



TRITICE
THREE BIRDS

A film by Zarja Menart

Slovenia / Croatia | 2024 | 8:18 min | Production: Finta Film, RTV Slovenia, Adriatic Animation



Synopsis

The wise birdwoman sends three birds
to guide a girl into the dark unknown
landscapes of her inner world.

Trailer

<https://vimeo.com/903652195>

Crew

Director, Screenwriter, Art Director, Lead Animator

Zarja Menart

Compositing, Animation, Storyboard

Matej Lavrenčič

Animation

Anka Kočevar, Milly Yencken, Ditiya Ferdous, Andreja Goetz, Leo Černic

Editor

Iva Kraljević

Post-Production

Matej Lavrenčič, Teo Rižnar

Voices

Zvezdana Novaković, Marija Kordež, Tatjana Brajer

Music

Zvezdana Novaković

Sound Designer

Julij Zornik

Producers

Tina Smrekar, Špela Čadež / Finta Film

Co- Producers

Adriatic Animation / Draško Ivezić | RTV Slovenija


Supported by

Slovenian Film Centre, Croatian Audiovisual Centre

Distributed by

Bonobostudio





“My film, inspired by an old folk tune, symbolizes a journey through the landscapes of body and soul, guided by three birds. Light filtered through transparent papers painted with oil and combined with scratched cut-outs aims to illuminate the subconscious state of mind.”

— Zarja Menart

Treatment

The wise old birdwoman examines a girl in her old hut. Sensing the girl's troubles, the birdwoman sends three birds to guide her into the unknown landscapes of her inner world. Venturing beyond the sea, the girl enters a thick, dark forest. She pushes through eerie whispers and finds herself knee-deep in murky water. The lake in the middle of the forest submerges her in a haze of delirium, where she confronts a profound sadness saturating all the fibers of her body. This unpleasant journey leads her through loss but also reveals how, from death, new life can sprout.

