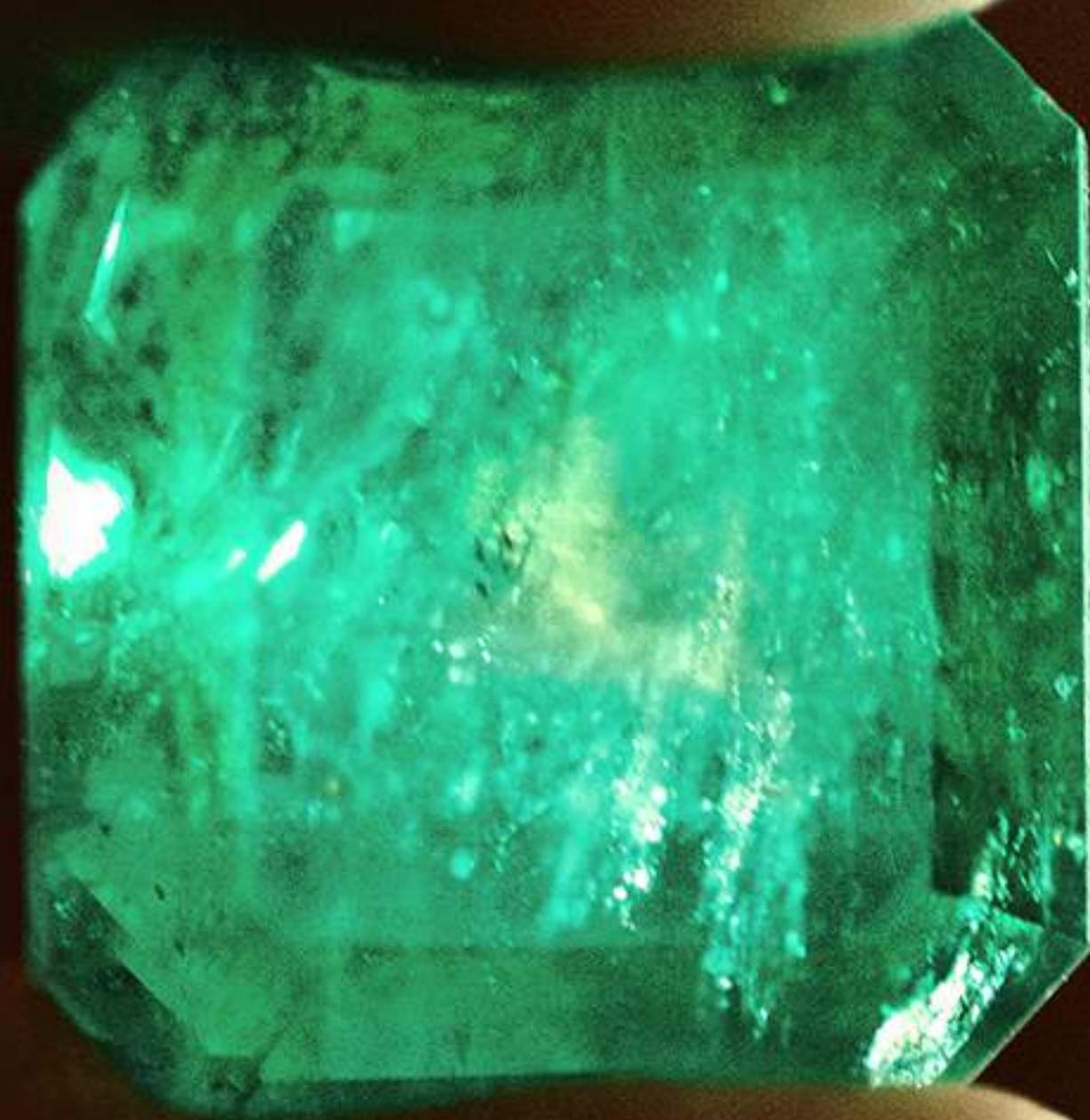


THE GLOBAL STORY
OF THE EMERALD TRADE



ILLUSIONS — IN — STONE

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO PRESENTS AN ADVANCED LABORATORY FOR VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGY PRODUCTION
A FILM BY BRIAN BRAZEAL "ILLUSIONS IN STONE" EDITED BY MATTHEW RITENOUR CINEMATOGRAPHY BY BRIAN BRAZEAL, LILIAN HAIDAR AND DAN BRUNS
DIRECTED BY BRIAN BRAZEAL





ILLUSIONS IN STONE

OFFICIAL PRESS KIT

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PRESS KIT

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ALVA | ADVANCED
LABORATORY for
VISUAL
ANTHROPOLOGY

53 MINUTES
DOCUMENTARY | 2016
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This project began when I went to an emerald mine in the Brazilian backlands to buy a wedding present. I found an open air market in precious gemstones and a community of miners and traders who had no idea what would become of their stones. “The Indians buy them,” they told me. So I went to India and the Pink City of Jaipur, where a community of deep religious faith has amassed great wealth in an international informal economy.

