

Several synopsis Descending the Mountain and Bio Director Maartje Nevejan.

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Descending the Mountain
A story about mushrooms & meditation

What happens when you administer psychedelics to experienced zen monks? A neuroscientist and a zen master carry out a double-blind experiment on a sphinxlike mountain in Switzerland. Their goal: to examine the nature of consciousness.

“If approached respectfully and under good conditions, these substances have the power to facilitate the real deep spiritual mystical experience”

– ‘Descending the Mountain’

On the last day of a 5-day retreat, a group of zen monks – who have never used psychedelics before – is given a psychedelic drug, the second group receives a placebo. Mystical experiences are induced through a combination of deep meditation and psilocybin, a psychoactive compound found in magic mushrooms.

This scientific experiment, which was published in Nature magazine in 2020, might be able to lift the controversy that has clouded the realm of psychedelics for far too long.

Scientist Franz Vollenweider and zen master Vanja Palmers descend from the mountain of bliss to teach us how we can integrate mysticism into our day-to-day life.

Leaving the iconic visuals of the 60's behind, Nevejan allows animation, sound, and A.I. visual art to create a contemporary rendering of the mystical experience of oneness with nature.

‘Descending the Mountain’ is a mesmerising testimony of inner climate change that shows us how psychedelics could create a revolution in improving mental health and strengthen our connection with our environment.

231
words

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‘Descending the Mountain’ takes us on a journey of mystical revelations, experienced through meditation and psilocybin.

To understand how psychedelics reveal the nature of consciousness, psychiatrist Franz and Zen master Vanja guide experienced meditators – who have never used psychedelics before – through a ground-breaking scientific experiment on the majestic Swiss Mount Rigi.

Maartje Nevejan's new documentary film masterfully blends visual art, spiritual understanding, and scientific research into this exploration of deep meditation and the psychedelic state. Fairylike animation and A.I. art visualise the mystical experience that reminds us of how much our consciousness and the nature that surrounds us, are interconnected.

112 woorden

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“Through the intimate story of the friendship between a zen master and a neuroscientist who share in interest in the effects of ‘magic mushrooms’ on consciousness, Descending the Mountain is exemplary for the current psychedelic renaissance. In the hallucinating setting of the Swiss mountains and the serenity of a monastery surrounded by nature, Maartje Nevejan takes us on an audio-visual journey through expanded consciousness. As in her previous work Are You There? she uses various subtle techniques to document the enhanced reality of inner experiences. Visually surprising and with a mesmerizing sound track this film literally opens doors of perception akin to the effects of psychedelics.”

Patricia Pisters

Prof Media and film studies University Amsterdam, about DTM

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To understand how psychedelics reveal the nature of consciousness, psychiatrist Franz and zen monk Vanja guide experienced meditators – who have never used psychedelics before – through a ground-breaking scientific experiment on the majestic Swiss Mount Rigi. Leaving the iconic visuals of the 60's behind, Nevejan allows animation, sound, and A.I. visual art to create a contemporary rendering of the mystical experience of oneness with nature. (an inner climate change movie)

85 words

Descending the mountain is a story about mushrooms & meditation.

A journey of mystical revelations, experienced through meditation and psilocybin.

To understand how psychedelics reveal the nature of consciousness, psychiatrist Franz and Zen master Vanja guide experienced meditators – who have never used psychedelics before – through a ground-breaking scientific experiment on the majestic Swiss Mount Rigi.

55 words

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This film explores climate change through the experience of mystical revelations.

To understand how psychedelics reveal the nature of consciousness, Swiss psychiatrist Franz and Zen master Vanja guide experienced meditators – who have never used psychedelics before – through a ground-breaking scientific experiment on the majestic Swiss Mount Rigi.

47 words

Descending the Mountain (The Netherlands, Switzerland)

Mystical experiences, induced by meditation and magic mushrooms, could play a major role in ending our materialistic worldview. This (inner-climate-change) movie is based upon a scientific experiment on the top of a mountain in Switzerland. A psychiatrist and a zen abbot, designed a legal ground breaking experiment after 4 decades of War on Drugs. Nevejan visualises with the help of A.I. artists, how to descend from the mountain of bliss and integrate mysticism in regular life.

Director, screenwriter and producer: Maartje Nevejan (Global Inside)

Camera: Jean Counet

Sound: Fokke van Saane

Editor: Gys Zevenbergen

Co-producers: Annette Badenhorst (CH), Monette de Botton, Bohdana Tamas

113 words

Logline

Mystical experiences, with and without psychedelics, could help us out of the mess that our materialistic worldview created.