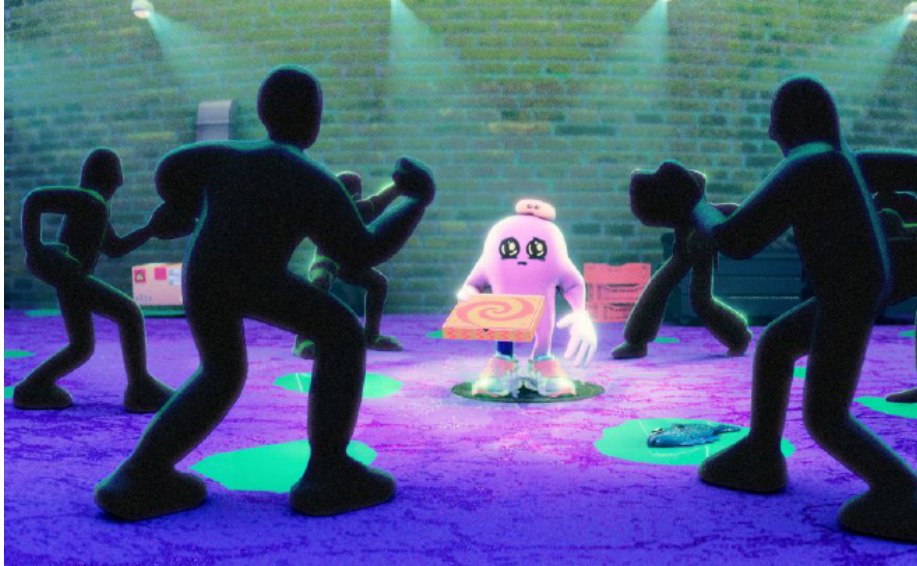


Leipzig Animated Filmmaker Franz Impler and Media Artist Anton Cla are the Guests of Animation Perspectives #8

Press Release
6.10.2026

Animation Night revolves around distant galaxies | The DOK Industry programme is full of animation



Nothing to Expect (Director: Franz Impler) | DOK Leipzig 2026

Although documentary cinema forms part of DOK Leipzig's very name, animated film has developed into an equally important element of the film festival over the years. Each year, the competition programmes bring together outstanding new productions, while the formats "Animation Perspectives" and "Animation Night" have become audience favourites in the meantime. This year's industry programme is equally full of animation, which doesn't just serve to hone the festival's programming line, but also to establish DOK Industry as a meeting point for the international animated film community. Across all these parts of the festival, DOK Leipzig is always exploring the boundaries of animation: from animated documentaries via experimental films all the way to the DOK Neuland extended reality exhibition.

Animation Perspectives #8

Describing states of being in a game aesthetic: at this year's **Animation Perspectives**, Leipzig animated filmmaker **Franz Impler** and Belgian media artist **Anton Cla** will be meeting on stage and giving the audience insights into their creative process. This conversation format will be taking place in 2026 for the eighth time already. It combines a film programme of selected works by the filmmakers and a discussion between the two of them, curator André Eckardt and the cinemagoers.

"Franz Impler and Anton Cla create spaces that work according to their own unique rules. Both toy with the restrictions of early gaming animation – including unpredictable spatial coordinates and glitches. They describe states of being and thus prompt viewers to reflect on themselves and the question of their own agency", commented Eckardt. "While Anton Cla animates strange forms and darkly magical realms, Franz Impler tells stories in glowing colours, full of surprising humour and unexpected punchlines", he continued.

69th International Leipzig
Festival for Documentary and
Animated Film

26 October to 1 November 2026

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Both filmmakers have already shown films in the DOK Leipzig competitions: Anton Cla in 2023 with his graduation film “Cyclepaths” (International Competition Animated Film) and Franz Implr in 2020 with “Out of Bounds” (Competition for the Audience Award for Short Documentaries and Animated Films). A further eleven short films will be shown alongside these two titles at Animation Perspectives #8.

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Animation Night: Outta Space

This year's **Animation Night: Outta Space** imagines outer space in moving images. Curated by Ben Sassen and Franka Sachse, the programme invites audiences to leave Earth's reality behind and to set off on a cosmic journey into a universe of experimental films and live film performances. The Animation Night traditionally takes place at the Schaubühne Lindenfels on the Friday of the festival week at 8pm.

