

PRESS REVIEW  
February 2026

# SULAWESI

## A NEW ORIGIN STORY

Directed by Pascal Goblot & Denis van Waerbeke  
Produced by Zadig Productions & Escalenta



zadig productions



**INTERNATIONAL  
PRESS**

## DOCUMENTARY

# ZED launches global distribution science doc on earliest known rock art

By Justin Anderson

February 11, 2026



French specialist factual producer-distributor ZED has announced a major new documentary project, which explores one of the most significant archaeological breakthroughs of recent decades and boasts exclusive access to major rock art sites on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi.

*Sulawesi: A New Origin Story* (1 x 52 min., pictured), directed by Pascal Goblot and Denis van Waerebeke, follows up on new research revealed in the scientific journal *Nature* establishing the world's oldest known cave imagery: negative hand stencils discovered in the Liang Metanduno cave, dated to at least 67,800 years ago, pushing back the origins of image-making by at least 15,000 years and challenging the long-held belief that art was born in Europe, the discovery opens new perspectives on early human migrations and cognitive evolution.

Produced by Zadig Productions and Escalenta for Arte France, the newly completed doc will premiere on Arte in April.

ZED has already secured key international sales, with SBS (Australia) and UR (Sweden) on board. The film is now launching across the international market, with additional territories available.

(Photo: Zadig Productions/Escalenta)



## ZED shops science doc Sulawesi, A New Origin Story



Sulawesi, A New Origin Story

NEWS BRIEF: French producer and distributor ZED has begun selling science documentary Sulawesi, A New Origin Story internationally.

Produced by Zadig Productions and Escalenta for Arte France, the 52-minute doc traces the origins of the first man-made art back to the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, challenging a long-held belief that art originated in Europe. The doc, which is directed by Pascal Goblot and Denis van Waerebeke and set to launch on Arte France in April, has already been picked up by SBS (Australia) and UR (Sweden).



C21 reporter  
13-02-2026  
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Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Home / Top Stories / ZED Launches Rock Art Documentary

## ZED Launches Rock Art Documentary

● 5 days ago 👤 Jamie Stalcup

ZED has launched the rock art documentary *Sulawesi, A New Origin Story* for the international market.

The 52-minute documentary takes audiences into the heart of one of the most significant archaeological breakthroughs of recent decades—the discovery of negative hand stencils dated to at least 67,800 years old, pushing back the origins of image-making by at least 15,000 years.

The documentary is produced by Zadig Productions and Escalenta for ARTE France. It is set to premiere on ARTE in April.

ZED has already secured key international sales, with SBS in Australia and UR in Sweden on board.

