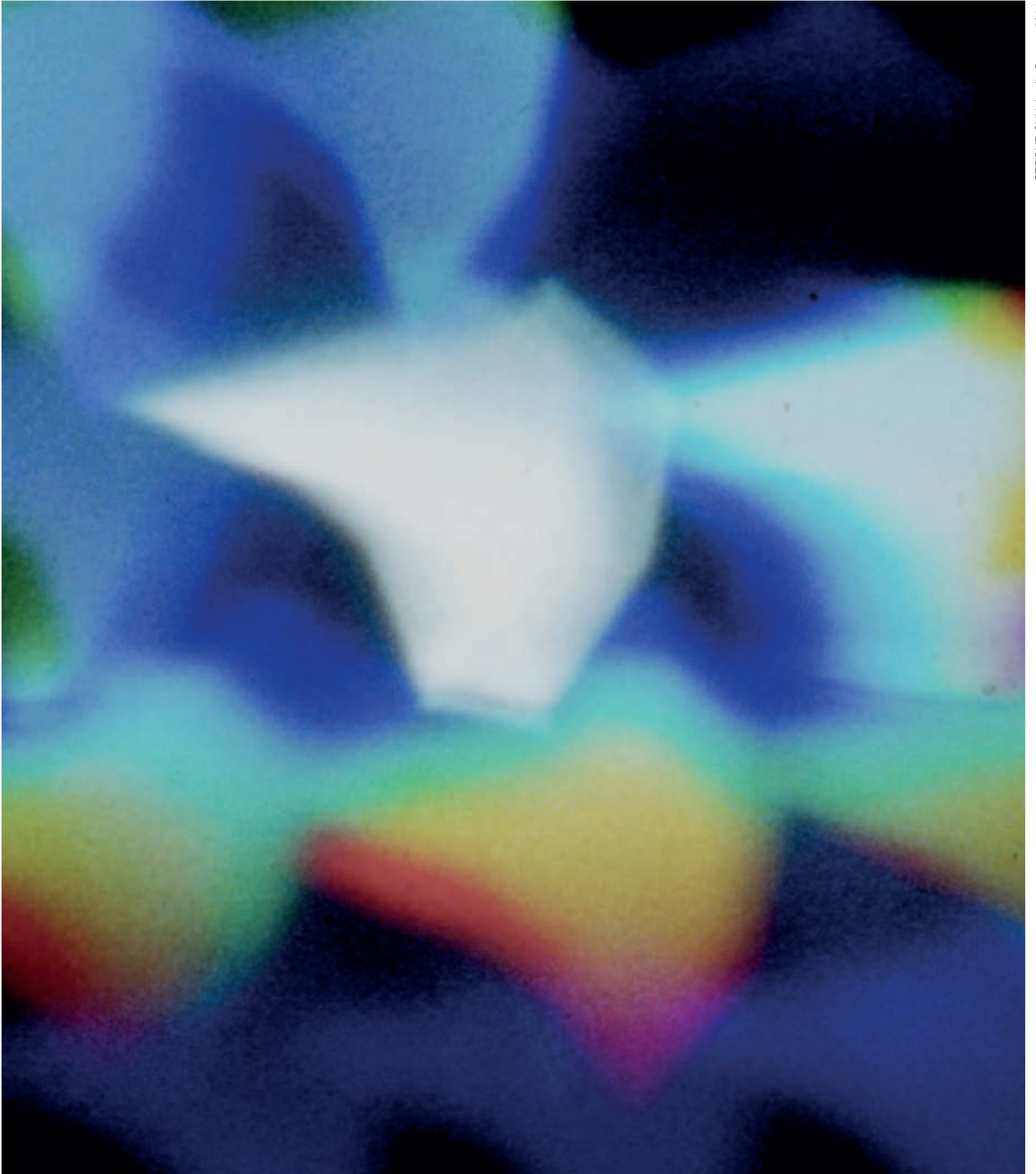




Celestial Objects. Cinema and the Cosmos
curated by Andrea Franco



SECOND SUN, Leslie Supnet, 2014

In collaboration with:

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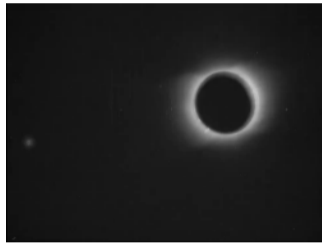
San Cristovo de Mouricios, 2
27510 Chantada Lugo

43° 00' 36.0" N
7° 33' 41.0" W

Celestial Objects. Cinema and the Cosmos

This program attempts to capture the fascination for Astronomy and the Cosmos of a series of filmmakers who, since the origins of cinema, have explored the appearance and mysteries of the universe. The screen unfolds here like a night sky capable of revealing, not only phenomena invisible to the naked eye, as shown in the films of Emily Richardson or Dominic Angerame, but also extravagant fantasies, the fruit of the artist's imagination (Segundo de Chomón, Georges Méliès). Painted cinema that draws the firmament on the film (Stan Brakhage) or the infinite yellow shades of the solar sphere (Joseph Bernard); abstract and transcendent films, where astronomy merges with Eastern philosophies (Jordan Belson); raw material from the satellites themselves, such as that collected by the duo Semiconductor; or cosmic and funny dances, such as those created by Maya Deren, Leslie Supnet or Lawrence Jordan. The universe as a continuous flow of energy, movement and regeneration (Tess Martin), whose phenomena, signs and signals question us from above (Alexi Manis). These celestial objects are also (or above all) the films themselves, luminous flashes in the dark room. *Andrea Franco*

Screening I / 15 April 2023 / 20h



Solar Eclipse, John Nevil Maskelyne, 1900
UK, 1 min
The first filming of an astronomical phenomenon, made by British inventor, magician and illusionist John Nevil Maskelyne on May 28, 1900, thanks to a special adapter with which he was able to attach a camera to his telescope.



