

Artistic statement director Maartje Nevejan about DTM

In this era of the psychedelic renaissance - for the first time in 50 years scientific experiments with psychedelics are allowed again - this film focusses on the mystical or so called, peak experiences. All of the experiments around the world focus on the use of psychedelics for certain medical conditions: depression, addiction, anxiety, PTST and fear of death.

The Felsentor Experiment focusses on how psychedelics can influence a mystical experience with healthy people who are trained through meditation for 20/30 years. Vanja Palmers asked Franz Vollenweider to design the experiment with him. Both Franz and Vanja have had a mystical experience with psychedelics when adolescents and dedicated their whole life on research, one in the scientific realm, the other in the spiritual realm. In the Felsentor Experiment those 50 years of research come together and combine knowledge and wisdom.

For me *Descending the Mountain* came to life when I saw Franz and Vanja together in Zurich. The special chemistry between them inspired me to see the whole story of psychedelics not only through their eyes, but also through their entire lives. Vanja and Franz experienced something when they were twenty, that somehow touched a very deep truth. And the rest of their lives they dedicated their work and investigated this experience in two totally different ways. (Or maybe not so different.)

There is a universal truth in this, we all have had peak experiences as children or adolescents, that somehow paved the way for a whole life. To study these very subjective experiences, with the objective standards and machines of science, will give us important data about the deep mystery of consciousness. We are only at the beginning.

The Felsentor Experiment steps over the prejudices of science toward spirituality and vice versa. Both of them take a risk on talking about psychedelics in their different realms. By doing so they pave the way for new experiments. We need to find ways to bring the subjective experiences in the objective scientific realm in order to understand where we, as humans, are going to in the future that will be dominated by AI, algorithms, robots and computers. As with my previous films, working with artists opened the door to a new visual language for an inner experience, this time made with A.I. I selected classic paintings about mysticism and ecstasy in different cultures. Together with artists SeyhanLee, we fed the paintings to machines for weeks, to bring them back to pigments, whom are also part of the natural realm. With Douwe Dijkstra we created animations from cave paintings to fairies, in order to create a lighthearted film.

tagline

How magic mushrooms can help meditation, and meditation can help the mushroom, in having mystical experiences.

Bio DIRECTOR MAARTJE NEVEJAN

Maartje Nevejan is an award winning, Emmy nominated independent filmmaker (based in Amsterdam), with a background in theatre and multi media. Her work researches and expresses the raw poetic quality of reality. Nevejan is a change maker. Highly interested in revealing what moves people, lifting the veils of conventional thought, Nevejan's films are daring, funny, heartrending, often shifting people views. Since 2015 she focusses on how to visualise the inner subjective experience of people, through film.

full bio:

www.nevejan.nl