🔖 TAGS

SULAWESI A NEW ORIGIN STORY

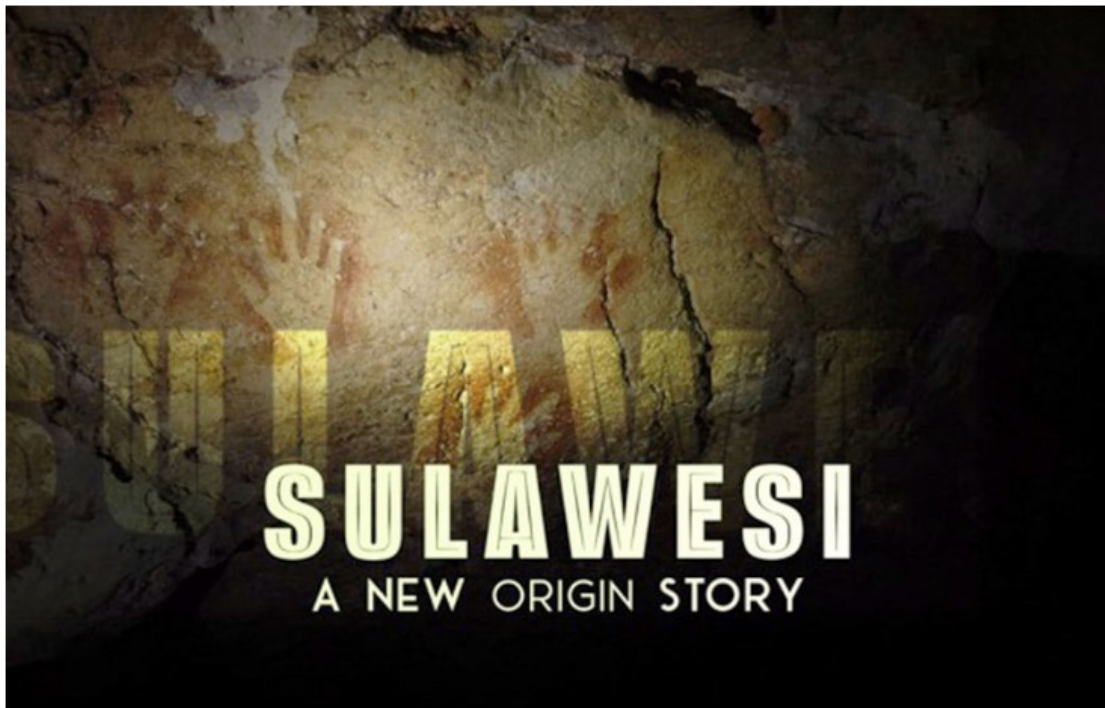
ZED

## ZED LAUNCHES INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF DOCUMENTARY ON THE WORLD'S EARLIEST KNOWN ROCK ART

"SULAWESI, A NEW ORIGIN STORY" EXPLORES GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH PUBLISHED IN NATURE THAT DATES CAVE IMAGERY IN INDONESIA BACK AT LEAST 67,800 YEARS, RESHAPING THE TIMELINE OF HUMAN CREATIVITY.

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"Sulawesi, A New Origin Story"

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**Z**ED has launched international distribution for "Sulawesi, A New Origin Story", a major science documentary revealing what is now considered the world's earliest known rock art. Directed by Pascal Goblot and Denis van Waerebeke, the film offers exclusive access to **key rock art sites on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi** and delves into one of the most significant archaeological breakthroughs of recent decades.

Produced by Zadig Productions and Escalenta for ARTE France, the 52-minute **documentary will premiere on ARTE in April 2026**. ZED has already secured key international sales, including **SBS in Australia and UR in Sweden**, and is now launching the film across the global market, with additional territories still available.

### NEW RESEARCH

Recently published in the prestigious scientific journal Nature, new research has identified the oldest known cave imagery: negative hand stencils discovered in the Liang Metanduno cave, dated to at least 67,800 years ago. Led by renowned researchers including Maxime Aubert, Adam Brumm and Adhi Agus Oktaviana, the discovery redefines the global timeline of human creativity.

By pushing back the origins of image-making by at **least 15,000 years** and challenging the long-standing belief that art originated in Europe, the findings rewrite the cultural history of Homo sapiens and open new perspectives on early human migrations and cognitive evolution.

Blending high-end scientific storytelling, cinematic exploration and exclusive research insights, "Sulawesi, A New Origin Story" positions itself as a premium factual title at the intersection of archaeology, human origins and global history, with strong international appeal for broadcasters and platforms. 

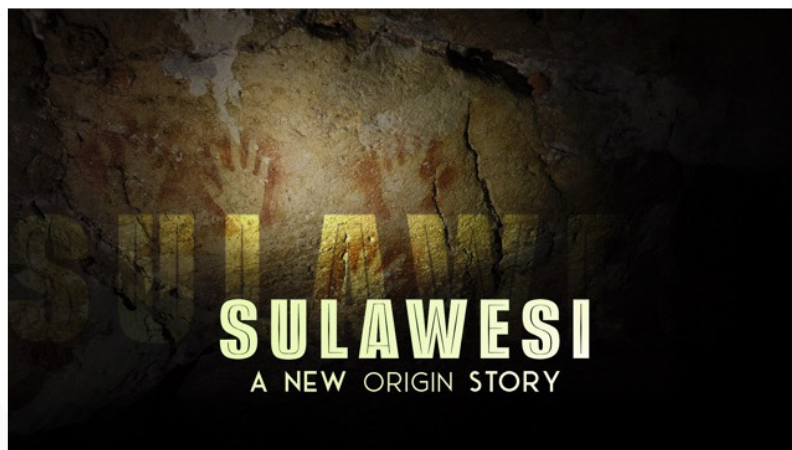


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## ZED launches major science doc SULAWESI, A NEW ORIGIN STORY

February 16, 2026 by [TVA Editor](#)



With exclusive access to major rock art sites on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, *Sulawesi, A New Origin Story*, directed by Pascal Goblot and Denis van Waerebeke, takes audiences at the heart of one of the most significant archaeological breakthroughs of recent decades.

Recently revealed in the prestigious scientific journal *Nature*, new research has established the world's oldest known cave imagery: negative hand stencils discovered in the Liang Metanduno cave, dated to at least 67,800 years old. Led by world-class researchers including Maxime Aubert, Adam Brumm and Adhi Agus Oktaviana, this discovery is redefining the global timeline of human creativity. By pushing back the origins of image-making by at least 15,000 years and challenging the long-held belief that art was born in Europe, the discovery is rewriting the cultural history of *Homo sapiens* and opening new perspectives on early human migrations and cognitive evolution.

