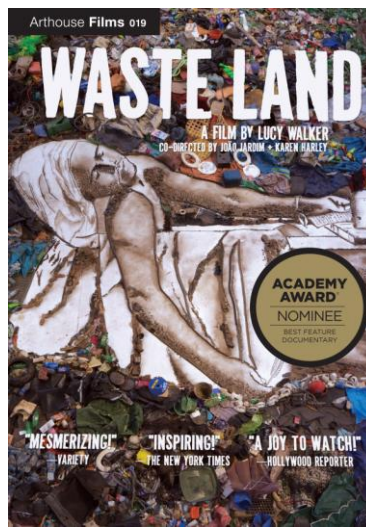




**NEW VIDEO AND ARTHOUSE FILMS RELEASE
2011 OSCAR®-NOMINATED DOCUMENTARY FILM, "WASTE LAND"**

**Lucy Walker's Moving Portrait of Artist Vik Muniz and Citizens of the World's Largest
Trash City Debuts on Digital and DVD on March 15**



"Beautiful...profoundly moving."—*Los Angeles Times*
"Waste Land...finds a piece of salvation."—*The A.V. Club*

Drawing its title from T.S. Eliot's signature poem ("... what branches grow out of this stony rubbish..."), **WASTE LAND** follows renowned artist **Vik Muniz** as he journeys from his home base in Brooklyn to his native Brazil and the world's largest garbage dump, Jardim Gramacho, located on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro. There he photographs an eclectic band of "*catadores*," self-designated pickers of recyclable materials. Muniz's initial objective was to "paint" the *catadores*' portraits with garbage. However, his collaboration with these inspiring characters as they recreate photographic images of themselves out of garbage reveals both their dignity and despair as they begin to re-imagine their lives.

An estimated 3,000-5,000 people live in the Jardim Gramacho, 15,000 derive their income from activities related to it, and some that Muniz met come from families that had been working there for three generations. *Catadores*, like the trash heaps they call home, are shunned to the margins of society and made invisible to the average Brazilian.

"These people are at the other end of consumer culture," said Muniz. "I was expecting to see people who were beaten and broken, but they were survivors."

Muniz quickly befriended and collaborated with a number of *catadores* on large-scale portraits of themselves including Irma, a cook who sells food in the dump; Zumbi, the resident intellectual who has held onto every book he's scavenged; and 18-year-old Suelem, who first arrived there when she was 7. Calling upon his resources as a world famous artist, Muniz raised more than \$64,000 at the esteemed Phillips de Pury auction house in London by selling one of his garbage portraits. 100% of the profits went to the Garbage Pickers Association of Jardim Gramacho.

Lucy Walker, winner of the 2010 IDA Pare Lorenz Award for her direction of **WASTE LAND**, gained unprecedented access to the entire process and, in the end, offers stirring evidence of the transformative power of art and the alchemy of the human spirit.

Garnering a nomination for a 2011 Academy Award® for Best Documentary Feature, among several other accolades, **WASTE LAND** won the Audience Award when it premiered at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival and also the Audience Award at the 2010 Berlin Film Festival, and premieres on television on April 19, 2011 on PBS's "Independent Lens."

WASTE LAND is an Arthouse Films Release, co-directed by João Jardim and Karen Harley; produced by Angus Aynsley and Hank Levine; co-produced by Peter Martin; Executive Produced by Fernando Meirelles, Miel de Botton Aynsley, Andrea Barata Ribeiro and Jackie de Botton; Edited by Pedro Kos; original music by Moby.

Waste Land (DVD single and Digital):

93 mins. + extras; Documentary, Color

Catalogue # NNVG239301; \$29.95 US

Extras include two features exclusive to the DVD: "Beyond Gramacho" and "An Untold Story"

About Arthouse Films

Arthouse Films is an independent production and distribution label based in New York and Los Angeles that acquires, produces, co-produces, markets, and distributes 20-plus titles per year. Upcoming and current films include *Picasso and Braque Go to the Movies*, *Chuck Close*, *Visual Acoustics: the Modernism of Julius Shulman*, and *Jean-Michel Basquiat: The Radiant Child*.

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