From there, I followed the stones to Zambia where so-called illegal miners and smugglers chase their own dreams of wealth and happiness and are all too often disappointed. I learned of an Israeli syndicate, an emerald king, the bloody “Green Wars” that raged across Colombia’s emerald zone and the unlikely alliance of bishops and gunmen who negotiated for peace. I found a global economy tied together not only by money but by hope, by honesty and trust, by religious belief and by what Colombians call *el sueño verde*, the green dream.

Brian Brazeal
Producer, Director, Cinematographer





LILIAN HAIDAR
CINEMATOGRAPHER
INDIA

Lilian is a New York based professional photographer making her motion picture debut in this film. Her vast and varied international experience made her an invaluable asset to the project.



BRIAN BRAZEAL
PRODUCER, DIRECTOR,
CINEMATOGRAPHER

An anthropologist interested in the intersection of religions and informal economies, Brian devoted years to the study of the emerald trade and the communities who carry it out. He is also the founder and director of the Advanced Laboratory for Visual Anthropology where researchers use the tools of digital cinema to bring anthropological insights to the broadest publics.



DAN BRUNS
CINEMATOGRAPHER
COLOMBIA

Dan Bruns has been directing, shooting, and editing films and commercials for over 12 years. Through his job as Lab Tech for the Advanced Laboratory for Visual Anthropology and director of ALVA Studios, he has helped create several documentaries that have gone on to win multiple awards and have been broadcast on PBS stations all across the United States.



Q&A WITH DIRECTOR Brian Brazeal

“This project targets television audiences across the country and around the world. Gemstones have a mystique all their own. This is not a story of blood and death, but of hope and faith. It shows how members of religious traditions, often held to be locked in perpetual conflict, can come together. They are united, not only by their search for material wealth but by their fascination with the mesmerizing beauty of the emerald.”

Brian Brazeal

What was your most interesting discovery about emeralds?

These days gemstone mining conjures up images of enslavement and civil war because of the horrors of the diamond trade. In the emerald trade though, people are not motivated by the fear of death. They don't seem to fear death at all. They are motivated by hope, by the dream that they will find a stone that will change their lives. They call it the green dream and a lot of the time, it doesn't come true, but sometimes it does. Although the trade has sometimes been plagued by violence and danger, the people in it are honest, righteous and devout. It's not an easy business and it's not always legal but these people devote their lives and their deaths to the pursuit of natural beauty. There is something profound in that.

Where was *Illusions in Stone* filmed?

A lot of the filming took place hundreds of meters underground in the rickety mineshafts of Brazil and Colombia. We travelled to emerald markets in Bahia and Bogotá. We traversed the harrowing road to La Culebrera “The Snakepit” to meet the last of the Emerald Dons. We sat with scholars and stone-cutters in the Pink City of Jaipur, India. We immersed ourselves in the diamond districts of New York and Tel Aviv and we camped in mud huts with illegal miners on the banks of the Kafubu river in Zambia.



"There is no such thing as an intrinsic value of an emerald. You may feel an emerald is worth \$5,000 a carat, I may feel it's worth \$10,000 a carat, someone else might sell it for \$50,000 a carat."

Yogendra Durlabhji

Total Running Time - 58 minutes

Aspect Ratio - 16x9, pixel size 1920x1080p

Year - 2016

Website - www.csuchico.edu/alva/projects/2016/illusions-in-stone.shtml

Production Company - The CSU, Chico

Advanced Laboratory for Visual Anthropology

Television Standard - NTSC

Shooting Format - R3D, HD SLR

Sound Format - Stereo

Framerate - 23.976fps

Subtitles - English

Translation - N/A

IN THEIR OWN WORDS



"I have to keep pushing myself. Maybe today I can find an emerald, maybe tomorrow. You don't know."