Le Voyage Sur Jupiter, Segundo de Chomón, 1909
France, 9 min
Inspired by Georges Méliès's *A Trip to the Moon*, Segundo de Chomón constructed his own space fantasy in a film full of imaginative discoveries and tricks.



Stellar, Stan Brakhage, 1993
USA, 2 min 19 seg, 16mm, silent
In this hand-painted film, the paint is microscopically composited and re-photographed to suggest galactic forms in a star-studded space.



Shutter, Alexi Manis, 2010
Canada, 8 min, 16mm
Shutter captures the sunrise, shadow lengthening and darkening of a total solar eclipse day. From 16mm footage of the 1980 total solar eclipse shot by his friend, amateur astronomer Andreas Gada, the work captures the beauty, complexity and terror of the changing light that precedes and accompanies the phenomenon.



Luminae, Dominic Angerame, 2022
USA, 4 min, 16mm
"I had been shooting for years with an iris attached to the camera lens, creating a circle. The sun seemed a natural progression of that circle, especially its revolutions. This film is the result of the magic of cinema, capable of capturing a spirit of space that would make Méliès himself weep with astonishment."



Orbit, Tess Martin, 2019
Netherlands, 7 min, animation
A series of rotating drawings guides us along the energy flow of our planet and allows us to reflect on the relationship between humanity and the sun, and the place we occupy in the natural cycle.



Redshift, Emily Richardson, 2001
UK, 4min, 16mm
In astronomical terminology, "redshift" is a term used to calculate the age of stars by measuring their distance from Earth. *Redshift* attempts to convey the vast cosmic geometry of the night sky through an altered perspective of the landscape. Long exposures and long takes, fixed camera positions and timelapse animation reveal aspects of the night invisible to the naked eye.



Black Rain, Semiconductor (Ruth Jarman & Joe Gerhardt) 2009, Reino Unido, 3 min
Black Rain consists of images collected by the STEREO solar mission as it scans interplanetary space for solar wind and CMEs (coronal mass ejections) heading toward Earth. In addition to the solar wind and CMEs, these "heliospheric images" reveal the journey of satellites, passing planets and comets orbiting the Sun with the stars and the Milky Way in the background.



Music Of The Spheres, Jordan Belson, 1977
Estados Unidos, 11 min
Jordan Belson turned the meditative state and hallucinogenic experiences of his time into "visual music" of markedly cosmic inspiration. In his work, the spiritual and the scientific coexist in an aesthetic experience of vibrant sound and color. Original long version from 1977, preserved by Center for Visual Music

Still © Center for Visual Music

Screening II / 17 June 2023



L'eclipse Du Soleil En Pleine Lune, Georges Méliès, 1907
France, 9 min 30 seg
An astronomer witnesses a solar eclipse through his telescope. The heavens soon explode with showers of stars that turn into women. Musical version by Alexander Rannie.



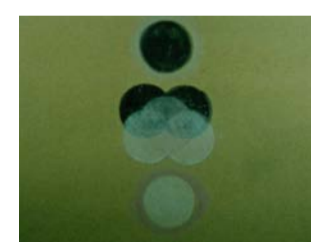
Sun Song, Joseph Bernard, 1979
US, 3 min, Súper 8, silente
Never screened film by painter and filmmaker Joseph Bernard, conceived as "a conjuration imploring warmth from the winter' sun", and as an admiring response to the master Stan Brakhage.



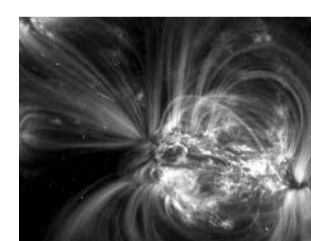
Orb, Larry Jordan, 1973
US, 5 min, 16mm
A full-color animated collage, as ephemeral as the colors floating on the surface of a soap bubble. Jordan's eternal round shape, the orb - sun, moon, symbol of the totality of the individual - swells in its inimitable and joyful course through scenes of celestial delight.



The Very Eye Of Night, Maya Deren, 1958
US, 15 min, 16mm
Made between 1952 and 1955 in collaboration with choreographer Antony Tudor, but not released until 1959, when Teiji Ito's musical score was added. In Maya Deren's last film, a group of constellations dance in the cosmic night.



Second Sun, Leslie Supnet, 2014
Canada, 3 min 20 seg, 16mm, animación
The ascending sound of the drums accentuates the flashing lights, images of the solar system and a post-apocalyptic imagination about the birth of our *Second Sun*.



Brilliant Noise, Semiconductor, 2006
Reino Unido, 6 min
Brilliant Noise takes images from satellites orbiting the Earth to reveal the energetic particles and solar wind as a shower of white noise. In turn, the soundtrack reveals the hidden forces at work in the Sun by transforming the varying intensity of light on the star's surface into sound.



Samadhi, Jordan Belson, 1967
Estados Unidos, 6 min, 16mm
In Sanskrit, *Samadhi* means "that state of consciousness in which the individual soul merges with the universal soul". Inspired by Yoga and Buddhism, Belson expresses here, as a pure abstraction, that state of mind capable of soaring through the Cosmos.

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