CATALOGUE RAISONNÉ

Prayer, after Bloch

Film set to music by Ernest Bloch, From Jewish Life, I. Prayer



Arnaud Quercy

AQC0406 · CR-000406

Art Quam Anima Publishing New York

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TECHNICAL DETAILS

Medium	Digital film
Duration	4 min 34 s
Image	1920 × 1080 px, 25 fps
Date	2022
Location	France
Certificate of Authenticity	N°20221231-0076
Catalogue Number	AQC0406
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.

For Prayer, Arnaud Quercy builds an imaginary museum: a bright, empty white gallery with tall windows and a mirror-like floor, where a few works are shown like sacred objects. The film opens on a sculpture: a dark-red curved sheet, like a blade or a wave, balanced on a dark sphere, with the title "Jewish Life for Cello and Piano: I. Prayer – Ernest Bloch – Arnaud Quercy Creations, Contemporary Art".

The camera glides slowly through the space. On one wall, a large menorah forms a bas-relief made of rods; the camera passes over its surface like a hand. In front of the windows float two huge Hebrew letters, חי (chai, "life"), next to a single small chair that gives the scale. The letters are made of thousands of floating sheets bearing the poem Shabbat by Rachel Bluwstein (Degania, 1920) in white letters on black: together, the sheets compose the two great letters, themselves suspended in the air. The red sculpture rises, twists and bends around its sphere as the cello's line grows. Then the letters dissolve into vertical streaks, and the image breaks into a dark curtain of lines.

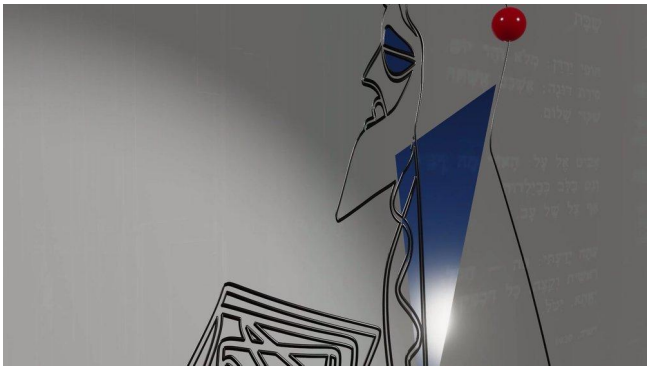
The camera then enters a quieter room: at the end, steps lead to a white plinth under a spotlight, like an altar, with the menorah on the side wall. Over this space a deep-red wall appears, covered with a Hebrew poem titled שבת (Shabbat) and dated 1920. On the plinth stands a sculpture made of a single line, like a drawing in wire: a praying man with a beard and side curls, a small box on his forehead (tefillin), wrapped in a shawl with wavy stripes (a tallit), holding an open book, with touches of colour, a blue triangle, a red disc, turquoise waves. The camera comes very close to his face, with its closed blue eye, then the film ends on the red wall and its text.

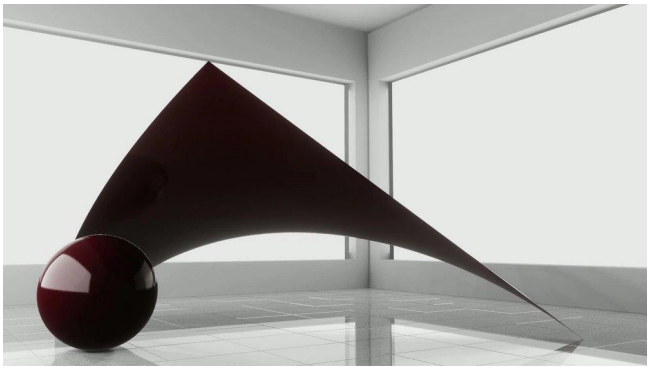
From the word "life" to the man at prayer, the film moves from the sign to the person, from the public space of the museum to the intimacy of prayer, as Bloch's music moves from the solemn to the very personal.

The film was made in Blender (EEVEE). The museum (collection "museum") is a modelled interior with stairs, roof, reflective floor planes, spotlights and a 1950s chair; the menorah wall (collection "Bas relief") is built procedurally with Geometry Nodes; the chai letters are made of thousands of floating sheets. The praying man was first drawn by hand by Arnaud Quercy as a single continuous line, then traced in 3D as a curve, with coloured shapes added. The red sculpture and the spheres are animated, and the animation was rendered in several passes (up to 7,000 frames) before being edited in Adobe After Effects.

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

Prayer From Jewish Life Ernest Bloch Rachel Bluwstein 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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