

Thor Anderson is an ethnographer and filmmaker whose work and teaching have focused on Maya studies, media, and the anthropology of the senses. He has done fieldwork in Central America, the Baztan Valley (Basque Country), and inner-city San Francisco. His research interests range from vernacular architecture and urban studies to shamanism, ritual and festivity, and the phenomenology of everyday life. A speaker of Tsotsil (one of thirty Mayan languages), he sees language and careful translation as the crucial first steps to cross-cultural understanding and action. He has been working in Chiapas since the mid-1970s, and documenting the Zapatista movement since the summer of 1994. Anderson is a senior lecturer at the San Francisco Art Institute, where he fosters the work of individual artists and their local communities, and explores the ethics and responsibilities of global citizenship.