

## Maximilian Le Cain



### **Maximilian Le Cain (b.1978)**

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Maximilian Le Cain has created a prolific body of experimental moving image work including features, shorts, installations and film-related performances. Most recently, he has completed *Daughter of the Sun* (2021), a short film based on the legend of the Cailleach Beara funded by The Arts Council and Cork County Council. 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.

He is affiliated with Experimental Film Society (EFS), a Dublin- based company dedicated to the production and distribution of experimental cinema. 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 frequently works in partnership with Vicky Langan. Their decade-long collaboration has created an intimate but unsettling personal universe in film and performance. *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. In November 2019, a new film collaboration, *Personal Growth*, premiered at Sirius Arts Centre, Cobh, as part of Cork Film Festival.

Le Cain is also a film programmer and critic. He curated films for Black Sun (2009-2013), Cork's regular experimental music/film event, and 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 has recently written for and co-edited a second 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 [maximilianle Cain.com](http://maximilianle Cain.com)

### **Selected screenings / performances / exhibitions include:**

The IFI, Dublin; Cork Film Festival; Project Arts Centre, Dublin; Temple Bar Gallery + Studios, Dublin; 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 Dublin-based filmmaker Rouzbeh Rashidi, this company 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 decade 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](http://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.

## **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 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 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). In 2016, he guest edited an issue of *Enclave Review*.