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**FLAX CONTINUES TO CHAMPION CROSS-CULTURAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN  
FRANCE & SOCAL  
WITH TRAILBLAZING VIDEO FALL ACTIVATION  
*“Looking for the Perfect Landscape” Screens in Los Angeles this November***

**Los Angeles, CA, September 19, 2017** — FLAX (France Los Angeles Exchange) is pleased to announce the premiere of *Looking for the Perfect Landscape*, a compelling 30-minute video project by FLAX Artist-in-Residence Etienne de France. Blending fiction with real characters and locations, the film ignites a powerful dialogue through the connections between landscape and indigenous culture. The captivating video piece will premiere at the Echo Park Film Center on November 5th at 5pm, followed by a Q&A with Etienne de France and FLAX curator and program director Anna Milone. A special edition of the film will also launch this November on the online magazine East of Borneo ([www.eastofborneo.com](http://www.eastofborneo.com)), making Etienne de France the first artist to create an artwork specifically for this platform. *Looking for the Perfect Landscape* will also be screened in Paris, France in 2018.

Under the direction of visionary French curator Anna Milone, multidisciplinary artist Etienne arrived in Los Angeles this May to begin his residency. As part of the preparation, he undertook several scouting trips around the Mohave Desert. He was welcomed at the Mohave Tribe of the Colorado Indian River Tribe Reservation to discover the land and explore the tribe's vibrant culture and traditions. He developed the storytelling of his project exploring the rich oral histories of tribal members and elders, a process he had previously followed in countries such as New Zealand and Columbia. The video and all the interviews conducted by Etienne will be given to the tribe as archives. Etienne's work was also made in consultation with the famed Autry Museum of the American West, which provided him with invaluable research and access to key scholars.

“I've followed Etienne's work for many years and have always been inspired by the unique lens through which he explores the relationship between landscape and the people who live there,” says Milone, who takes a highly personalized approach, connecting her artists with Southern California's vibrant cultural scene. “The subject matter Etienne chose is particularly topical and ties into FLAX's larger mission to promote innovative dialogues and cross-cultural understanding.”

Inspired by Native American filmmakers and artists, Etienne de France's video work examines the topic of land use and representation through a fictional situation involving a real character, Jamahke, a young Native American (Mohave). On his groundbreaking journey, he meets several tribal members and crosses sacred and aboriginal lands, transformed by railroads, roads, highways, which remain threatened today by ongoing urban and energy development.

“For as long as I can remember, I've been intrigued by indigenous cultures and their inherent connection to the land,” says Etienne de France. “Through the eyes of Jamahke, this project allowed me to truly explore the fascinating relationship between concepts of nature and landscape.”

Jamahke is hired by a production company to scout locations throughout a region that lies between California and Arizona, for a period feature film, depicting the first encounters between Mojave and Spanish conquistadores. He meets elders and friends, who guide him to different areas in the Colorado River Indian Tribe reservation as well as Mohave aboriginal territory. As his work progresses, Jamahke slowly turns away from his assignment, showcasing the destructive intrusions on the land, which include the perpetuation of American colonialism through industry, entertainment and film as well as linguistic, cultural and economic alienation. The experience inspires Jamahke's own inner journey by raising questions surrounding his own culture and sense of identity.

Etienne de France's residency follows that of **Lola González**. She created a site-specific dance performance in collaboration with two Los Angeles-based artists Oquri and Paul Chavez at Grand Park this past July. She also created a



new video artwork which is currently presented at Fondation d'Entreprise Ricard in Paris. Following Etienne's November activation, FLAX has enlisted **Fabien Danesi** as their next Curator-in-Residence, who, in February 2018, will present *The Dialectic of the Stars*, a series of video, performance, and music-based programs at various venues throughout Los Angeles including Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE), The Ford Theater and Zebulon, which feature both French and American artists. For more information, visit [www.flaxfoundation.org](http://www.flaxfoundation.org)

**About FLAX:**

FLAX (France Los Angeles Exchange) is a California-based 501(c)(3) public charity committed to collaboration, innovation, exchange, and sustainable impact. Guided by our vision, FLAX's program offers Southern California artists and organizational partners reciprocal and collaborative opportunities with artists, curators, and cultural institutions based in France. FLAX has a strong commitment to public engagement, introducing multi-disciplinary art projects in collaboration with established cultural institutions. FLAX achieves its mission through three reciprocal modes of cultural exchange: **FLAX Projects** are large-scale art projects initiated, created, and produced by FLAX; **FLAX Grants** are provided to Southern California-based cultural organizations in support of France-related art projects in multiple disciplines; and **FLAX Invites** host France-related artists at the FLAX House in Los Angeles.

**About East of Borneo:**

East of Borneo is a collaborative reexamination of West Coast art and its history. They publish new essays and interviews alongside a growing archive of images, videos, texts, and sounds added by their community. East of Borneo Books sees the extension of their mission into print, calling attention to the best writing on the visual culture of Los Angeles. They also produce exhibitions, talks, screenings, and workshops, and republish material that is out of print or hard to find through their Second Life series.

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