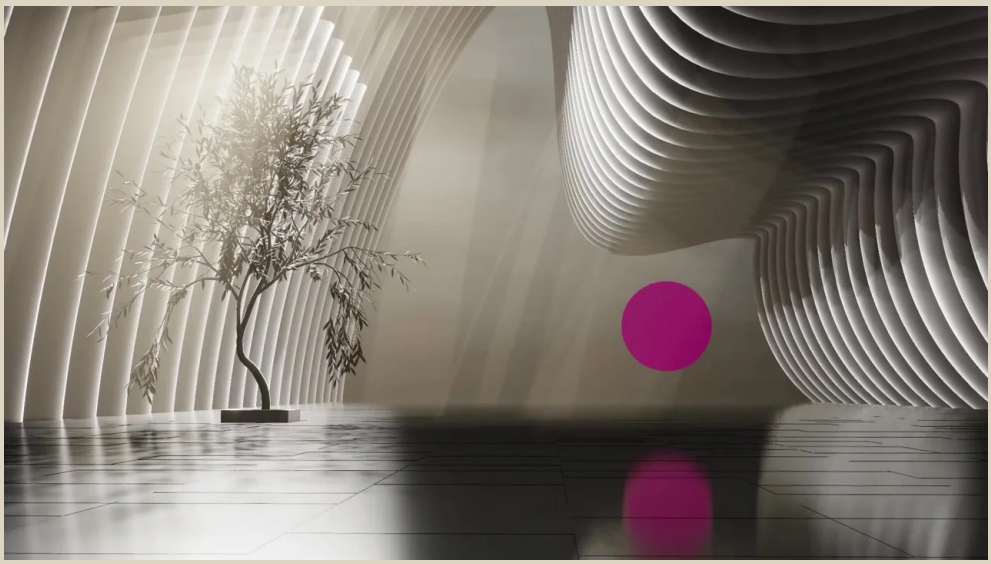
CATALOGUE RAISONNÉ

Jewish Song, after Bloch

Film set to music by Ernest Bloch, From Jewish Life, III. Jewish Song



Arnaud Quercy

AQC0408 · CR-000408

Art Quam Anima Publishing New York

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TECHNICAL DETAILS

Medium	Digital film
Duration	2 min 43 s
Image	1920 × 1080 px, 25 fps
Date	2022
Location	France
Certificate of Authenticity	N°20221231-0078
Catalogue Number	AQC0408
Collection	Passé-Future

PROVENANCE

Origin: Arnaud Quercy, Paris, France, 2022

DESCRIPTION

Musical performance

Marion Hedin, cello David Erhard, piano

With thanks to the production team, students of IESA arts & culture: Henrik Posner, Matt Stiles, Yuhan (Lea) Chen, Pasindu Ranasinghe, and to Thomas, technical manager at L'Auguste Théâtre.

In his creation on Jewish Song, Arnaud Quercy sets the music in an almost black-and-white world of greys and sepia, and lets only a few colours speak. He wants to amplify Bloch's mastery through this contrast of colour and symbol.

The film opens on a misty horizon above a flight of steps. A single white door stands there, alone, with a small red sphere rising beside it. There are many doors in our lives, from thresholds to the front door at home, but the door Arnaud Quercy sets at the very beginning is one that comes with a sense of promise and freedom. Later the door comes back, dark and slightly open, with light shining from underneath.

The film then alternates between a few recurring scenes that dissolve into one another. In the first, a white prayer shawl (tallit) with blue stripes floats and ripples in the wind beside a tall, glowing white sphere, in front of a wall of undulating white ribs. In the second, the camera moves through a temple-like space of curved, flowing arches, where the red sphere hangs above a dark, reflecting floor. In the third, a tree stands in shallow water beneath the arches. A tree is a reminder of life, growth and fertility, but also a symbol of the cycle of life and death. Beside it, the small sphere is no longer red but purple. The shawl, the white sphere, the arches and the tree keep returning, like the verses of a song.

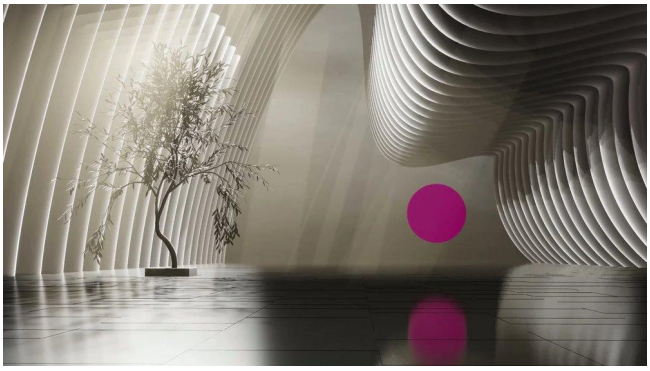
Colours have meaning in Jewish culture, because they bring memories and feelings to mind: white (zen/purity), gold (meaningfulness/joy), black (mourning), red (life/pleasure), purple (purification from sin), blue (Judaism). In the film they appear as the white of the sphere and the shawl, the black of the deep shadows, the red sphere that turns purple, and the blue stripes of the tallit. The way the coloured spheres move links them to deep spirituality, and can highlight what you believe in or who you are.

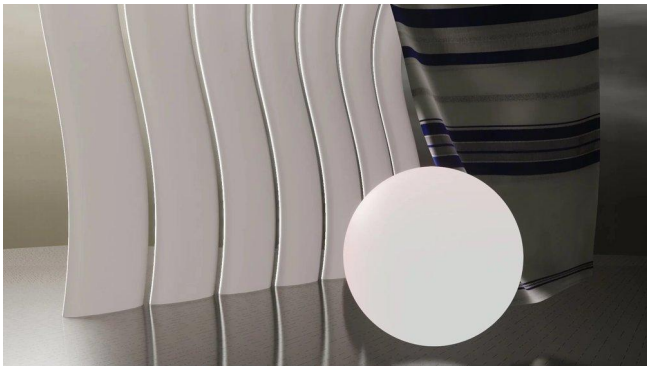
In this surrealist pairing of unholy and holy worlds, Arnaud Quercy is trying to address something more human than anything else: faith.

The film was made in Blender (EEVEE). The prayer shawl is a cloth simulation textured with a photograph of a real tallit, blown by wind and turbulence force fields and colliding with the large sphere. The arches and ribbed walls of the "temple" are Bezier curves repeated with array modifiers, the door and the stairs are modelled objects, and a volume of fog fills the space. The colour of the small sphere is animated in its shader, from red to purple. The 4,000 rendered frames were assembled in Adobe After Effects with cross-dissolves between the scenes, and the title was added there.

At the show, the long version of the film was projected. It is cut into two parts: a main section that can run on, and a closing section that Arnaud Quercy triggered live at a precise moment in the score, so that the image ends exactly with the music played by Marion Hedin and David Erhard.

IMAGES





WHERE THIS WORK LIVES

Collection: Passé-Future

EXHIBITIONS

PasséFutur Art Show *(2022-09-30, L'Auguste Théâtre, Paris)*

THEMATIC ELEMENTS

Jewish Song From Jewish Life Ernest Bloch Marion Hedin David Erhard Arnaud Quercy cello and piano digital film 3D animation music and image PasséFutur L'Auguste Théâtre Blender After Effects

TECHNICAL NOTES

Type	Artwork
Image resolution	1280x720 px

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