014 Malaga (Spain), artists-in-residence La  
Termica 2014
- 2012 MODE Istanbul (Turkey), artists-in-  
residence
- 2012 Warsaw (Poland), artists-in-residence  
The Association of the Creative  
Initiatives

## COMMISSIONS

- 2014 Filmhuis den haag 2013 Found footage  
promo video finished
- 2014 Jordan Peak 2013 Found footage music  
video finished
- 2013 Defected Records ft Dennis Ferrer 2011  
Music video - Mind Ur Step finished
- 2013 Objektivity Music ft Jazzanova Londen, UK  
Found footage music video - I can see [2015](#)  
finished
- 2013 Objektivity Music ft Dennis Ferrer New  
York, USA Music video - Mind Ur Dub  
finished
- 2011 Premisela Instituut voor Fashion & Design  
Amsterdam, NL Korte documentaire over  
jonge modeontwerpers die met duurzame  
materialen werken. Vertoond op de Arnhem  
Fashion Biennale. finished

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2012 Interview European Souvenirs Live cinema performance Fiber Festival [2021](#) Media art website & Festival
- 2012 A.k.a. The Life of The Creators Project Vice, New Dawn Paper, 1000 Things Art websites
- 2012 'Europe it's not a dream, it's not a fortress, fuck borders!' Boekman99, Creatief en ondernemend, jonge makers en doeners in cultuur Tijdschrift voor kunst cultuur en beleid
- 2012 Interview 'Reizen is Remixen' artikel European Souvenirs Live cinema performance De Groene Amsterdammer Tijdschrift

## REVIEWS

- 2012 Nina Polak Netherlands [www.groene.nl/artikel/reizen-is-remixen](http://www.groene.nl/artikel/reizen-is-remixen)

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2021 Sensing Willow Waag Society 2008, Netherlands My MA Art Science graduation work was nominated for the Waag Society Technology Award.
- 2021 Anthocyan MIAP 2007, Netherlands MIAP- Message in a Photo, nominated for the Future of Nature funding.
- 2016 2016 Genomineerd bij wedstrijd "De Komeet" uitschreven door Gemeente Den Haag en de Generator.
- 2009 Voor 'Flammable' video werk Nominated at TheOneminutes festival Ghent, Belgium. 2004
- 2008 voor video werk 'Oxygen' en 'The Cosmic Giggle' Award of Excellence at The World One Minute Exhibition.
- 2007 Victor & Rolf Hysteria Korte telefoon film. Thema: massa consumptie: zodra de 1e levensbehoeften zijn voorzien vertrappt men zich voor luxe goederen. Winnaar, telefoonkunst wedstrijd Internet PARK4DTV en Mobilereporters.org - De Waag

## SECONDARY ART-RELATED ACTIVITIES

- 2024 - -- Art education / Museum teacher On-going
- 2024 - -- Escher Museum , Museum Docent / Kunsteducatief werk On-going
- 2024 - -- Stroom Den Haag, Commissie Lid Pro subsidies On-going
- 2023 - 2023 Boymans van Beuningen, Kunsteducatieve cyanotype workshop
- 2021 - 2023 Filmhuis Den Haag/ Filmhub ZH, Film educatie medewerker
- 2016 - 2016 Beeld en Geluid & Stimuleringsfonds - Expert talentontwikkelings traject Open Media Art.
- 2016 - 2016 Noordwal 117- Gallery / Projectruimte beheer kunstenaars broedplaats Noordwal 117.
- 2016 - 2016 Productie activiteiten Live cinema performance i.s.m. Indian Film Festival
- 2009 - 2022 2019

Amsterdam, Internet streams van  
Mobilereporters. 2016

2004 2019 2e bij The Oneminutes Awards  
van het Sandberg Instituut  
Amsterdam.



The Holy Color of Turmeric, the sunlit spice, 2024  
Kurkuma sunlight anthotype prints on paper and textile



2018, 2024  
4



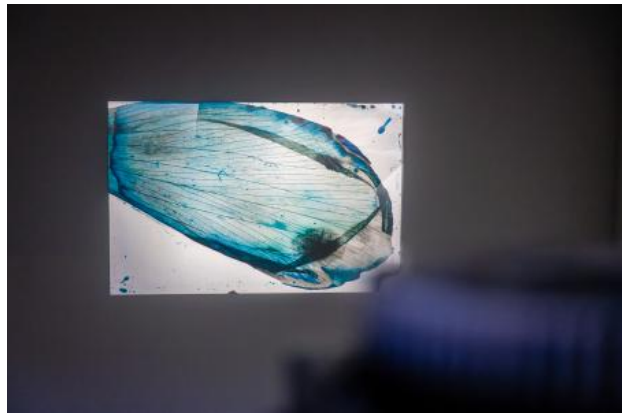
The Holy Color of Turmeric, the sunlit spice, 2024  
fresh apple, turmeric, ginger, and lemon juice



The Holy Color of Turmeric, the sunlit spice, 2024  
Kurkuma sunlight anthotype prints on paper and textile



2019, 2024  
Film installation



Thank You Plant Medicine, 2024  
Film installation



Welcome/Opening ritual Grantangi Plant Medicine, 2024  
Ritual with selfmade incense



Grantangi Plant Medicine, 2024  
Film installation



Welcome/Opening ritual Grantangi Plant Medicine, 2024  
Ritual with selfmade incense



Thank You Plant Medicine, 2024