

A pregnant woman with blonde hair, wearing a light blue, sleeveless, knitted dress and dark red shoes, is walking from right to left on a white ledge. She is carrying a straw hat and a small bag. The background shows a cloudy sky and a distant mountain range. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

GRANDMOTHER'S FOOTSTEPS

a film by
LOLA PEPLOE



ROME
FILM FEST 2023
FREESTYLE



An intimate portrait of a singular female artist told by her granddaughter who goes in search of her footsteps.

The discovery of a talented painter, a modern, free and daring woman.





**The meaning of memory and transmission,
and the courage and conviction required to be both a Woman and an Artist.**



SYNOPSIS

Expecting her first child and questioning how to align motherhood with being an Artist, Lola Peplow begins a dialogue with her grandmother Cloclo, a landscape painter, aesthetic nomad and free spirit.

Lola decides to follow in her footsteps and return to Greece to the Cycladic islands where Cloclo spent the last twenty years of her life painting. She begins speaking to Cloclo in her mind, reconstructing Cloclo's life as she wanders through the streets of Amorgos in search of her old painting studio.

A navigation between past and present, alternating between unexpected encounters, super 8 video footage filmed by her father and voice recordings of Cloclo recounting her own life.

The Film includes the voice of Charlotte Rampling and the last ever screen appearance of Bernardo Bertolucci.



**“The more I feel the
more I understand”**

CLOCLO

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Cloclo, an unknown brilliant artist

Cloclo was a painter of stark, dry, Mediterranean landscapes.

Her paintings have a profound stillness, giving them a timeless quality which I find deeply comforting.

A rare work I have always passionately admired and wanted others to discover.

Would I ever be able to find the little white house that was in her painting that hung on my bedroom wall?

The birth of the project

The desire to make a film about this extraordinary woman had followed me for a long time, but it began to feel increasingly urgent as the Apocalyptic directions in which the world is heading felt more and more overwhelming.

In an ever-faster world where natural landscapes seem to be disappearing, I was wondering for how much longer the actual landscapes she painted would even exist?

Cloclo, a woman, an artist, a mother...

When the opportunity arose for me to finally make this film, I found myself pregnant with my first child. Inevitably it took on another dimension which became a sort of inquiry into what it means to try to be both a Mother and an Artist.

I felt a need to “find” Cloclo and feel close to her again in some way, as she was the one who had always given me the courage to believe it was possible to try to be both.





This movie seems to be a dialogue as much as it is a portrait.

I found lots of Cloclo's voice recordings talking about her life and it felt like treasure. I was happy that in the film she could be the one telling her own story.


And because of this "mirroring" between us I wanted to set up the idea that her voice was like a conversation I was having with her in my mind.

I had not been back to Greece for over 30 years and had absolutely no idea what I would find. It turned out to be full of serendipitous surprises and encounters which lead me closer and closer to "finding" Cloclo.

A movie about transmission...

Clocco showed me that in the stark simplicity is where the beauty lies. Since the film was completed several of the main "characters" from the film have passed away and so the layers of meaning around memory and transmission hold much more meaning to me.

***"It's beauty
which saves me"***
CLOCCLO



**“My grandmother told me how to find beauty in the simplest things.
It’s maybe the greatest gift anyone has ever given me.”**

Lola PEPLÖE



**“Your landscapes are a map
of your soul”**

Bernardo BERTOLUCCI

**“The existential quest for Clocco’s footsteps all along the last century creates a sort of tension like in a thriller, punctuated by meetings with people who met her and keep a vivid memory of her vitality.
The film is full of emotional moments”**

Alberto BARBERA

“Thank you very much for making me discover your grandmother and her painting through your charming work that echoes to me the lyrics of poet Robert Frost: ‘... I have promises to keep and miles to go before I sleep’”

Paola MALANGA

“A lovely film”

Frederick WISEMAN

“A fascinating and revealing film”

Jeremy THOMAS

“Great emotion, tender, moving”

Marco TULLIO GIORDANO

“A haunting family fresque, a mosaic of the beauty to be, if we dare to be ourselves”

Charlotte RAMPLING

**“A beautiful documentary.
Delicate and moving”**

Olivier PÈRE



LOLA PEPLOE / the director

After studying English and French Literature at Oxford university, Lola Pepløe went on to train as an actress at the prestigious Drama Centre London. She has worked in theatre, television and film. "Grandmother's Footsteps" is her first feature.