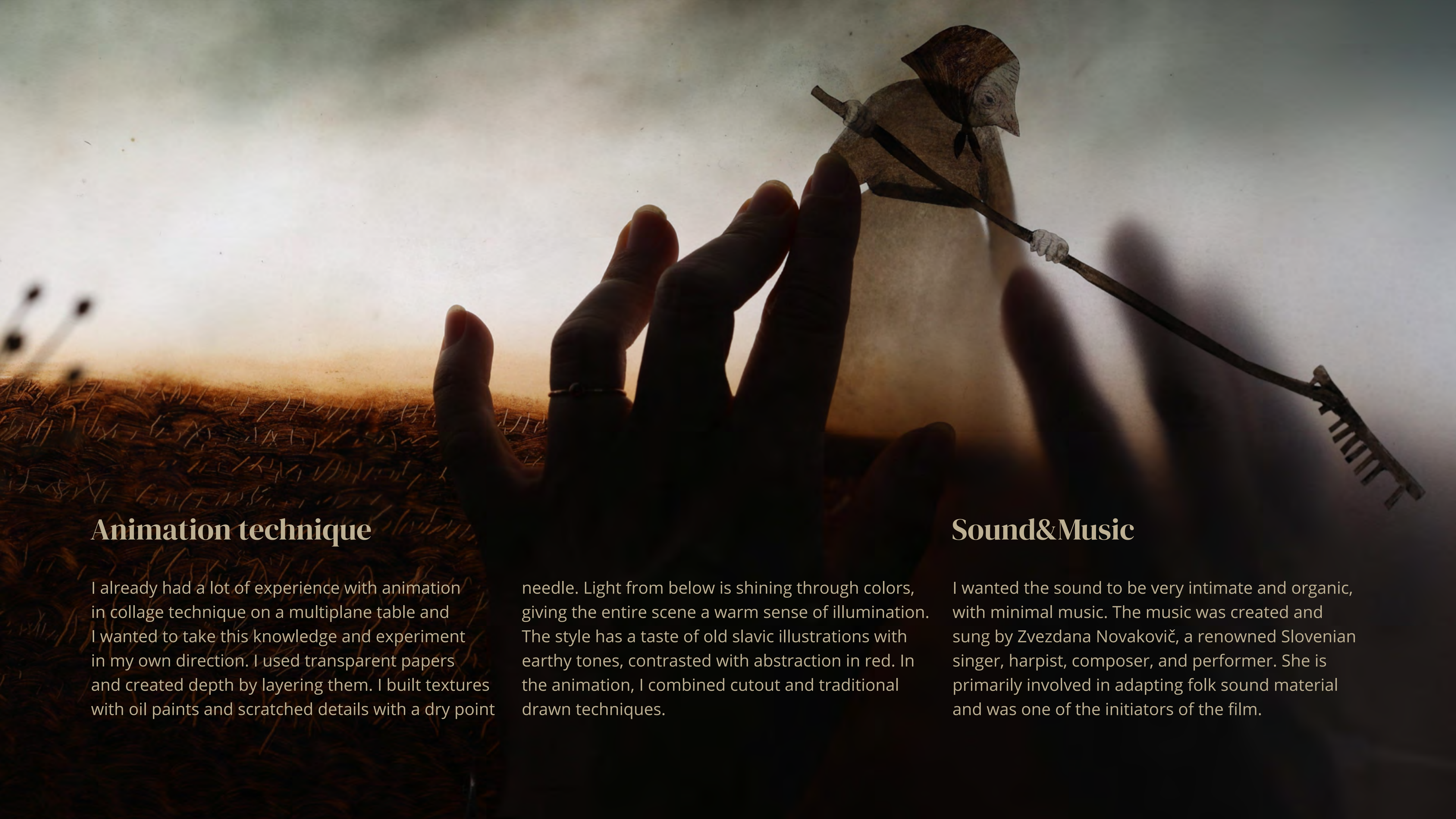


Director's intention

I like to imagine how old folk songs have passed through thousands of ears and throats from generation to generation. Over the centuries, they have become so refined that, as the creation of our ancestors, they have become a multifaceted expression of the human soul, rich with symbols. This is probably why they have always touched and inspired me deeply.

In my animated debut, I wanted to highlight the layer of a folk song that illuminates and gives meaning to the human experience of confronting

the murky parts of our soul. We all prefer to avoid and deny them, but facing them can bring us much-needed peace of mind and psychological well-being. The film is a personal interpretation of a Slovenian folk song called 'Three Birds'. The song talks about birds bringing blessings from distant lands over the sea and planting health and happiness in a village. The poem can be understood on many levels, but I experience it as a metaphor for traveling through one's own inner worlds and reclaiming lost parts of the psyche that have been locked away due to the pain they were associated with.



Animation technique

I already had a lot of experience with animation in collage technique on a multiplane table and I wanted to take this knowledge and experiment in my own direction. I used transparent papers and created depth by layering them. I built textures with oil paints and scratched details with a dry point

needle. Light from below is shining through colors, giving the entire scene a warm sense of illumination. The style has a taste of old slavic illustrations with earthy tones, contrasted with abstraction in red. In the animation, I combined cutout and traditional drawn techniques.

Sound&Music

I wanted the sound to be very intimate and organic, with minimal music. The music was created and sung by Zvezdana Novakovič, a renowned Slovenian singer, harpist, composer, and performer. She is primarily involved in adapting folk sound material and was one of the initiators of the film.

