

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

KWICK KWICK, a short film by Sébastien Kocet

The film opens with a sentence attributed to Martin Luther: even if he knew the world would go to pieces tomorrow, he would still plant his apple tree. KWICK KWICK grew out of that sentence. Not the end of the world itself, but what we choose to do once it has already happened.

The old woman in the film has nothing left but a tin box and a seedling, the last one. She could keep it for herself. Instead she gives it to three small creatures who have never trusted anyone, and who will outlive her. I wanted to film that gesture: handing something on when you know you will never see what it becomes.

The second thread is trust. The Kwicks hide, run away, come back, retreat at the slightest movement. Nothing is won with words. The old woman speaks a single line in the whole film, and the meeting rests on a hand held open long enough. I chose gestures over tears: grief is a face hidden in two hands, an ending is a hand that no longer moves, and life goes on in three small creatures carrying a drop of water.

I made the film alone, with generative AI for every image, every movement, every voice and every note of music. People often say that AI can make pictures but not emotion. I wanted to test that. The tools never decided anything: every shot was written, chosen and cut, and many more were thrown away than kept. Twenty years of making music taught me rhythm and the value of silence, and that is how I edited it, with cuts placed like beats and room left for the audience to feel.

The ending is bittersweet on purpose. She does not see the tree. The seedling grows anyway. I hope people leave the film wondering what they, in turn, will plant.

Sébastien Kocet