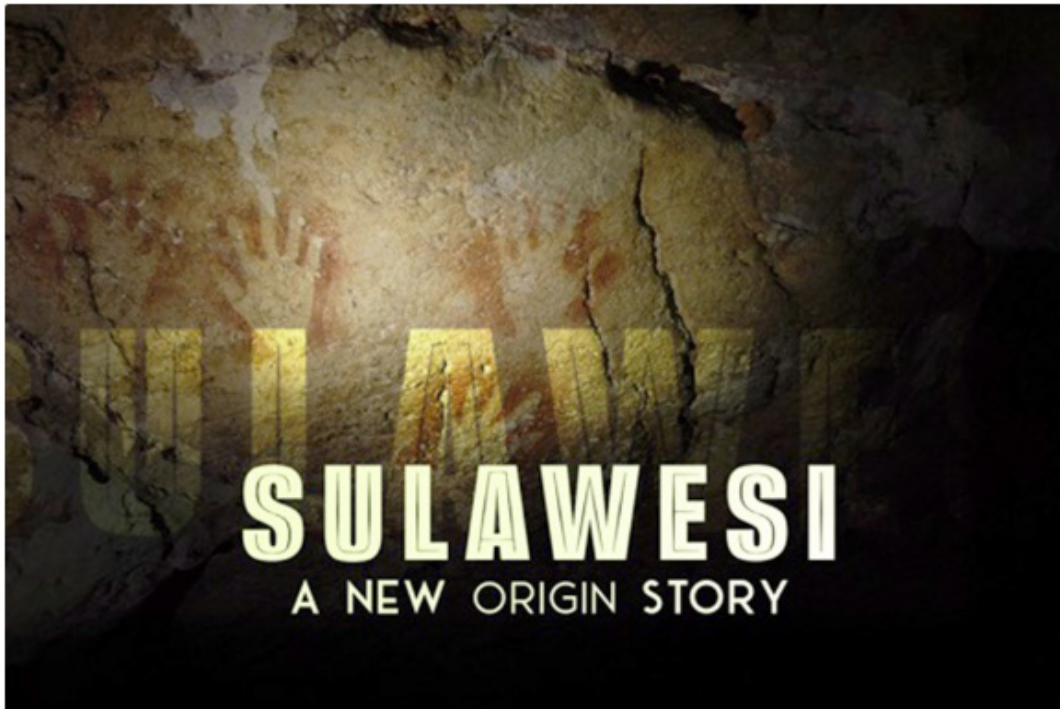
Combining high-end science storytelling, cinematic exploration and exclusive scientific content, *Sulawesi, A New Origin Story* offers broadcasters and platforms a premium factual programme with strong international audience appeal, positioned at the crossroads of archaeology, human origins and global history.

Produced by Zadig Productions and Escalenta for ARTE France, this newly completed 52' documentary will premiere on ARTE in April 2026. ZED has already secured key international sales, with SBS (Australia) and UR (Sweden) on board, and the film is now launching across the international market, with additional territories currently available.

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## ZED LAUNCHES INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF SULAWESI, A NEW ORIGIN STORY

📅 2026-02-11 / 📁 Factual / 👤 Paris



French distributor **ZED** has launched international sales on "**Sulawesi, A New Origin Story**", a major science documentary revealing what is now considered the world's earliest known rock art.

Directed by Pascal Goblot and Denis van Waerebeke, the film offers exclusive access to key rock art sites on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, placing viewers at the center of one of the most significant archaeological breakthroughs of recent decades.

Recently unveiled in the prestigious scientific journal "Nature", new research has identified the oldest known cave imagery: negative hand stencils discovered in the Liang Metanduno cave and dated to at least 67,800 years old. Led by renowned researchers including Maxime Aubert, Adam Brumm and Adhi Agus Oktaviana, the discovery is reshaping the global timeline of human creativity.

By pushing back the origins of image-making by at least **15,000 years** and challenging the long-held belief that art originated in Europe, the findings are rewriting the cultural history of Homo sapiens while offering new insights into early human migration and cognitive evolution.

Blending cinematic exploration with high-end science storytelling and exclusive scientific content, "**Sulawesi, A New Origin Story**" positions itself as a premium factual offering for broadcasters and platforms, sitting at the intersection of archaeology, human origins and global history.

Produced by Zadig Productions and Escalenta for ARTE France, the 52-minute documentary is set to premiere on ARTE in April 2026.

ZED has already secured key international sales, including **SBS (Australia)** and **UR (Sweden)**, and is now rolling the film out across the global market, with additional territories currently available.