“Over the course of its history, science fiction cinema has made use of animation and animated effects as the most important tools to depict outer space, extraterrestrial worlds and far-off galaxies. This is no big surprise, as animation can to a certain extent create an entire cosmos from an empty space. Animation shows particular strength when no visual material is available”, remarked Franka Sachse. In addition, co-curator Ben Sassen emphasised the close links between animated and experimental film: “Many of the works showing were made in visual arts contexts and were not originally intended for the big screen. But it's precisely there, where several of them can now be seen for the very first time in this dimension, that they exert a pull that's difficult to resist.”

The programme traces the representation of outer space in animated and experimental film from 1966 to 2026 and is conceived as a round trip: from the Earth to the Moon (“**Moon Flight**”), onwards to distant planets (“**Green Planet**”) and back again (“**Cosmonauts**”). “**World**” by American artist and director Jordan Belson will also be shown, whose oeuvre also includes over 30 abstract films which have been described as “cosmic cinema”.

After the film programme, sound artist Kay Kalytta and animated filmmaker Alberto Couceiro will be showing their most recent work “**Proyecciones Cómicas**”. This live performance draws on stop motion animation, 16mm projectors, film loops, modular live synthesis and a small orchestra of cassettes and radios. The two artists refer to it a “film concert” and the curatorial duo promises “a chamber of wonders full of analogue sound techniques; hissings, cracklings and rattlings.”

Homage Animated Film

DOK Leipzig's dual programming structure is once again reflected in the Documentary Film Hommage and the Animated Film Hommage, which pay tribute to the long-standing contributions of filmmakers in both fields at this year's festival too. The latter honours the Norwegian animated film studio **Trollfilm**, which specialises in multiplane cut-out animation. Operating out of a converted barn within reach of several national parks, Trollfilm has spent more than 30 years using mostly hand-crafted animation to conjure up a world that radiates empathy and brims with magical optimism. The studio also engages with such big themes as domestic violence, intergenerational trauma and war at the same time. In addition to the two film programmes, a public masterclass with Trollfilm founder Anita Killi also forms part of the homage and will be moderated by curator Marie Ketzscher. More information can be found

in the corresponding [press release](#).

DOK Neuland

Held under the theme **“Landslide”**, DOK Neuland, the public extended reality (XR) and expanded filmmaking exhibition, maps collapse across eight compelling works, revealing its many facets, fractures, and promises. Curated by Dana Melaver, the works span a range of themes and narrative approaches, from man-made tensions with nature, to homes lost to climate change and violence, to departures from certainty and new beginnings. The lineup boasts diverse forms, with three works making use of animation techniques: the VR documentary **“The World Came Flooding In”**, the interactive work **“Nothing to see here”** and the mixed-media installation **“The Room of a Thousand Voices”**. More information can be found in the corresponding [press release](#).

Animation at DOK Industry

The industry programme is also full of animation. A bundle of four events is taking place at the Zeitgeschichtliches Forum Leipzig on 29.10. for accredited guests. Organised in collaboration with the Animation Production Days Stuttgart, the round table **“Adult Animation in Europe”** brings together creators, producers and industry experts to discuss the status quo and future of animation for adults. In the afternoon, the panel discussion **“From the Niche into the Spotlight – Pathways to Greater Visibility for European Animation”** by the AG Animationsfilm takes the visibility of European animated films as its theme. It is followed by the DOK Industry Talk **“KEY FRAMES 2026: Animation erzählt Gegenwart”**, which takes place in German. With the KEY FRAMES funding programme, MDR and MDM have enabled seven animated shorts to be made in central Germany that tackle current themes in society. The event takes a look at how the programme came about as well as the collaboration between the TV channel, funding bodies and producers. It's followed in turn by the networking format **“Industry Connections: Animation Meets Doc”**, whose name says it all: animators get the chance to meet documentary filmmakers interested in the creative potential of animation techniques.

In addition, the **Animation Lab DOK Leipzig** is taking place for the fourth time already in collaboration with CEE Animation. The three-day workshop for producers working on their first animated documentaries is headed by experienced producer Jean-François Le Corre (Vivement Lundi!) and the multidisciplinary artist Uri Kranot (Tindrum). Further, both an animated feature film and several animated documentary films are part of the **DOK Co-Pro Market**. Finally, the Industry programme for interactive and immersive storytelling, **DOK Exchange**, reflects how animation is expanding from traditional techniques into interactive, spatial, data-driven and generative forms. It ranges from traditional handcrafted animation used in the interactive console game **„Bub“** (Prototyping Zone), to 3D animation translated into spatial and interactive XR environments in **„Becoming Lucien“** (Prototyping Zone) and point-cloud animation and AI-assisted reconstructive animation in **„Anatomy of a Massacre“** and **„Dreams Under Siege“** (Showcase), where images, footage or data are transformed into spatial and moving visual reconstructions. More information can be found in the corresponding [press release](#).

