

RYAN DAVID MCLAY

Transdisciplinary Visual Artist, Director & Spatial Media Creator

Citizenship: Canadian (Passport Holder) | **Residency:** Santiago, Chile | **Website:** www.ryandavidmclay.com | **Research Hub:** www.ryandavidmclay.com/research

SECTION 1: ARTISTIC PRACTICE SUMMARY

Ryan David McLay (MSc, BFA) is a Canadian filmmaker and transdisciplinary visual artist with over 20 years of professional practice exploring migration, memory, acoustic ecology, and spatial media. His foundation spans formal studio training in fine arts (BFA, Alberta University of the Arts) and cinema/visual arts specialization (Graduate Diploma in Secondary Education: Visual Arts & Film, Griffith University), alongside graduate studies in media accessibility (MSc, SUNY Buffalo).

Following a decade dedicated to international arts instruction—culminating as Visual Arts and Film Educator at The International School Nido de Aguilas in Santiago (2022–2023)—McLay returned full-time to studio installation and directorial practice. As Creator, Director, and Producer of the documentary series *Hecho en Chile: Arte* (2024–Present)—selected for the 2026 CinemaChile Cannes Marché du Film catalogue—McLay directs complex international moving-image productions profiling contemporary South American creators.

His core artistic research, *The Journey of the Melody*, combines rigorous visual anthropology, 1910 Bernese German (Bärndütsch) dialect reconstruction, and multi-channel video with spatialized 8.1 audio environments. Grounded in historical correspondence between his great-grandfather and great-uncle, his practice translates historical isolation into universal gallery experiences exploring family separation, belonging, and memory across continents.

SECTION 2: ARTS & CULTURAL TRAINING AND LEARNING

2015 – 2017: Master of Science (MSc) in Multidisciplinary Studies

SUNY Buffalo — Buffalo, NY, USA

Focus: Media accessibility, sensory learning, and interdisciplinary research methodology.

2012: Graduate Diploma in Secondary Education (Visual Arts & Film Specialization)

Griffith University — Brisbane, Australia

Focus: Film production methodology, moving-image theory, visual media pedagogy, and studio arts instruction.

1998 – 2002: Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA in Glass & Sculpture)

Alberta University of the Arts (AUArts) — Calgary, Canada

Focus: Spatial installation, material culture, glassblowing, and sculptural media.

SPECIALIZED RESEARCH CONSULTATIONS & PREPARATORY WORK:

- **2024 – Present: Institutional Research Correspondence & Residency Planning** — Ongoing project consultation with Prof. Dr. Michaela Schäuble and Dr. Laura Coppens at the Ethnographic Mediaspace Bern (EMB), University of Bern, Switzerland (in preparation for confirmed May 2027 research residency).
- **2024 – Present: Digital Heritage Alignment (Downstream Stage 2)** — Project alignment with Dr. Peter Dawson, Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Calgary (preliminary agreement for \$10,000 in-kind LiDAR scanning support for Stage 2 production).

SECTION 3: PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS, FILMOGRAPHY & EXHIBITIONS

(Indicates curated/juried events and exhibitions where professional artist fees were paid under CARFAC/RAAV guidelines)

DIRECTORIAL & MOVING-IMAGE WORKS:

- **2024 – Present: Hecho en Chile: Arte** [Documentary Series / Moving-Image Archive]
Role: Creator, Director & Principal Investigator.
Status: Official Selection, 2026 CinemaChile Industry Catalogue for the Cannes Film Festival Marché du Film. Profiling leading contemporary South American visual artists.
Video Links: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cW_tmcmvpbA | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2LMhTyVJ014>
- **2023 – Present: The Journey of the Melody: Research Dispatches** [Oral History & Field Archive]
Role: Director & Principal Investigator.
Details: Primary oral history field research documenting early settler history, coal mining networks, and acoustic heritage with Stettler County history custodians.
Dispatch Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-1i1e5bqOc>
- **2023 – Present: The Journey of the Melody** [Spatial Audio-Visual Installation & Feature Screenplay]
Role: Lead Artist, Screenwriter & Director.
Details: Transdisciplinary research-creation project in collaboration with the University of Bern, Bernisches Historisches Museum, and

Ethnographic Mediaspace Bern (EMB). Featured in *Swiss Review* (Global Edition, Oct 2026).

