



Strangers answer the call to locate a lost pet.

"35 Days" is an experimental, stop motion animation about what happens when a coalition of strangers answers the call to locate a missing cat during the pandemic lockdown of 2020. Voicemail messages from neighbors reveal the empathy and core connection we have for, and with, our pets and each other, demonstrating how a virtual community can transcend the isolation of the pandemic.

Animated frame-by-frame using fabric and paper cutouts and thread.

Directed, edited, animated, produced by Heidi Kumao

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Run time: 6:49 min.

USA

2025

1.78:1

Stereo

English

[Film website](#)

Origin story:

My cat went missing during the pandemic lockdown of 2020. I launched a major search for him, distributing flyers, knocking on doors, following every lead. I received dozens of calls from concerned neighbors and strangers who claimed to have seen my orange tabby. This is their story--pieced together like clues to a crime.



Heidi Kumao is an award-winning visual artist who exhibits animations, fabric works, video installations, and kinetic sculpture. She has received grants from the Guggenheim Foundation and the Creative Capital Foundation.

Her film, "[Swallowed Whole,](#)" about breaking her back, screened in over 25 film international film festivals and won "Best Experimental Film" at the Humboldt International Film Festival, Big Muddy Film Festival & the Seoul International Extremely Short Film Festival. She is a professor at the University of Michigan.

