LE ROMANZ DE FANUEL

2017



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2017
Production
Le Fresnoy Studio National des Arts Contemporains

Le Romanz de Fanuel is an experimental short film written and directed by Vir Andres Hera.

Drawing from the medieval text *Le Roman de Saint Fanuel*, the film stages a dialogue between the Mexica god Tlaloc and Fanuel, an eremitic figure preparing for metamorphosis within a mountainous, volcanic landscape.

Mountains, valleys, and glaciers are also protagonists. The upland landscapes retreat one behind the other, multiplying horizons. They are at once territories of immense beauty and symbols of subjugation, staging the smallness of the human body and geological force. The landscape becomes a mirror of interior transformation.

Fanuel, a figure born of miraculous conception in medieval legend, wanders through a contemporary terrain of exile. His body undergoes metamorphoses. The narrative unfolds through the displaced voice of Tlaloc, who speaks across epochs from a timeless dwelling. Through this divine voice, forgotten words and vanished temporalities return. Christian hagiography and pre-Hispanic cosmology intersect without hierarchy.

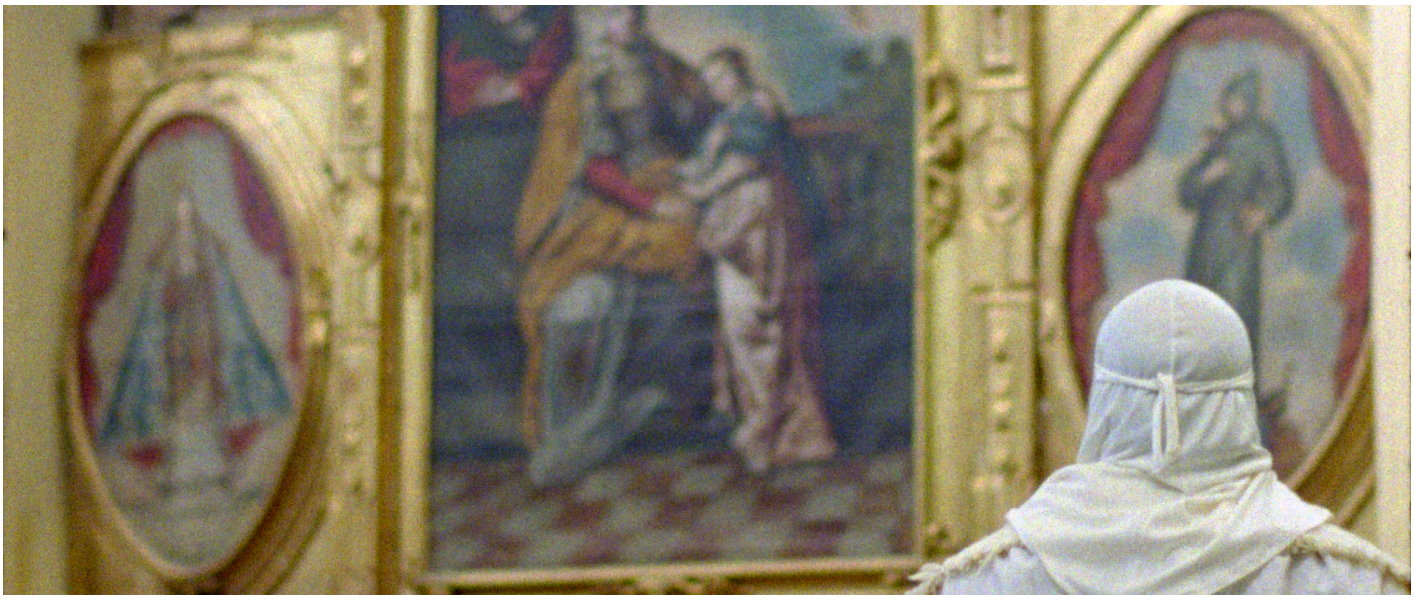
Inspired by the figure of the *tiempero,* the syncretic mountain guardian who is both pagan and Christian, the film approaches metamorphosis as spiritual passage. The transformation of sex and spirit is treated not as spectacle but as entry into mystery.

