

Ma Jian and Meng Huang
in a Jean-François Lesage film

Director of Photography
Etienne Roussy
Art Director
Caroline Alder
Editors
Mathieu Bouchard Malo
Ariane Pétel-Despots
Sound Recordist
Marie-Andrée Cormier
Sound Designer
Marie-Pierre Grenier
Re-Recording Mixer
Bernard Gariépy Strobl
Colorist
Sylvain Cossette
First Assistant Director
François Jacob
Interpreter
Jean Marchand
Script Advisor
Laurence Olivier
Line Producer
Richard Brouillette
Produced by
Les Films de l'Autre
Distributed by
Les Films du 3 Mars



Among
Mountains
and
Streams

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Technical Sheet

Among Mountains and Streams

Documentary Feature - 2024 - 98 minutes

Country of production: Canada (Quebec)

Filming locations: Canada (Quebec) - Maria, Cascapedia-Saint-Jules, New Richmond, Caplan

Original language: Mandarin

Subtitles: French, English

Title in French: *Parmi les montagnes et les ruisseaux*

Financing: Telefilm Canada, SODEC, Crédit d'impôt cinéma et télévision (Gestion SODEC), Canada Council for the Arts, Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, in collaboration with PostPix and PRIM.

Creative team

Direction: Jean-François Lesage

Script: Jean-François Lesage

Cinematography: Etienne Roussy

Sound Recording: Marie-Andrée Cormier

Production Design: Caroline Alder

Editing: Mathieu Bouchard-Malo, Ariane Pétel-Despots

Sound Design: Marie-Pierre Grenier

Sound Mix: Bernard Gariepy Strobl

Color Grading: Sylvain Cossette

Script Consultant: Laurence Olivier

Line Production: Richard Brouillette

Production: Jean-François Lesage - Les Films de l'Autre

Distribution: Les Films du 3 Mars



[Trailer](#)



Logline

In a mysterious forest, far from the borders of the China they've left behind, the painter Meng Huang and writer Ma Jian talk about exile, political opposition and artistic creation as a response to oppression and lies.

Short synopsis

In a mysterious forest, far from the borders of the China they've left behind, the painter Meng Huang and writer Ma Jian talk about exile, political opposition and artistic creation as a response to oppression and lies. Ma Jian lives in London. He is a dissident and a prominent writer translated into numerous languages. Since 2011, he has been unable to return to China, where all of his books are banned. Meng Huang is a renowned painter who lives in Berlin.

Long synopsis

A mysterious forest in early fall echoes with birdsong and the sound of a river. Fallen leaves speckle gold on the blue stones. Two weary travellers make their way on foot – the painter Meng Huang and writer Ma Jian. When, as if after a long journey, they finally reach a cabin, they eat and drink, but the mood is not one of contentment. Their gaze is dark, haunted by memories of the China they have fled: persecution, resistance and the treatment meted out to those who fight for human rights. With the forest arousing painful thoughts and existential considerations, they talk about art. For the two artists, whose world view has been upended by the Tiananmen Square massacre, creation offers an answer to oppression and lies.



Director's note

I lived in China for six years, from 1998 to 2004. When I get nostalgic about that period of my life, I remember the evenings spent sharing a meal with Chinese artists, talking into the wee hours of the morning and reimagining the world. *Among Mountains and Streams* recreates such a space for dialogue, this time for two major artists living in exile. Their conversation, during forest walks, is swept along by numerous currents. It moves from the depth of Chinese culture to the painful subject of human rights violations in the country. The forest gradually becomes a space for the right to think, and their words activate visions of dissent and wonder.

Jean-François Lesage





Photo credit: Antoine Saito

Biography

After studying law, Jean-François Lesage became a television journalist in Western Canada, then moved to Beijing, where he shot his first film, *Sweet Night Sour Nights*. Since returning to Quebec, he has directed *A Mile End Tale*, as well as *The Hidden River* and *A Summer Love*, both of which won awards at the RIDM. In 2020, his feature *Prayer for a Lost Mitten* won Best Canadian Documentary at Hot Docs.

Filmography

Among Mountains and Streams, Documentary, 98 min, 2023

Prayer for a Lost Mitten, Documentary, 79 min, 2020

The Hidden River, Documentary, 75 min, 2017

A Summer Love, Documentary, 62 min, 2015

A Mile End Tale, Documentary, 68 min, 2013

How can you tell if the little fish are happy?, Documentary, 100 min, 2009

Sweet Nights Sour Nights, Documentary, 52 min, 2004

Contacts

Media relations **pixelleX**

Caroline Rompré | pixelleX communications
caroline@pixellex.ca | +1 514-778-9294

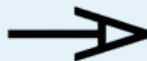
Distribution



LES FILMS DU 3 MARS (F3M) promotes Quebec and Canadian auteur films nationally and internationally. From ideation through the final cut and onto the screen, we put our expertise toward helping our members market and distribute their work. A leader in the distribution of feature documentaries, F3M also promotes works of every genre and length. We strive to cultivate a taste for original works of quality among our viewers while ensuring representativity based on the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI).

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Sylvain Lavigne | Les Films du 3 Mars
distribution@f3m.ca | +1 514-523-8530



Production

**LES FILMS DE
L'AUTRE**

LES FILMS DE L'AUTRE is an artists centre whose mission is to support formal research and creative freedom in independent cinema and to foster the emergence of strong, original and diverse voices. The organization occupies a unique place in the Quebec film landscape by bringing together filmmakers who act both as producers and directors of their works.

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