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Contemporary Arts Practice and Outer Space: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach (3)

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SPACE DOWN

Abstract

A gravity breakdown hits the Earth. The general population has lost touch with Earth. Dozens of apprentice astronauts chat in the sky. They are moving towards the stars as if they were beginning an awkward migration.

Space Down is a feature-length documentary film that uses the aesthetic codes of science fiction. It is made from amateur videos taken from the WWW (Youtube, Dailymotion, Vimeo, Facebook). *Space Down* imagines the development of a multi-planetary civilization by pairing AUDIO testimonies of Internet users confined due to COVID-19 with VISUALS of levitation, extreme sports, professions and other hostile environments, which suggest the conquest of space. *Space Down* creates a direct link between interstellar travel/life on other planets and the isolation of individuals caused by the CODIV-19 pandemic. Communications are mostly digital and social life is impoverished. There is no dating or disco. Life is confined.

Space Down asks what did the earthlings do to compensate for the lack of human contact or for the too close proximity? In their capsules, how did they preserve their physical and mental health? Balanced family and work? Maintained hygiene, sexual satisfaction and quality sleep?

Space Down documents the psychological challenges of the health crisis and discovers a strength of resilience and a collective will to continue the human adventure at all costs. The film celebrates the creativity of astronaut-apprentices confined to Earth and explores the fantasy of a techno-human utopia that aims to conquer our solar system.

We propose a conversation between Boucher's research on microgravity and the filmmaker focused on clips from the movie. For your consideration, here is a link to some of the movie's concrete examples: https://vimeo.com/624512334. Password: spacedown Please do not distribute this link/password.