



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Festival of Science and Experimental films from Switzerland

Seminar Hall Complex, Science City
JBS Haldane Avenue, Kolkata
Sunday, 17 and Monday, 18 November 2019

Programme

Sunday, 17 November 2019

11:00 The Sense of Beauty
12:30 Black Out
14:30 The End of Time
16:30 Twenty One Percent

Monday, 18 November 2019

11:00 Sila and the Gatekeepers of the Arctic
12:30 Acoustic Ocean
14:30 Seed Warriors
16:30 Heidi at the Foley Artist

Synopsis of films

The Sense of Beauty

April 2017, Documentary; English and Italian, with English subtitles; 75 minutes

At the CERN in Geneva, 10'000 scientists from around the world work together using the largest machine ever built by human beings. They look for the matter that generated our universe one millionth of a second following the Big Bang. Thus the infinitely small and the vast immensity of the universe together open the doors of an invisible domain, where scientists are guided by something they have in common with artists.

Black Out

October 2017, Experimental; No dialogue; 16 minutes

The performance in the form of a black granulated floor, consisting of thousands of fragments in which the dancers' movements leave traces, thus composing a choreographic piece inside which is a work of fine art.

The End of Time

August 2012, Documentary; English, 114 minutes

Working at the limits of what can easily be expressed, filmmaker Peter Mettler takes on the elusive subject of time, and once again turns his camera to filming the unfilmable. From the particle accelerator in Switzerland, where scientists seek to probe regions of time we cannot see, to lava flows in Hawaii which have overwhelmed all but one home on the south side of Big Island; from the disintegration of inner city Detroit, to a Hindu funeral rite near the place of Buddha's enlightenment, Mettler explores our perception of time. He dares to dream the movie of the future while also immersing us in the wonder of the everyday.

Twenty One Percent

October 2016, Experimental; English, 18 minutes

In this small formation history of atmospheric chemistry, flying and thinking beings emerge as the result of high levels of oxygen in the air which is owed to earth's forest and plant cover. In the midst of the oxygenic forest, a science-fictional performer manipulates a multitude of ingredients—minerals, forest fruits and liquids.

Sila and the Gatekeepers of the Arctic

September 2015, Documentary; English and Greenlandic, with English subtitles, 70 minutes

The documentary explores the Greenlandic concept of Sila, a multifaceted term that encompasses weather, consciousness and the universe. Amidst the breath-taking landscape of Greenland, where climate change is most visible, two vastly independent groups of Inuit subsistence hunters and a group of polar scientists, bear witness to the transforming environment. Their interwoven stories define the term sila in today's globalized world.

Acoustic Ocean

2018, Video installation; Sami, with English subtitles, 18 minutes

Located on the Lofoten Islands in Northern Norway, Acoustic Ocean sets out to explore the sonic ecology of marine life. The scientist as an explorer and important mediator of the contemporary understanding of our planetary ecosystems is a central figure in this video. She makes her appearance in the person of a Sami (indigenous of northern Scandinavia) biologist-diver who is using all sorts of hydrophones, parabolic mics and recording devices. Her task is to sense the submarine space for acoustic and other biological forms of expression. Sonic manifestations are vital modes of communication, navigation and survival for a great majority of deep-sea beings. Given the poor visibility in the deep sea, the sonic dimension is the primary means of communication, navigation and survival in this penumbral liquid universe.

Seed Warriors

July 2010, Documentary; English, 86 minutes

By 2050 temperatures worldwide are expected to rise by at least 2 degrees. This will result in a drop in food production by up to 30% in some regions. But global food demand will have doubled. How will we feed the world? Is the "Doomsday Vault", built in the Norwegian permafrost, and containing seeds from around the world, a practical way of safeguarding the world's biodiversity or a utopian ideal? In this documentary we hear from the scientists behind this ambitious project and travel to Kenya to examine what the Svalbard Global Seed Vault can contribute to the fight against hunger.

Heidi at the Foley Artist

January 2016, Documentary; German, with English subtitles, 14 minutes

Nine-year-old Anuk Steffen plays the title role of the new Heidi film. Full of curiosity, she watches the film crew at work, and is especially intrigued by the sound engineer. Anuk takes us to a mysterious studio, where she becomes part of a fascinating experiment. Together with the Foley artist, she learns to dangle, plop and wriggle objects, adding sound effects to a scene from one of the first film adaptations of the famous novel by Johanna Spyri. An enlightening lesson about a legendary film character and the importance of the soundtrack in a film.