
BERLIN — New indie distribution shingle Grashopper Film has acquired North American rights to buzz documentary “Nicola Costantini: The Artefacta,” about one of Latin America’s most controversial artists. They are partnering with on-demand streaming Fandor for its combined day-and-date premium SVOD and theatrical release in the U.S. this spring.

Grashopper Film is founded by Ryan Krivoshe, former acquisitions chief of New York-based boutique distributor the Cinema Guild. His new company, which just launched at Berlin’s EFM market, plans to release eight to 12 titles theatrically per year and more than 50 pics on SVOD, digital and nontraditional outlets.

Helmed by Italian editor-turned-director Natalie Cristiani, “The Artefacta” world premiered at Canada’s Hot Docs 2015 to a positive reception and more recently screened at the BFI London Film Festival, during which it screened in a limited window in Europe on premium subscription streaming service Mubi. Subsequently it caught the attention of both Fandor and Grashopper Film.

Nicola Costantini’s art is known for often macabre imagery steeped in violence that is meant to reflect the history of Argentina. She is known for provocative works including fake cards of animals, soap made out of fat lipsuctioned from her own body, and clothes and accessories made from male nipple casts. Cristiani’s doc delves into her creative process as she prepares to exhibit her latest work at the 56th Venice Bienanle international exhibition.

The deal was brokered by Krivoshe and Jonathan Massow, who is chief content officer of Fandor, and Brett Walker, Miguel Gouvea and Francesca Bricta on behalf of Rome-based Cacciavite Film Placement representing Cristiani.

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