An overview of the formats Animation Perspectives and Animation Night can be found in the following film lists.

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Animation Perspectives



Breaking the Law

Animated Film

Franz Impler
Germany 2020 | 1 min
No Premiere

Der Spielplatz ist leer. Alle sind zu Hause, im Lockdown. Nur eine birnenförmige 3D-Figur tapst mit dünnen Beinen, fetten Sneakern und einem Ballon über den kiesigen Sand. – *The playground is empty. Everyone is at home, in lockdown. Except for a pear-shaped 3D figure plodding through the gravelly sand on thin legs, wearing chunky sneakers, towing a balloon.*

Language without dialogue
Subtitles None



Changeover

Animated Film

Franz Impler
Germany 2022 | 1 min
No Premiere

Die so magische wie miese Spielregel der blauen, hintertriebenen Grinsekatzes lässt einen Tennisspieler verzweifeln. Ständig rotiert das Spielfeld und macht ihn zu seinem eigenen Gegner. – *A devious blue Cheshire cat sets her own mischievous, magical rules of the game, driving a tennis player to despair. The court keeps rotating and turns him into his own opponent.*

Language without dialogue
Subtitles None



Cyclepaths

Animated Film

Anton Cla
Belgium 2023 | 13 min
No Premiere

Ein Mann auf dem E-Roller am Rande der Stadt. Irritierend nur das geschulterte Gewehr. Die Zeit, Alarm zu schlagen, ist vorbei. Die Katastrophe hat sich schon Bahn gebrochen. – *A man on an e-scooter at the edge of the city. Only the gun slung over his shoulder irritates. The time for sounding the alarm is up. Disaster has already struck.*

Language without dialogue
Subtitles None



Dysphasia

Animated Film

Anton Cla
Belgium 2023 | 1 min
No Premiere

Wenn Worte fehlen, sprechen Farben und Formen: Ein Mann mit Dysphasie sitzt mit ungezähmtem Blick still auf einem Stuhl. Wir rücken heran, bis der Strudel auch uns ergreift. – *When words fail, colours and shapes may speak: a man with dysphasia sits silently on a chair, his gaze untamed. We move closer and closer until the whirlpool pulls us in too.*

Language without dialogue
Subtitles None

Animation Perspectives



Elegy of Time

Animated Film

Anton Cla
Belgium 2017 | 5 min
No Premiere

Schwerelos schwebt ein leerer Raum im Dunkeln. Seine drei Wände leuchten, geben stark abstrahierte Bewegungen wieder. Sind es projizierte Einbildungen oder existiert eine Welt dahinter? – *An empty room floats weightlessly in the dark. Its three walls glow, displaying highly abstracted movements. Are they projected inventions, or is there a world behind them?*

Language English
Subtitles None



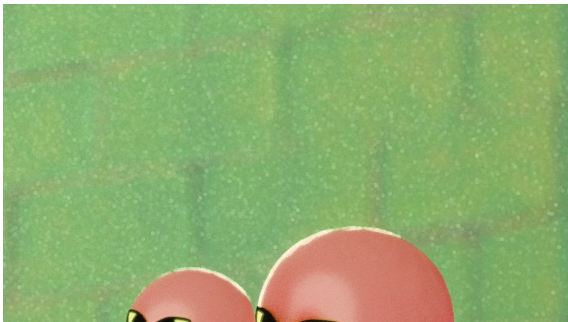
Fiddlehead / Happy Mondays: Tart Tart [excerpt]

Animated Film

Anton Cla
Belgium 2024 | 1 min
No Premiere

Irgendwo zwischen Faszination und Schock lässt sich langsam erkennen, was sich da bewegt. Mit unwirklicher Stimme singt ein körperloser, verwucherter Kopf im lachsroten All. – *Somewhere between fascination and shock we gradually begin to recognise what is moving here. A bodyless, overgrown head sings with an otherworldly voice in a salmon-red universe.*

Language English
Subtitles None



Gum Bubble Buddy

Animated Film

Franz Implr
Germany 2023 | 1 min
No Premiere

Ein kleiner Großstadtrebell schlendert lässig durch die Straßen. Eitel wie er ist, formt er Kaugummiblasen seines eigenen Gesichts. Animation zum Staunen und zum Schmunzeln. – *A little big city rebel strolls casually through the streets. In love with himself, he blows gum bubbles bearing his own face. A quirky animation trick to amaze and amuse.*

