

THE PHILAGNOSTIC

A VIDEO TRIPTYCH BY AGATHE SIMON

2026



SOMMAIRE

[FILM FACT SHEET](#)

[VIEWING LINK](#)

[PARTNERS](#)

[SUMMARY](#)

[ARTIST'S STATEMENT](#)

[TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS](#)

[ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHY](#)

[PREVIOUS EXHIBITIONS](#)

[CREDITS](#)

[CONTACTS](#)

FILM FACT SHEET

- *The Philagnostic*
- Video triptych
- 2026
- 5'20
- DCP, 4K or HD
- Work conceived as a synchronized three-screen installation, also available in a single-channel version
- Stereo version
- Language: French subtitled in English
- Director: Agathe Simon
- Producer: Le Groupe
- Screening status: world premiere

VIEWING LINK

To receive a viewing link, please [contact us](#) to request accreditation.
The link is available to programmers and partners upon request.

PARTNERS

FUNDING

This project has received support from ADAGP and the Splash program led by RN13BIS – Contemporary Art in Normandy, with the support of the DRAC Normandy and the Normandy Region, France.



PARTNERS

The soundtrack was created at EMS (*Elektronmusikstudion*) studios in Stockholm. This project is supported by Hacnum, the French national network for hybrid arts and digital cultures.





SUMMARY

CONCEPT

The Philagnostic, a video triptych, is a metaphor for the creative process, inspired by Agathe Simon's [Manifesto of Philagnosty](#).

NARRATIVE

A winter twilight. Or is it early morning? A woman walks through a forest, carrying an old suitcase. She lights her way with a torch. Bare branches, fallen leaves. The sounds of insects and tropical animals echo around her.

At the edge of the woods, she enters a small stone house. She lights a candle. She reads, writes. Emerging from the darkness, a gramophone begins to play a strange voice.

The woman leaves the house with her old suitcase. She walks into the darkness, torch in hand.

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

THE LOVE OF THE UNKNOWN

Philagnosty — or the love of the unknown — is a concept I recently developed, the manifesto of which will be published by Les Presses du réel in spring 2026. Philagnosty is a process shared by both the arts and the sciences. It is also a way of life open to all.

In the video triptych *The Philagnostic*, I stage myself as a philagnost in the Norman bocage where I live. My immersion in the unknown is twofold: wandering through the woods by torchlight and exploring the creative process through writing. The color black — a symbol of the unknown — permeates the image in low light.

I composed the original soundtrack using sounds I recorded in Antarctica, the Arctic, Africa, the Amazon, and the Andes. The voice emerging from the gramophone is my own, reading the Manifesto of Philagnosty in reverse.

EXCERPT FROM THE *MANIFESTO OF PHILAGNOSTY*

Philagnosty is the love of the unknown, just as philosophy is the love of knowledge. It is a process shared by the arts and the sciences. It is also a way of life.

I became a philagnost at the age of ten, during an initiatory experience in the Central African Republic. Since then, I have practiced philagnosty as an artist, researcher, and traveler — from Antarctica to Ayahuasca. I am drawn to immer-

sions in the unknown: I am currently exploring the question of the origin of the universe in collaboration with cosmologist Jean-Christophe Hamilton and the QUBIC telescope team.

In light of these experiences, I propose this new concept and manifesto as a way to better understand the processes of creation and research, to better perceive the affinities between the arts and the sciences, and to live more fully in these troubled times.

Philagnosty (noun)

From Ancient Greek *phílos* (“loving”) and *ágnōstos* (“unknown”)

1. An active and existential process, characteristic of artists and researchers, consisting in exploring what eludes immediate knowledge, certainty, and established forms of understanding.
2. A way of life that embraces otherness, uncertainty, and mystery through the experimental exploration of uncharted real, artistic, or existential territories.
3. By extension, a method enabling anyone to cultivate serenity, freedom, and creativity through engagement with the unknown.

AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT

With a duration of 5 minutes and 20 seconds, the video triptych *The Philagnostic* consists of three sequences forming a continuous loop. It is well suited to open-duration viewing. Seating is recommended for viewers wishing to experience the work in its entirety.



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

This documentary is a modular work that can be presented in two formats:

1. single-channel & stereo
2. synchronized three-channel & stereo

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS – SINGLE-CHANNEL VERSION

- Single projection (video projection or large screen)
- Stereo sound
- Seating available, ideally
- Loop duration: 5'20

These technical requirements can be adapted to the specificities of the exhibition space.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS – SYNCHRONIZED THREE-CHANNEL VERSION

- Three synchronized projections
- Displayed on three walls of a black box or white box
- Stereo sound
- Seating available
- Recommended surface area: from 25 m² / 270 ft²
- Loop duration: 5'20

These technical requirements can be adapted to the specificities of the exhibition space.

ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHY



ARTIST'S STATEMENT

I am a transdisciplinary artist exploring the human condition through the staging of language. Inspired by my journeys in extreme environments, I developed the concept of Philagnosty — the love of the unknown —, which stands at the heart of my practice.

I create thematic cycles where video, performance, installation, sound, and text enter into dialogue. Through these hybrid narratives and immersive experiences, I invite audiences to encounter art as a space of memory, transformation, and freedom.

BIOGRAPHY

Agathe Simon is a French artist, researcher, and mentor, born in 1977. An explorer of extreme environments (Antarctica, Andes, Ayahuasca) and inventor of the concept of Philagnosty — the love of the unknown —, she develops a transdisciplinary practice in which the staging of language questions the creative act and the human experience.

Supported by key cultural organizations (CNC, DRAC, Swedish Arts Grants Committee, European Union), her projects have been presented in notable institutions and international events, including the Venice Architecture Biennale, Esch2022 European Capital of Culture (Luxembourg), Galerie Michel Journiac (Paris), Night of Ideas at Villa Albertine (United States), and the Maison de la Poésie (Paris). She has notably been an artist-in-residence at the Bogliasco Foundation (Italy), the Cité internationale des arts (Paris), and the Carlini Base (Antarctica).

Trained at the Documentary Workshop of La Fémis (France's national film school), she holds doctorates in French literature (Sorbonne University) and in music (Paris Conservatory, CNSMDP). She lives and creates between Normandy and Paris.

[Online CV](#)

PREVIOUS EXHIBITIONS

The video triptych *The Philagnostic* was just completed (2026).

It currently holds the status of world premiere.

CREDITS

- Direction, screenplay, image, music, postproduction: Agathe Simon
- Voice recording: Alain Joubert
- Special thanks: Dominique & Benoît Delomez, Yohann Bourdet & son équipe, Pauline Guelaud, Marielle & Arnaud Stinès, David Dronet & Luc Brou, les studios EMS & leur équipe, Marie & Lino Ducellier, Jean-Édouard Fages, Mikaël Le Marquer, Christiane & Jean Martin, Marie-Hélène Vignes, Françoise Fournier-Laurin
- Partners: ADAGP, Splash funding program led by RN13BIS – contemporary art in Normandy, thanks to the support of Normandy DRAC and Région Normandy region.

CONTACTS

Agathe Simon | Artist

contact@agathesimon.art

www.agathesimon.art

+33 (0)6 03 63 19 11

France