

LE ROMANZ DE FANUEL

2017



STUDIO VIR ANDRES HERA

VIRANDRESHERA.COM

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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.

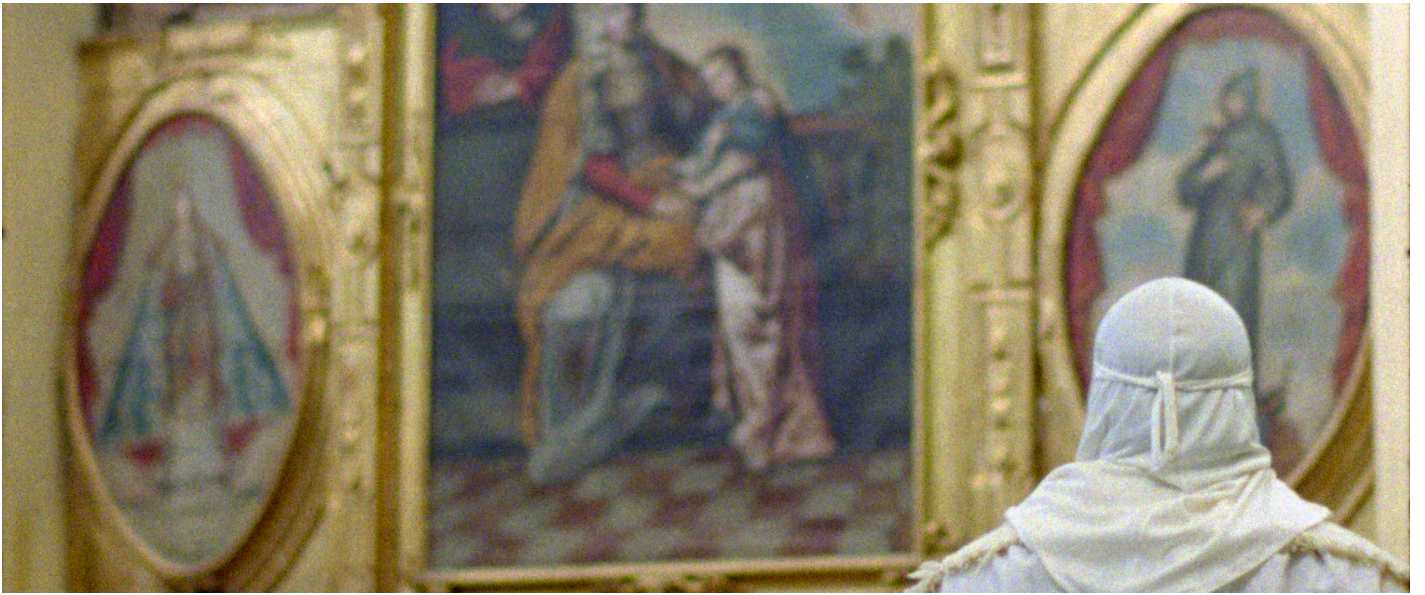
Inspired by the figure of the *tiempero*, the syncretic mountain guardian who is both pagan and Christian, the film approaches metamorphosis as spiritual passage. The transformation of sex and spirit is treated not as spectacle but as entry into mystery.

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 Tejada 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 Berceze

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 Mexico

Cultural Coordinator of the Federation of Alliances Françaises in Mexico - Stéphanie Esparza

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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