

# Unearthed

A film by Zulfiya Hamzaki & Erin Semine Kökdil



TRT: 7:54

2017

U.S.

16:9 Aspect Ratio

Digital

## Logline

Three generations of Native Americans face an uncertain future amidst changing times and landscapes.

## Synopsis

“I was reading an article and it said that the Ohlone people were extinct. Do I look like I’m extinct? I’m an Ohlone!” declares 83-year old Ruth Orta. Ruth and her daughter Ramona Garibay are descendants of the East Bay Ohlone tribe, which was declared extinct by the federal government in the 1920’s. They are testaments that the native people of the Bay Area are still living to tell their stories. *Unearthed* explores their struggles to assert their identity in a society that is failing to protect native burial grounds and recognize native voices.

## Credits

A Film By: Zulfiya Hamzaki and Erin Semine Kökdil

Featuring: Ramona Garibay and Ruth Orta

Faculty Advisors: Jan Krawitz

Technical Support: Mark Urbanek and Paul Meyers

Music: “Ascension Intermission” by Siddhartha

Special Thanks: Peter Colby, the Orta and Garibay Families, Beverly Ortiz, East Bay Regional Park District, Stacey Jessiman de Nanteuil, Srdan Keca, Kino Eye Collective  
Produced in the Documentary Film and Video M.F.A. Program, Department of Art & Art History, Stanford University

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**Directors Bio**

Zulfiya Hamzaki is a documentary filmmaker and audio-visual artist from India. Her films have explored women in sport, immigration in America, native American issues, identity and culture. Her audio-visual project on women bodybuilders in India has been recognized by the International Association for Women in Radio & Television (IAWRT). Her short documentary Doorri (distance) has screened at the San Diego Asian Film Festival, SF Frozen Film Festival, the Seattle Asian American Film Festival and the 14th IAWRT Asian Women's Film Festival (New Delhi). Zulfiya is currently a Producer at Blue Chalk Media.

Erin Semine Kökdil is a storyteller interested in building solidarity and inciting social change through the power of film. Her work deals with issues of trauma, marginalization, and migration and has screened at IDFA, Hot Docs, and Big Sky Documentary Film Festival. She holds a Bachelor's of Arts in Latin American Studies and Spanish from Smith College.

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