### CONTENIDOS

16.02.2026 > Newsline Report

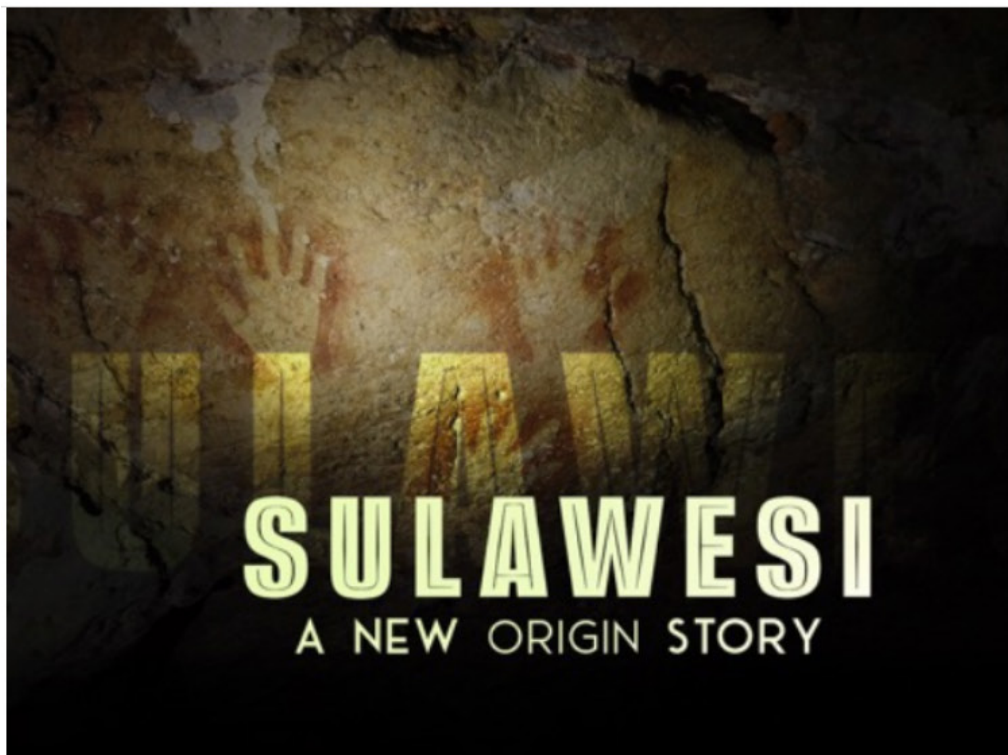
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PORTADA > CONTENIDOS

## ZED ANUNCIÓ EL LANZAMIENTO INTERNACIONAL DE SULAWESI, A NEW ORIGIN STORY

La distribuidora francesa ZED anunció el lanzamiento internacional de Sulawesi, A New Origin Story, un documental científico que lleva a la audiencia al centro de uno de los hallazgos arqueológicos más relevantes de las últimas décadas.





Dirigido por Pascal Goblot y Denis van Waerebeke, el film obtuvo acceso exclusivo a los principales yacimientos de arte rupestre en la isla indonesia de Sulawesi, donde recientes investigaciones han transformado la comprensión sobre los orígenes del arte humano.

El descubrimiento, publicado en la revista científica Nature, identifica como las imágenes rupestres más antiguas del mundo a plantillas negativas de manos halladas en la cueva de Liang Metanduno, con una datación mínima de 67,800 años.

La investigación fue liderada por especialistas de referencia internacional como Maxime Aubert, Adam Brumm y Adhi Agus Oktaviana, y está redefiniendo la cronología global de la creatividad humana. El hallazgo retrasa en al menos 15.000 años el origen conocido de la creación de imágenes y cuestiona la arraigada idea de que el arte nació en Europa, reescribiendo así la historia cultural del *Homo sapiens* y aportando nuevas perspectivas sobre las migraciones tempranas y la evolución cognitiva.

Con una combinación de rigor científico, narrativa cinematográfica y acceso exclusivo a la investigación, *Sulawesi, A New Origin Story* se posiciona como un contenido factual premium con fuerte atractivo internacional, situado en la intersección entre arqueología, orígenes humanos e historia global.

El documental, de 52 minutos, fue producido por Zadig Productions y Escalenta para ARTE France, donde se estrenará en abril de 2026.

En el frente comercial, ZED ya aseguró ventas clave con SBS (Australia) y UR (Suecia), y actualmente impulsa el título en el mercado internacional con territorios adicionales aún disponibles.

Trailer Oficial: [https://www.zed.fr/en/catalog/sulawesi-new-origins/screening\\_room/5750](https://www.zed.fr/en/catalog/sulawesi-new-origins/screening_room/5750)

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