

CCCU PGA ROUNDTABLE 2021

THE PARADOXES OF APPLYING ETHNOGRAPHY AT A DISTANCE: DÜRER'S RHINOCEROS

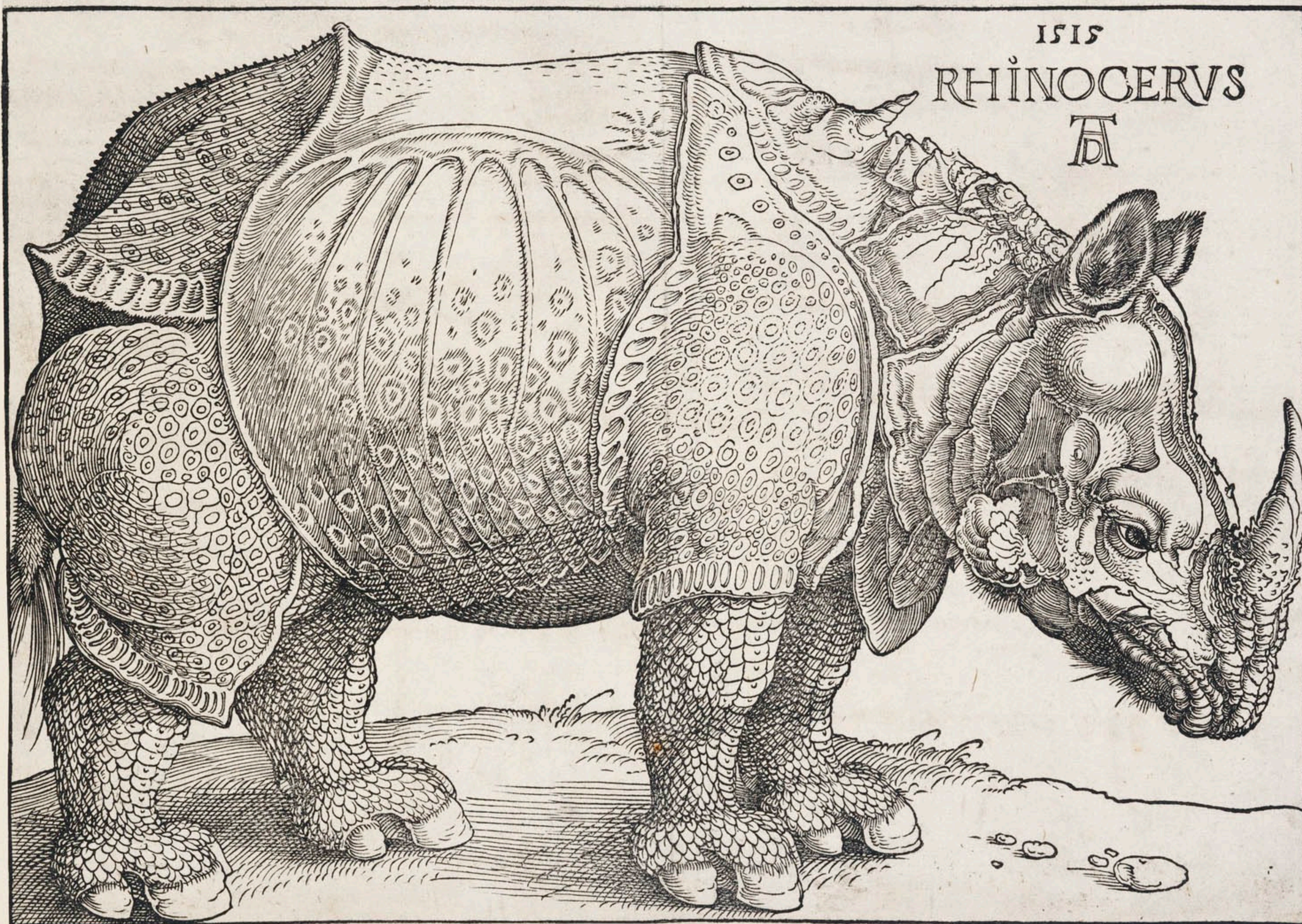
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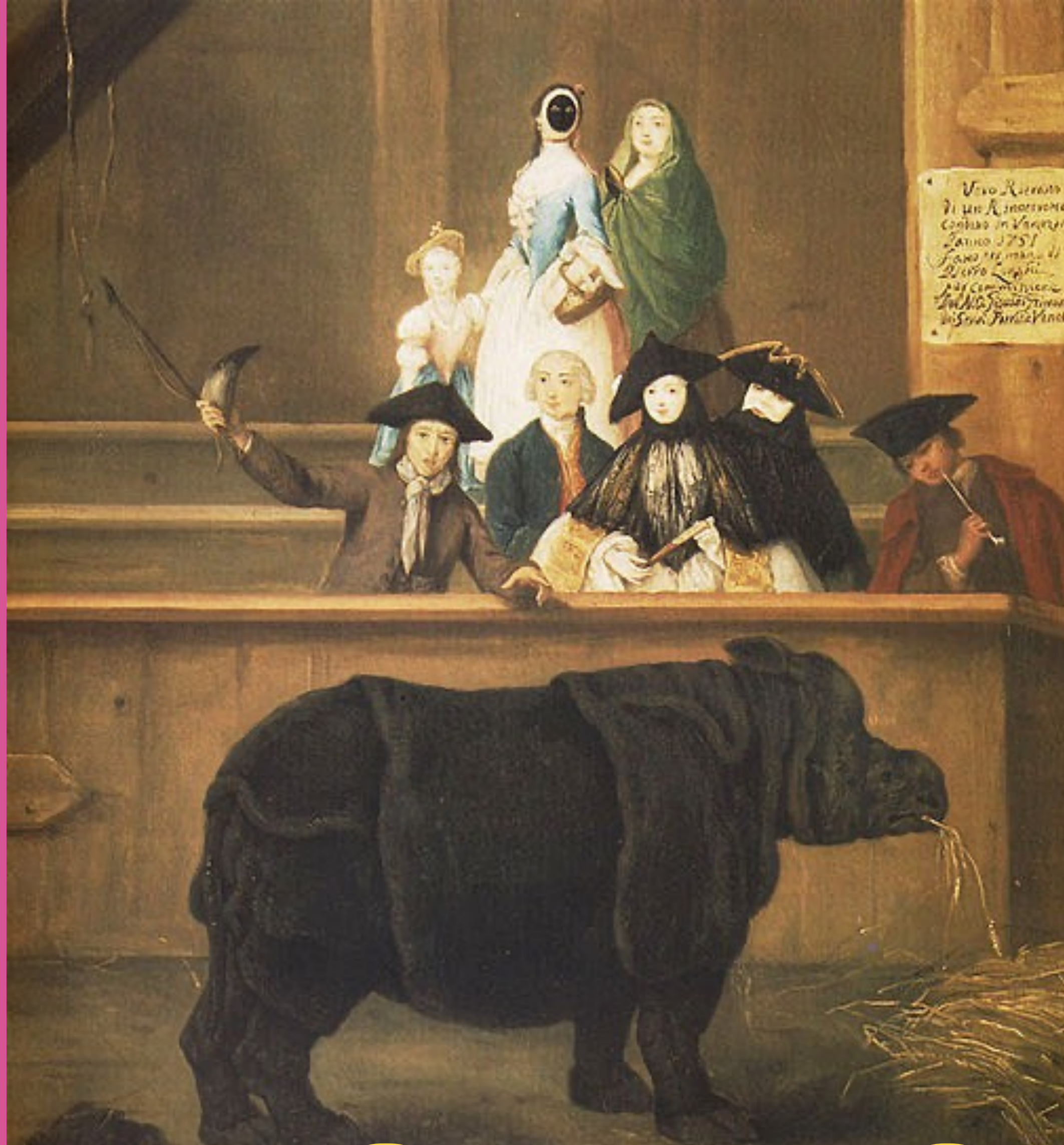