"UNCLE B"
ILLEGAL MINER



"The ones who started the war all killed each other. It was then that we could speak to the people of peace."

DON MARTÍN ROJAS
"EL CAPOTERA"
ESMERALDERO

IN THEIR OWN WORDS



"God is the owner of the emerald mines. He reveals the stones to us. Mining is like a drug, but I don't want to get addicted."

**BIG GARIMPEIRO
EMERALD MINER**

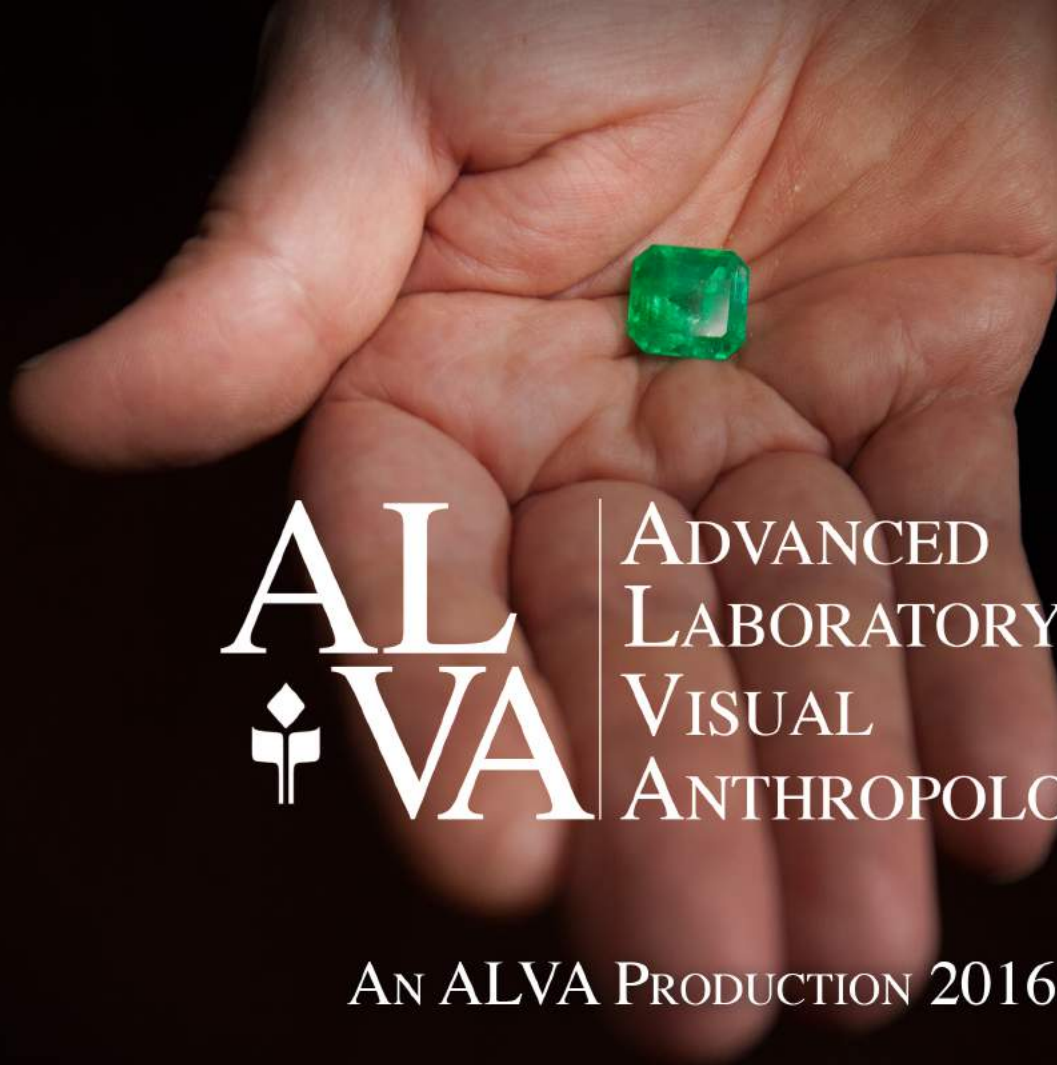


"Look at what diamonds have done to the business in Africa. Today they are tainted red. But I don't think emeralds come in any color except green."

**YOGENDRA DURLABHI
PHILANTHROPIST, JEWELER**

GALLERY





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AN ALVA PRODUCTION 2016

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