Language without dialogue
Subtitles None



Hidden Message

Animated Film

Franz Implr
Germany 2025 | 1 min
No Premiere

Fremdartige Tierwesen stecken ihre Köpfe aus akkurat geschnittenen Hecken und singen im Chor eine schräge Hymne. Ein kleiner anarchischer Moment an einem netten, hellen Tag. – *Strange animal-like creatures poke their heads out of neatly trimmed hedges and chant a bizarre hymn in unison. What a brief anarchic moment on such a lovely, bright day.*

Language without dialogue
Subtitles None

Animation Perspectives



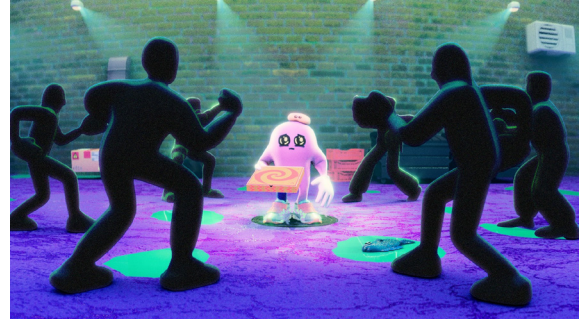
Joeri is verliefd (maar...) + Zijn hart ligt op de grond (maar...)

Animated Film

Anton Cla
Belgium 2026 | 9 min
No Premiere

Joeri sei verliefd, ohne geliebt zu werden, hänselt ihn ein Chor. Die Gefühle des rothaarigen Wuschelkopfs mit buntem Ringelshirt werden zur Projektionsfläche für seltsame Traumbilder. – *Joeri is in love without being loved, a choir teases. The feelings of the boy, a curly-haired redhead in a colourful striped shirt, become a stage for strange dream images.*

Language Dutch
Subtitles None



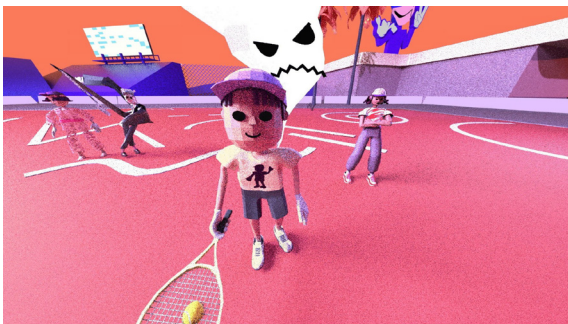
Nothing to Expect

Animated Film

Franz Impler
Germany 2023 | 4 min
No Premiere

Eine vernachlässigte Pflanze und abgestandene Cola. Im Alleinsein macht sich trotz Internetkontakt Langeweile breit. Die Hoffnung schwindet – bringt die nächste Online-Bestellung Erlösung? – *A neglected plant, a flat coke, being all alone: boredom takes hold, despite online contacts with the outside world. Hope gradually fades. Will the next online order bring salvation?*

Language English
Subtitles None



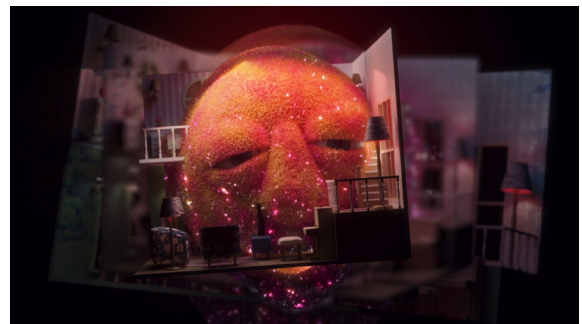
Out of Bounds

Animated Film

Franz Impler
Germany 2020 | 15 min
No Premiere

Eine Identitätssuche außerhalb der Spielregeln: In einer Parallelwelt stolpert der bemitleidenswerte Roger Federer im Polygonlook über Glitches und halbstarke Nebenfiguren. – *A journey of self-discovery outside the rules of the game. In a parallel world, a pathetic Roger Federer, rendered in polygon style, stumbles over glitches and rowdy side characters.*

