

WO A BELE –IN THE FOREST–

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The title “*Wo a bele*” means “They are in the forest.” “They” refers to the Baka, one of the “pygmy” hunter-gatherer groups inhabiting the tropical rain forest of central Africa.

This film depicts the experience of ethnological research, which is difficult to describe through ethnographies. It shows the experience of living with local people, and constitutes an attempt to convey how an outsider experiences the sights and sounds that the local people experience, as well as the fascination of their voices, expressions, and gestures.

At the beginning and end of the film, the relationship between the filmmaker (ethnologist) and the Baka people is depicted through images (camera). Thus, the film presents the issue of the relationship between those who research and those who are researched, and between those who film and those who are filmed. This undertaking involves asking the question of how we can show the relationship between here and elsewhere through images.

Broadcast on Communication Satellite TV in Japan in 2005.

Shown at the international “Cinéma du Réel” film festival, in Paris in 2006.

Shown at the international Visual Anthropology film festival “Mediating Camera,” in Moscow in 2006.

To be shown at the international “Shadow Festival,” in Amsterdam in 2006.

To be shown at the international “Filmer à Tout Prix” film festival, in Brussels in 2006.

To be shown at the international “Entre Vues” film festival, in Belfort in 2006.

Duration: 30 min, **Medium:** DV, **Year:** 2005, **Location:** Japan, Cameroon

Keywords: Baka, Ethnography, Ethnographic film, Self-documentary, Rapport