

Kintsugi

written and directed by Emily Newmark

Length: 20 mins

Genre: Drama, Suspense

Country of Origin: Created & Produced by a Wisconsin/Chicago-based Filmmaker, Filmed in the Czech Republic

Logline: After receiving a harsh critique, a young sculpting student makes an irreversible mistake and must overcome her jealousy and self-doubt in order to discover her unique artistic voice.

Synopsis: Thalia, the film's protagonist, seeks recognition for a piece she believes holds significant merit. When she doesn't receive it, she embarks on a journey of self-discovery and acceptance. Through this journey, she creates a sculpture free from concern about others' opinions, enabling her to produce her best work yet.

Director Statement: What happens when we relinquish the need for validation in an industry that thrives on external praise? Kintsugi explores this question and serves as an ode to young artists, reminding us that art holds intrinsic value, independent of the worth others assign to it. I wrote Kintsugi to remind myself and my peers that there is always space in this world for our art as long as it comes from genuine expression and sincerity. I was amazed by how the film's message directly challenged my team's creative process, compelling us to question our perceptions of what constitutes worthwhile art. With a team predominantly led by female artists, we confronted the harsh criticism and standards imposed on women in our industry. This journey was particularly meaningful to me, as it left us artistically empowered in the way we now hope to empower our audiences.

Director Biography: Emily Newmark is a Chicago-based Film and Theater Director. A 2022 graduate of Oberlin College, she has also completed the Second-Year Directing Program at Prague Film School. Her short film, Kintsugi, marks her debut as a writer and filmmaker and won Prague Film School's Best Cinematography Award. Emily is the Co-Artistic Director and Founder of The Village Theater, a women-led Chicago storefront theater that focuses on connecting stories to grassroots community work. She was selected for a residency at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, where she served as the 2022/2023 Emerging Professional Director. Emily is currently developing and directing a new adaptation of The Odyssey, a play with music that re-centers the story around the female character Calypso.

Main Cast: Hanna Ripper, Julian Krenn, and Michael Pitthan

Main Crew:

Assistant Director: Pooja Sampat

Production Manager: Yatha Dholakia

Director of Photography: Anna Dedecek

Assistant Camera: Shivraj Kshatriya

Art Director: Lena D'Helena

Gaffer/Grip: Berend-Jan Vermeulen

Sound Recordists/ Post Designer: Rico Casazza

Composer: Guillaume Cochard-Lemoine **Production Assistant:** Herman Dahl