Albrecht Dürer
German Renaissance
Artist
Self Portrait
1500

DISTANCE AND REPRESENTATION

Nach Choistiegeburt/1513. Jar Adi. May hat man dem großmechtigsten König Emanuel von Portugal/gen Lysabona aus India pracht/
 ain solch lebendig Thier. das nennen sie Rhinocerus/Das ist hie mit all seiner gestalt Abconterfect. Es hat ein farb wie ein gepfeckelte Schildkrot/vnd ist von dicken schal-
 len vberleget sehr fest/vnd ist in der gröss als der Heilffandte/aber niderichter von baynen vnd sehr wehrhafftig es hat ein scharffstarck Horn vorn auff der Nassen /das be-
 gundt es zu werzen wo es bey staynen ist / das da ein Sieg Thir ist /des Heilffandten Todtfeyndt. Der Heilffandte fürchtet fast vbel /den wo es Ihn ankompt/so laufft Ihn
 das Thir mit dem Kopff zwischen die forderen bayn /vnd reist den Heilffanden vnten am bauch auff/vnd er würget ihn/des mag er sich nicht erwehren. dann das Thier ist also
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Clara
Portrait painted by
Pietro Longhi in Venice
1751

REPRESENTATIONS





Primary & secondary
sources.

Validity & distribution.

WHO SUPPLIES THE INFORMATION?



**“STEVEN SPIELBERG AND I OBEY THE SAME LAWS OF
STORYTELLING AND THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS HE CAN MAKE
SH*T UP AND I CAN'T.”**

KEN BURNS, DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER (2018).

'THE BIRTH OF A NEW AVANT- GARDE: LA
CAMÉRA STYLO' ASTRUC, A. (1948)

DOCUMENTARY AS A FORM OF ART

- Dziga Vertov
- Agnes Varda
- Jean Rouch
- Beatriz Palacios y Jorge Sanjinés





‘Umaturka: The Call of the Water’ (2017)
Miralles & Wilkin.

The participants can
represent themselves with
their own voices.



ETHNOGRAPHY AS A FORM OF ART



Memory, politics of
representation,
critical ethnography,
decolonisation,
women studies

SURVIVORS' STRATEGIES: MAYA WOMEN ORGANISATIONS – A DOCUMENTARY IN THE CONTEXT OF A PANDEMIC –

ETHNOGRAPHY ONLINE

“Survival strategies implemented for times of war have been successfully adapted for the Covid-19 pandemic”

Gladys Tzul Tzul.
Maya K'iche thinker, writer and activist.

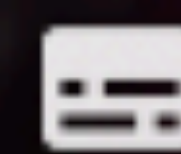
RESISTANCE, INSURGENCY AND FIGHTS IN TIMES OF EXTERMINATION

CLACSO TV, 27 of may 2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VQ08llpL9YM>



1:08:20 / 1:45:42



NATIONAL MOVEMENT OF MIDWIVES NIM ALAXIC IN FACEBOOK



With hospitals collapsing because of the Covid-19 pandemic, Maya midwives have continued to work on the front line, proving to be essential in attending to the population's health needs.