Language English
Subtitles None



Valse Muziek: Electricity

Animated Film

Anton Cla
Belgium 2024 | 3 min
No Premiere

Eingeklemmt in einem Puppenhaus headbangt ein gigantischer flauschiger Kopf zu den treibenden, verleierten Punkriffs der belgischen Band Valse Muziek. Hell und farbig beginnt er zu schillern. – *A giant fluffy head squeezed into a dollhouse is headbanging to the driving, grinding punk riffs of the Belgian band Valse Muziek, grows heavier, and begins to shimmer in vivid colours.*

Language English
Subtitles None

Animation Perspectives



A Wish

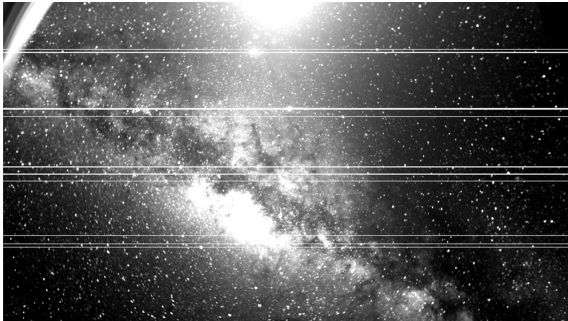
Animated Film

Franz Impler
Germany 2024 | 2 min
No Premiere

Ein Kind sieht eine Sternschnuppe und hat einen Wunsch frei. So frei aber dann doch nicht, denn die Freunde finden, die Welt hätte ganz andere Probleme. Farbenfroh geht alles bitterlich schief. – *A kid sees a falling star and gets to make a wish. But how, considering their friends' reminder that the world has more important problems? Everything goes bitterly wrong, brightly coloured.*

Language English
Subtitles English

Animation Night



Black Rain

Experimental Film

UK 2009 | 4 min
No Premiere

Fernab von sorgfältig inszenierten Hochglanzbildern: Aus unbearbeiteten Stand- und Bewegtbilddaten einer NASA-Sonnenmission entsteht ein roher, glitchartiger Blick ins All. – *Far removed from carefully staged glossy images: A raw, glitch-like view of space, generated from unprocessed still and moving image data from a NASA solar mission.*

Language without dialogue
Subtitles None



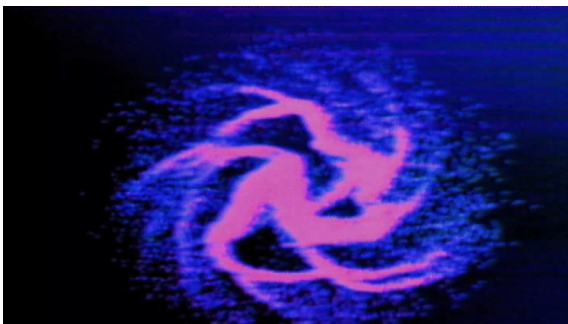
Cosmonauts

Animated Film

Leo Černić
Slovenia, Italy 2026 | 15 min
No Premiere

An Bord einer pinken Rakete auf dem Weg Richtung Zärtlichkeit nähern sich drei einsame Menschen ihren Bedürfnissen an. Eine sexy Reise voller berührender Begegnungen und liebevollem Humor. – *Three lonely people gradually come to terms with their needs on board a pink rocket on its way towards tenderness. A sexy journey full of touching encounters and warm-hearted humour.*

Language English
Subtitles German



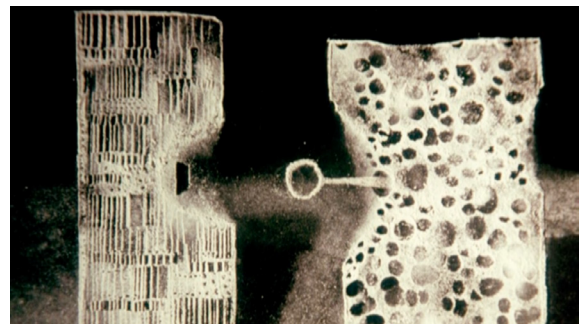
Galaxies

Experimental Film

Lillian F. Schwartz
USA 1974 | 4 min
No Premiere

Eine Pionierin der Computeranimation verwandelt NASA-Galaxiensimulationen in hypnotische Bilder. Mit Farbe, Verzerrung und Überlagerung destilliert Lillian Schwartz Daten zu visionärer Kunst. – *A pioneer of computer animation transforms NASA's galaxy simulations into hypnotic images. Using colour, distortion and superimposition, Lillian Schwartz distils data into visionary art.*

