

# CONFLUENCE

A MEDITATION IN DOCUMENTARY FORM

DOCUMENTARY / 15 MINS / USA

DIRECTED BY ETA & SHANHUAN MANTON

"Our presence here means the presence of all our our ancestors."

- **Thích Nhất Hạnh**

**CONFLUENCE** is a meditation on ancestry and identity through the diasporic lens of Asian American and queer experiences filmed during moonroom's 2019 PHASE, a showcase series celebrating Asian Pacific Islander and Desi American Heritage Month with underground events throughout Los Angeles and surrounding areas.

This hypnotic mix of ethereal images and heartfelt, first-person testimonies explores the inner turmoil of being othered while persevering with creative expression, shattering both community and perceptual barriers. In particular, the "model minority", "forever foreigners" and other reductive myths unjustly stuck on the Asian American diaspora are directly questioned by those who would rather choose their own labels themselves — or simply do away with them altogether.

Featuring reflections by Asian Pacific Islander and Desi American performers **Ceramiks**, **Jangus Kangus**, **Kelleia**, **Laciste**, **oh my muu**, **Reinabe**, **Shunkan**, and **Zhao**, and an original score by **Jett Kwong**, **Sonoda**, **tomemitsu**, and **Zhao**.

**Official Selection:**

*Busan International Short Film Fest (2022)*

*NewFilmmakers Los Angeles (2022)*

*DisOrient Film Fest (2021)*

*SF DocFest (2021)*

*Viet Film Fest (2021)*

"You can even sleep, it's okay."

- **Apichatpong Weerasethakul**

**ETA** is a first-gen Vietnamese-American genrefluid filmmaker raised in Tustin, CA by Vietnam War refugees. Their debut feature film, *Stockton 2 Malone*, infused POC representation into the mumblecore subgenre, premiering via AFROPUNK in 2016.

In 2017, they founded the collective, moonroom, which celebrated the queer AAPI diaspora during APAHM by curating showcases throughout Southern California. The PHASE series helped organize nearly 50 events showcasing over 200 API and Desi American artists during its 3-year run.

**Shanhuan Manton** is a genderqueer Chinese-American filmmaker focused on composting extractive methods of cinematic storytelling into regenerative rituals and making the possibilities of speculative worlds real through collective storytelling.