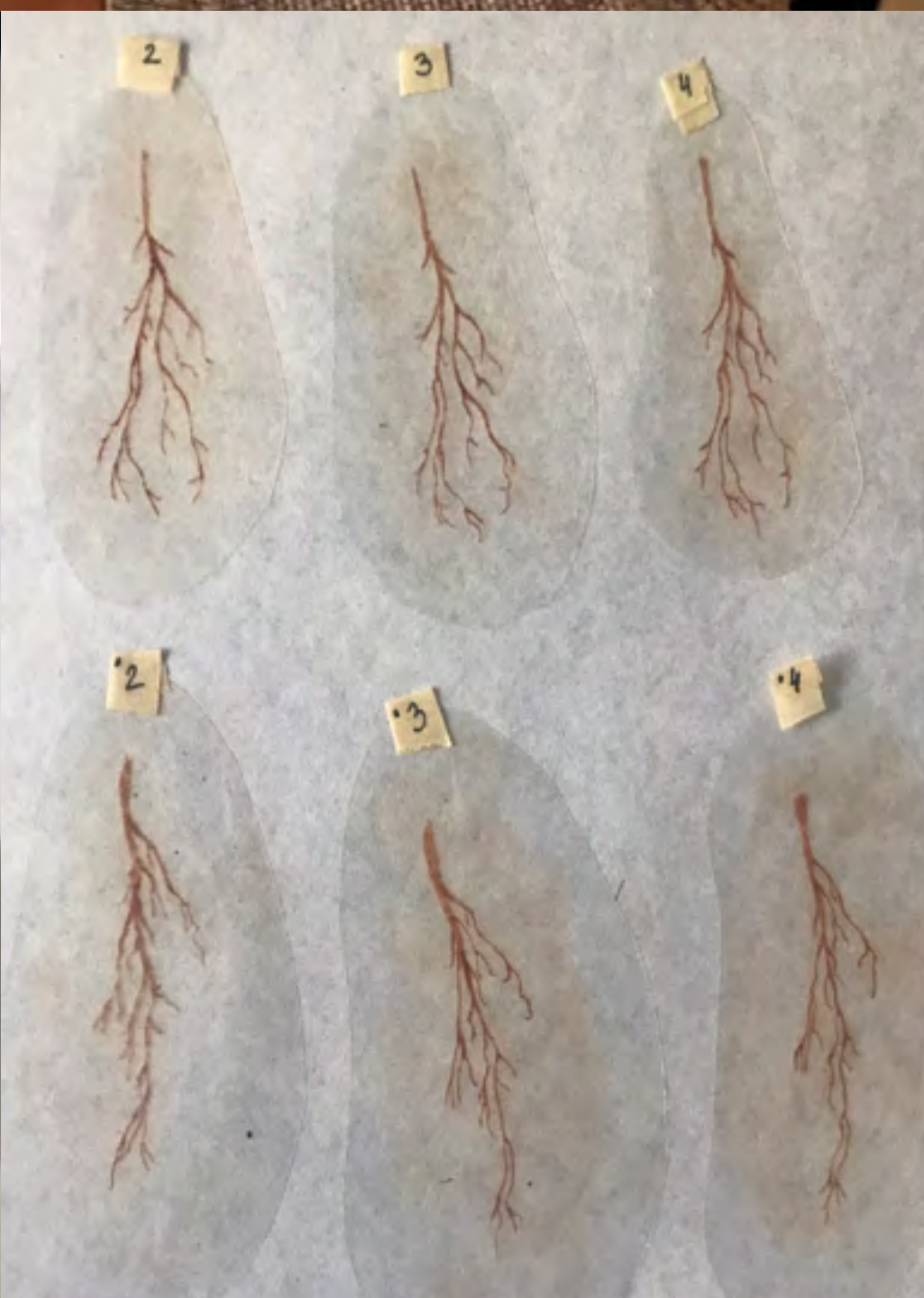
Finta Film

Finta Film specializes in producing stop-motion animated films, mainly using puppet animation and cut-out multiplane techniques. Combining diverse painting and illustrating methods, such as painting or scratching on cell and paper, has been characteristic of recent multiplane productions.

The studio has produced several commissions, the most notable being the 'Orange is the New Black' recap for Netflix.







Zarja Menart

Zarja Menart works as a film animator, illustrator, and art director. She has collaborated with Finta on several films as the main animator and illustrator, including 'Nighthawk,' 'Orange is the New Black,' and 'Steakhouse.' She graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Ljubljana. The 'Three Birds' marks her debut film.



A close-up, artistic photograph showing a person's back and a hand holding a bird's nest. The nest is made of dark, textured twigs and is held against the person's back. The person's back is a light, warm tone. In the background, a foot is visible, and the overall scene is set against a light, patterned fabric. The lighting is soft and natural, creating a sense of intimacy and care.

Technical Information

Title: Three Birds

Original Title: Tri tičice

Year: 2024

Duration: 8:18

Directed by: Zarja Menart

Format: color | 1,85:1 | 25 FPS | No dialogue



Contact

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