Language without dialogue
Subtitles None



Green Planet

Animated Film

Piotr Kamler
France 1966 | 9 min
No Premiere

Ein sandiger Wüstenplanet, 28 Billionen Kilometer von der Erde entfernt. Seine Bewohner*innen leben ohne Sonnenlicht, produzieren Zeit, lieben Musik. Eine virtuose Sandanimation. – *A sandy desert planet, 28 trillion kilometres from earth. Its inhabitants live without sunlight, produce time and love music. A masterful sand animation.*

Language French
Subtitles English

Animation Night



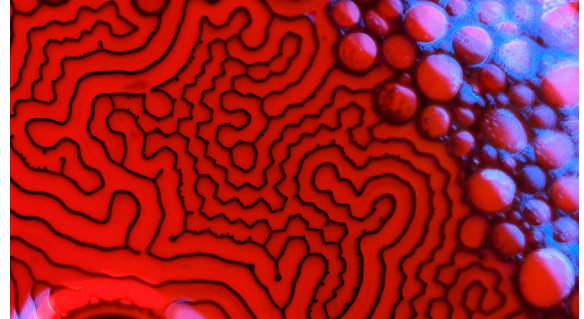
Moon Flight

Animated Film

Sándor Reisenbüchler
Hungary 1975 | 13 min
No Premiere

Was, wenn unser Mond ein verlassenes Raumschiff ist? Hypnotische Collagen aus organischen Formen gehen der "Hollow Moon"-Hypothese nach und erinnern an die Liquid Light Shows der 1960er-Jahre. – *What if our moon is an abandoned spaceship? Hypnotic collages of organic shapes explore the "hollow moon" hypothesis, evoking the liquid light shows of the 1960s.*

Language Hungarian
Subtitles English



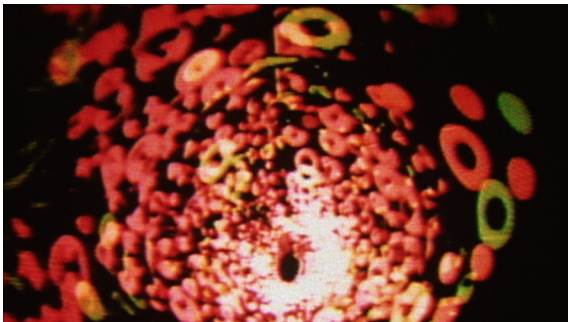
Swarm

Experimental Film

Kamil Czapiga / Cosmodernism
Poland 2023 | 11 min
No Premiere

Die Bezugspunkte gehen verloren in diesem Miniaturkosmos aus Öl, gefärbtem Wasser und magnetischen Flüssigkeiten. Im Kleinen spiegelt sich das unendliche All. Mikrochemischer Retrofuturismus. – *All points of reference are lost in this miniature cosmos of oil, dyed water and magnetic liquids. Infinite space is mirrored on the smallest scale. Microchemical retrofuturism.*

Language without dialogue
Subtitles None



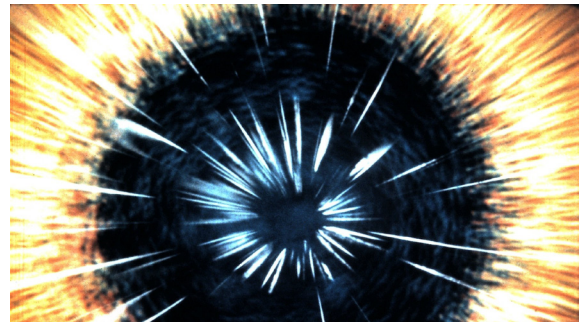
White Hole

Experimental Film

Toshio Matsumoto
Japan 1979 | 7 min
No Premiere

Videosynthesizer und intensive Bildbearbeitung erschaffen eine hypnotisch-abstrakte Reise durch die Weiten des Universums, in der die Grenzen zwischen Raum, Zeit und Bewusstsein verschwimmen. – *Video synthesizers and intensive image processing create a hypnotical and abstract journey through the vast expanse of the universe where the boundaries between space, time and consciousness become blurred.*

Language without dialogue
Subtitles None



World

Experimental Film

Jordan Belson
USA 1970 | 6 min
No Premiere

Nebulös gasförmige Sphären verschmelzen zu Membranen, während der Lebensfunke sich zu einem Superbewusstsein verdichtet. Die Geburt einer Welt als bio-astronomisches Ereignis. – *Nebulous gaseous spheres melt into membranes, while the spark of life condenses into a super-mind. The birth of a world as a bio-astronomical event.*

Language without dialogue
Subtitles None

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