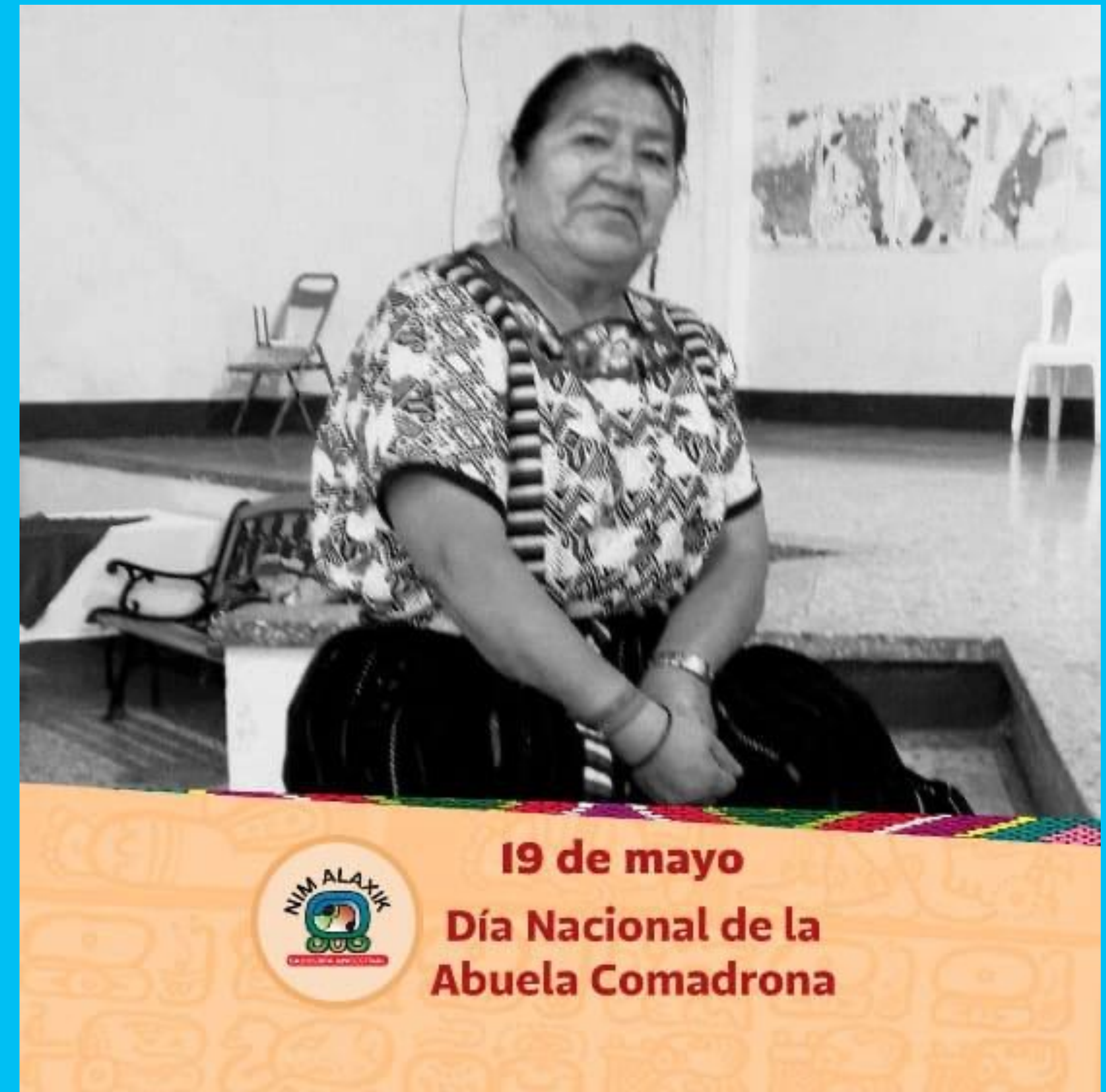
SELF REPRESENTATION AND HORIZONTAL COMMUNICATION

THE MIDWIVES' CALL:

“A MIDWIFE IS BORN NOT MADE”

ETHICS, TRADITION AND KNOWLEDGE

- A Maya Midwife does not receive a salary. They receive donations for their work.
- This can range from monetary contributions to animals or provisions.
- Many of them come from a lineage of midwives, others are born on a day propitious in the Cholq'ij Calendar to take this mission.



Nim Alaxik, 2021. National Day of the Midwives Elders, FB post.