Filmography:

N°27

Short film, fiction (21 minutes), 2015

Audience award / Sao Paulo Festival (Brésil)

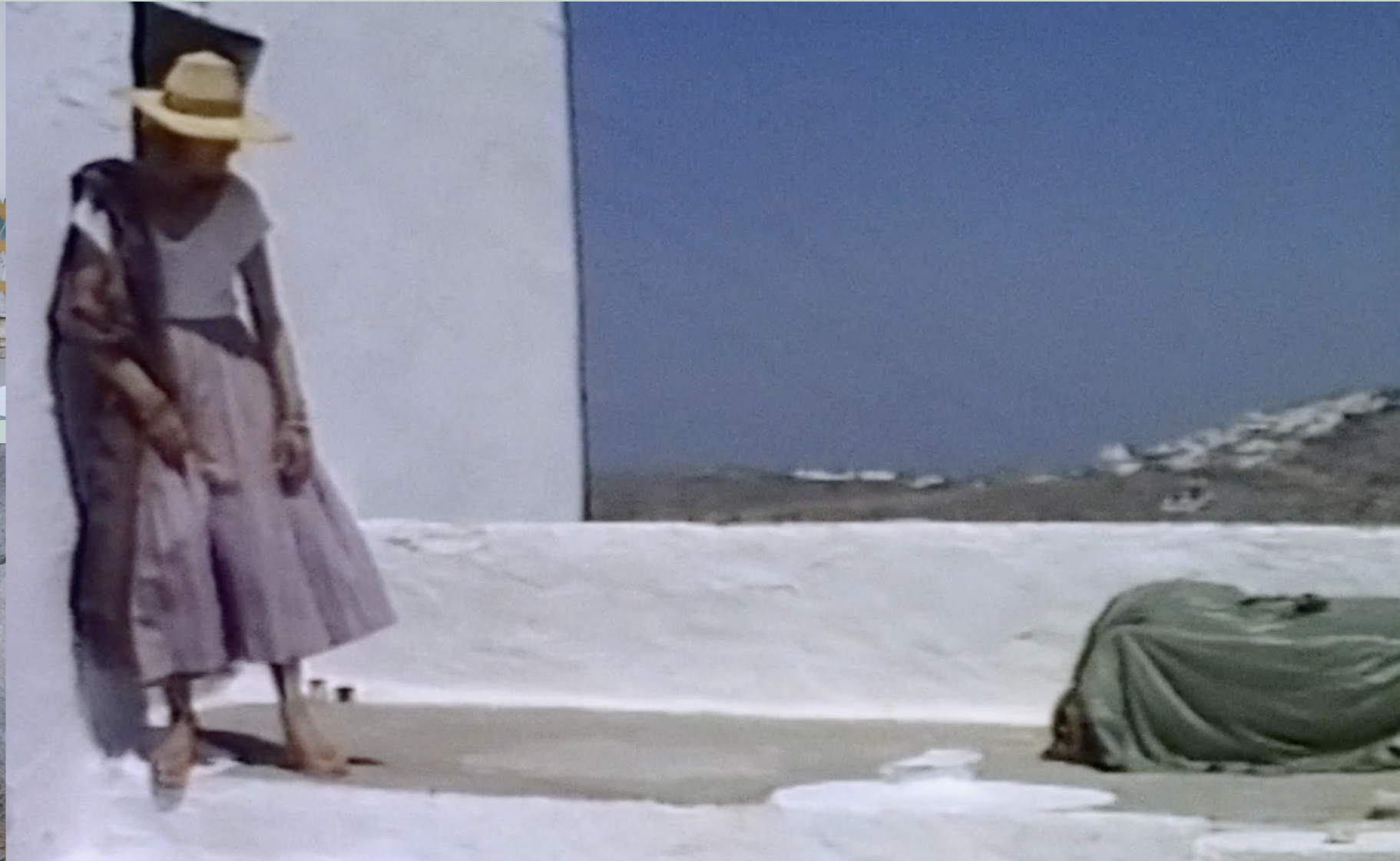
Selections:

Estoril Lisboa Festival (Portugal)

Encounters Festival (UK),

Julien Dubuque international film festival (USA)

Special screening at the Cinémathèque française (Paris, France)





**“When I was a child,
Cloclo’s painting was
a window on to a
dreamscape.**

**I used to imagine that it was
my own little white house.”**

Lola PEPLOE







GRANDMOTHER'S FOOTSTEPS

Produced by / François Ravard - BABYLON IRIE (Faithfull)

Length / 64 minutes

With / Clare Peploe, Marc Peploe, Bernardo Bertolucci

And the voice of / Charlotte Rampling

GRANDMOTHER'S
FOOTSTEPS