

HYACINTHE

Matthew Lessner

January 12 - February 4, 2023

HYACINTHE, a multi-sensory visual and audio experience by filmmaker and artist Matthew Lessner uses modified neurofeedback technology to allow gallery visitors at SKF/Konstnärshuset the rare opportunity to engage in a participatory cinematic moment, with visual changes that occur through the assessment of brainwaves in the prefrontal cortex. Individual visitors' brain frequencies are measured and connected to a set of video filters in real-time, the gallery functioning as part scientific research lab, meditation space, and art film presentation. Lessner invites us into an installation that operates as an experimental meditation oasis, allowing participants to engage in a reflective environment that encourages a state of mindfulness. The unique and surprising experience parallels a psychedelic one, aiming to lead the spectator into a state of altered consciousness. *HYACINTHE* hopes to make viewers aware of the personal power and agency possible in creating our perception and reality.

HYACINTHE results from a year of intensive research, filming, and program development and includes footage from five sacred locations. The island of Ikaria, Greece; Samothrace in the northern Aegean Sea; Sacred Valley, Peru; Ucayali River in the Amazonian rainforest of eastern Peru and The Atacama Desert, Chile. Each place is presented as a chapter within the project, corresponding to unique custom technology filters. Leo Hiselius (engineer), Jurgis Lietunovas (film/ 3D), and Johannes Palmroos (producer) are contributing collaborators.

Text: Jeanette Gunnarsson

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About the Artist

Matthew Lessner is an American artist and filmmaker interested in worldbuilding and participatory filmmaking. His films have been screened and awarded at various film festivals, including Sundance and SXSW, and released through streaming platforms like Netflix and MUBI. His work has been supported by the San Francisco Film Society and the Swedish arts grants committee Konstnärsnämnden, which endowed his solo exhibition SAINT Y2K and the upcoming Hyacinthe, opening January 2023 at Stockholm's SKF Konstnärshuset. He has exhibited in solo and group shows at Newven Gallery in Gothenburg, Sweden.

About the Writer

Jeanette Gunnarsson is a freelance curator who currently lives and works between Stockholm, Sweden, and London, UK. She completed her BA at City and Guilds of London Art School and is currently completing her MA in Curation, Art Management, and Law at Stockholm University.