REPRESENTATION IN THE PRESS

HEALTH FROM THE COMMUNITY

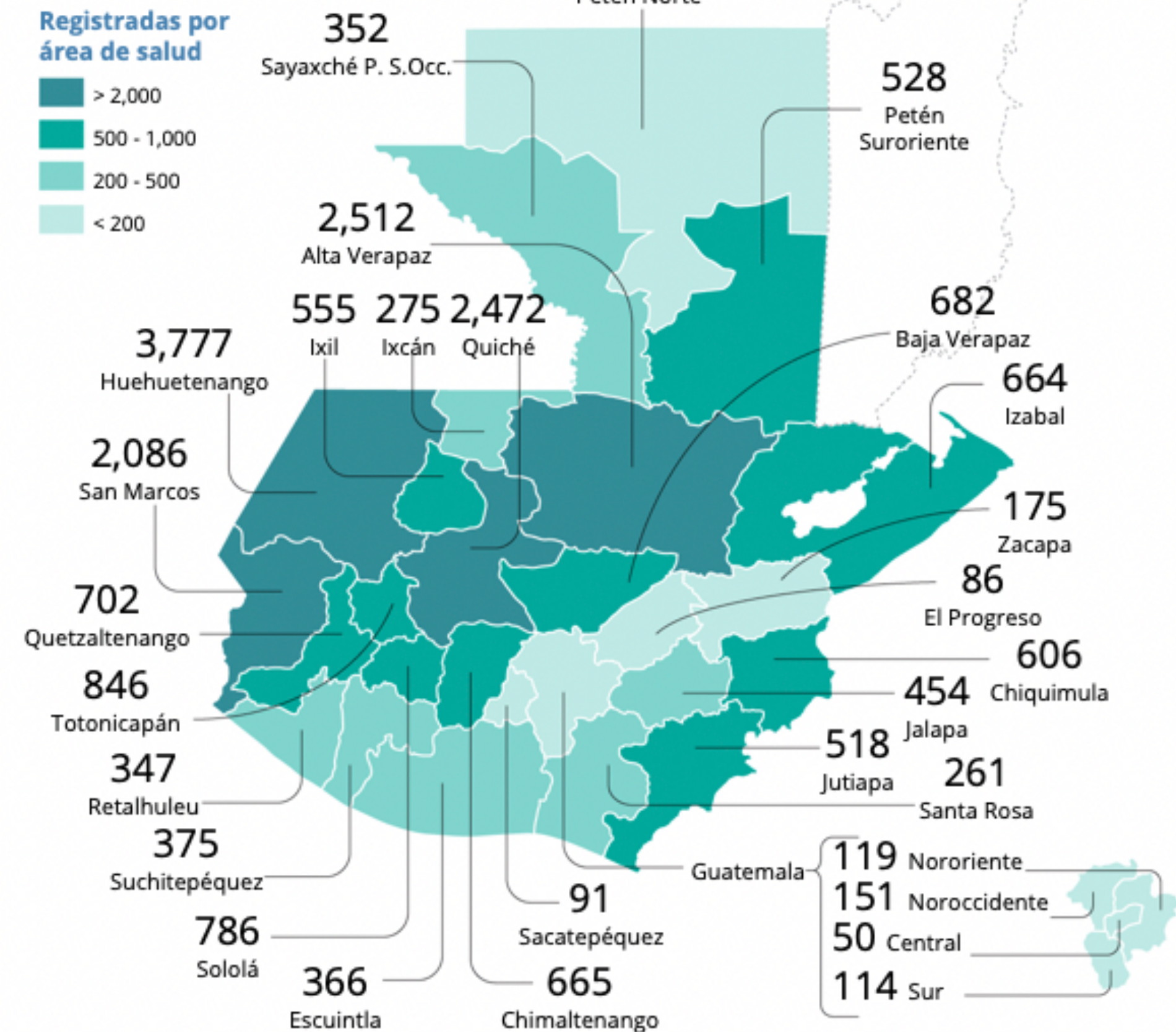
THE MIDWIVES ARE WHERE THE GUATEMALAN HEALTH SYSTEM DOES NOT ARRIVE.

- There are more than 20,000 indigenous midwives registered.
- They also attend other health needs in the communities.
- Despite their work and silent effort, they are often discriminated.
- In 2015 the National Movement of Midwives presented an appeal against the Health Ministry to end racism, physical and psychological violence, that they suffered at the hands of doctors and nurses in hospitals.

Salud desde la comunidad

Las comadronas están en donde el sistema de Salud Pública no llega. Más de 20 mil están registradas para atender a las mujeres en salud integral, pero su labor se extiende a toda la comunidad.

PRENSA LIBRE



Infografía: Diego Sac

Fuente: Ministerio de Salud Pública y Asistencia Social

PRENSA LIBRE

ETHNOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AT A DISTANCE

RESEARCHING

- What the organisation expects from the researcher?
- Ethnographic research at a distance requires commitment from both parties and online access for the participants.
- Zoom, WhatsApp and other platforms are useful for the non-participant observation of the meetings dynamics.
- Social media permits insights into the organisation's politics.

DOCUMENTARY MAKING

- Bad quality footage.
- It is likely to end up with a collection of talking heads or/and voice overs that need to be illustrated.
- POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS: performances, resort to metaphorical or poetic images filmed by the participants or the researcher, animation, use archive footage.

DIRECTING AT A DISTANCE

COLLABORATION STRATEGIES

PREPARING TO FILM IN SITU

- Reduced film crew (max, 3 people).
- Define vision and filming style.
Film professionals, including myself, **have their own ideas** about how things need to be done.
- Follow ethical protocol, be aware of unconscious bias.
- Follow health guidance to avoid contagion.
- Check costs.

PREPARING THE CREW

They need to receive:
ethnographic research training,
filming style instructions,
practice interviews
and ethical protocol explanations.