Project Hub & Sizzle Reel: www.ryandavidmclay.com/research | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YomvP7eeoOA>

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS & SPATIAL INSTALLATIONS:

- **2017: Atemporalidades Refractadas** [Solo Exhibition — Artist Fee Paid]

Venue: Galería de Arte, San José, Costa Rica.

Format: Somatic multi-channel video installation with spatialized directional audio environment.

Media Archive: www.ryandavidmclay.com/2017

- **2013: The Travelling Meditation Project** [Multi-City Public Installation]

Locations: New York City, Toronto, Buffalo, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Mexico City.

Format: Mobile architectural projections, directional speaker arrays, and public sound bubbles.

Media Archive: www.ryandavidmclay.com/2013

- **2009: Sharing Pixels (Vanishing Architecture)** [Curated Exhibition — Artist Fee Paid]

Venue: Stone & Water Gallery, Anyang, South Korea.

Format: Synchronized dual-projection video and architectural photomontage documenting urban redevelopment.

Media Archive: www.ryandavidmclay.com/2009

- **2006: Social Setting: Sitting** [Juried Domestic Sound Installation]

Venue: Cultural Gallery Space, Calgary, Canada.

Format: Domestic dining table sound installation with framed photography and Discman listening stations.

Media Archive: www.ryandavidmclay.com/2006

- **2005: Come Up To My Room** [Juried Group Exhibition]

Venue: Historic Gladstone Hotel, Toronto, Canada.

Format: Site-specific spatial installation exploring domestic memory and material heritage.

Media Archive: www.ryandavidmclay.com/2005

SECTION 4: DIRECTORIAL, PEDAGOGICAL & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **2023 – Present: Lead Artist & Director** — Ryan David McLay Studio, Santiago, Chile & Alberta, Canada. Directing full-time studio operations, international film productions (*Hecho en Chile: Arte*), and museum-grade spatial media installations (*The Journey of the Melody*).
- **2022 – 2023: Visual Arts & Film Educator** — The International School Nido de Aguilas, Santiago, Chile. Directed high school curriculum split specifically across film production methodology, moving-image storytelling, media literacy, and studio visual arts instruction.
- **2013 – 2022: International Arts Program Specialist & Media Educator** — International Educational Institutions across Kuwait, Costa Rica, Qatar, and Chile. Led international media arts programs and film production workshops.
- **2003 – 2012: Studio Manager & Technical Specialist** — Independent Fine Art Studios, Canada & International. Managed studio fabrication, audio-visual display setups, equipment logistics, and gallery exhibition installation.

SECTION 5: RESIDENCIES, AWARDS, BIBLIOGRAPHY & AFFILIATIONS

HOST RESIDENCIES & INSTITUTIONAL INVITATIONS:

- **May 2027 (Confirmed): Visiting Research Fellow / Resident Artist** — Ethnographic Mediaspace Bern (EMB), Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern, Switzerland. Hosted by Prof. Dr. Michaela Schäuble for 4 weeks of media lab prototyping (Schnittplatz B229), 1910 Bärndütsch dialect scriptwriting, and archival research.

AWARDS, HONORS & GRANTS:

- **2026: Official Selection** — CinemaChile Industry Catalogue (Cannes Marché du Film).
- **2002: SOCAD Betty Kantor Award for Fine Art Innovation** — Calgary, Canada.
- **2001: Tyman and Victor Brosz Endowment** — Alberta University of the Arts.
- **2005: Honorable Mention** — Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, Toronto, Canada.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY & MEDIA COVERAGE:

- **2026: Swiss Review (Global Edition, Oct 2026)** — Feature Article: 'Echoes of the Prairies: Translating 1910 Bernese Migration into Spatial Sound'.
- **2026: CinemaChile International Film Catalogue** — Featured Director profile for *Hecho en Chile: Arte* (Cannes 2026 Edition).
- **2009: Korea Times & 10 Magazine (South Korea)** — Cover feature and critical review of *Sharing Pixels* architectural exhibition.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

- **Member:** CARFAC (Canadian Artists' Representation / Le Front des artistes canadiens).
- **Member:** RAAV (Regroupement des artistes en arts visuels du Québec).