As Yannick Haenel writes:

“I watch the film. It is a dazzling experience. We witness the mystical itinerary of Fanuel: first the contemplation of sacred figures in a church, then solitude in a deserted mountain village, the crossing of doors, writing, more doors, and the walk toward the volcano, and the body that finds its narrow gate, that of spiritual metamorphosis. We hear a voice: ‘The gods are not dead. Only your perception has died. We have not left; we have simply ceased to manifest. Or perhaps you have closed your eyes.’ *Le Romanz de Fanuel*, with the beauty of a tranquil miracle, makes the impossible visible.”[^1]



ALL IMAGES: LE ROMANZ DE FANUEL. DIGITAL STILLS FROM 16 MM FILM TRANSFERRED TO DIGITAL. VIR ANDRES HERA, 2017. COURTESY OF VAH STUDIO.





























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LE ROMANZ DE FANUEL, A FILM BY
Vir Andres Hera

FEATURING
Sebastien Hoffmann

MUSIC, COMPOSITION, AND PERFORMANCE
Tauba Schönbeck (Conservatoire National de Lyon)

VOICE-OVER
Madeleine Van Doren

ORIGINAL TEXT
Vir Andres Hera

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY
Maria Alicia Tejeda Argüelles

CAMERA ASSISTANT
Canek Kelly

EDITION
Vir Andres Hera

COLOR GRADING
François Engrand

RECORDER
William Duhamel, Luc Aureille

SOUND EDITING
Maxence Ciekawy, Benjamin Poilane

MIX
Maxence Ciewaky

COSTUMES
Moïses Portella, Soledad Muñoz Campos

POSTER
Sabine Teyssonneyre

CREDITS
Amélie de Butler

HIGH-ALTITUDE AUDIOVISUAL SERVICES
Canek Kelly

A PRODUCTION

Le Fresnoy - National Studio of Contemporary Arts:
Director - Alain Fleischer
Cinema and Visual Arts Coordinator - François Bonenfant
Artistic Support - Yannick Haenel
Production Manager - Jacky Lautem
Production Managers - Elodie Wattiaux, Lucie Bercez
Administrator - Stéphanie Robin
Technical Director - Pascal Buteaux
Filming Department - Julien Guillery, Olivier Anselot, Aurélie Brouet
Sound Department - Blandine Tourneux
Post-production Department - David Chantreau, François Lescieux
Equipment and Auditorium - Le Fresnoy - National Studio of Contemporary Arts
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Alliance Française de Tlaxcala
General Director - Arturo Pardo
Deputy Director - Arturo Chazaro

Filming on Iztaccihuatl
High Mountain Guide - Alejandro Tepeyolotl
Sherpas/Porters - Gabriel Tepeyolotl, El Marrufo

Filming on Pico de Orizaba
High Mountain Guides - Guadalupe Espinoza, Alejandro Tepeyolotl
Sherpas/Porters - Salvador Hernandez Cepeda, Jose Sanchez Carmona, Jorge Sanchez Alonso

Filming Atzintzintla - Former Hacienda of Texmalaquilla
Atzintzintla Culture Coordinator - Miguel de Rosas
Location Guide - Cruz Ferrer
Atzintzintla Town Hall Stage Manager - Matilde Valeriano

Filming Yauhquemehcan - Church of Saint Denis
Priest - Arturo Gutierrez
Sacristan - Castulo Ruiz Mejia
District Representative - Alberto Muñoz Cabrera

16 MM FILM

LABODIGITAL Mexico City
Film Process Manager - Javier Puentes
Project Manager - Imelda Hernandez Sanchez
Sales Manager - Gabriel Elvira
Laboratory Manager - Marco Bedolla
Digitization Technicians - Miguel Trejo, Manuel Marcos, Gabriel Cortez Gonzalez

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