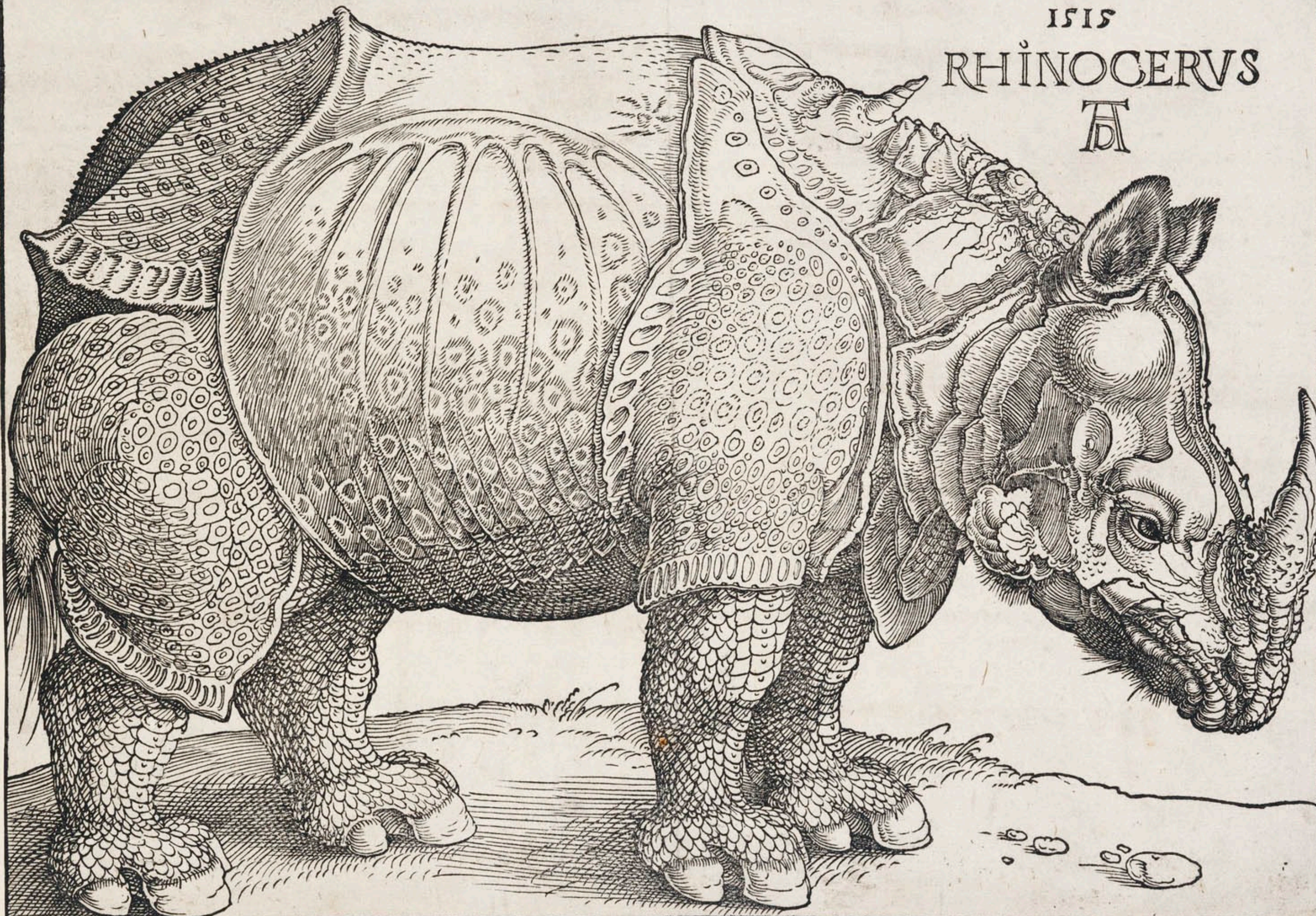
Listen to their concerns:
The cameraman a Guatemalan *ladino* man,
had serious concerns about being accepted
by the participants, despite having worked
as a cameraman in similar productions
before.

SETBACKS AND SOLUTIONS

- Social prejudices and stereotypes could be difficult to overcome.
Not everybody can gain access.
- There is a constant need to keep critical and vigilant.
Analyse every situation, not only the filmed footage.
- Gatekeepers: be aware of relations based on power.
Unconscious bias needs to be addressed.
- Falling into stereotypes: participants repeat only what they think the researcher wants to hear.
Recurrent problem in areas where participants are used to the presence of NGOs and researchers.
- Different perspectives, every person has a different point of view and style of filming.
How can we take advantage of this situation to enrich our research and our story?
- Explore collaborative options: contact *indigenous production* companies and visit their archives.

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1515
RHINOCERVS
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REPRESENTATION AT A DISTANCE

CONTEXT
REPRESENTATION
AND
INTERPRETATION

THANK YOU

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