



mk2 FILMS

GENERATIVE REALITIES

BACKGROUND

In April 2024, mk2 has teamed up with **Artefact**, an international reference in artificial intelligence, to organize a unique festival: **The Artefact AI Film Festival by mk2**, responding to the theme "Reality(ies)".

The aim of the project was to bring together filmmakers from all over the world to present a peripheral vision of how these technologies could be used to produce a film.

Two selection criteria were imposed to achieve this objective:

- **A technological criterion:** to avoid anecdotal use of AI in the making of short films, participants were required to use AI in every stage of production (pre-production, directing and post-production).
- **An artistic criterion:** ensured by mk2's editorial and programming teams that each film complies with copyright regulations.

The films were then judged solely on their cinematic quality by an exceptional jury presided over by none other than **Jean-Pierre Jeunet**, accompanied by **Bruno Patino**, **Virginie Ledoyen**, **Elisha Karmitz** and **Enora Hope**.



GENERATIVE REALITIES

A compilation of the best of AIFF...

This program features a selection of 14 short films from the finalists of the first Artefact AI competition.

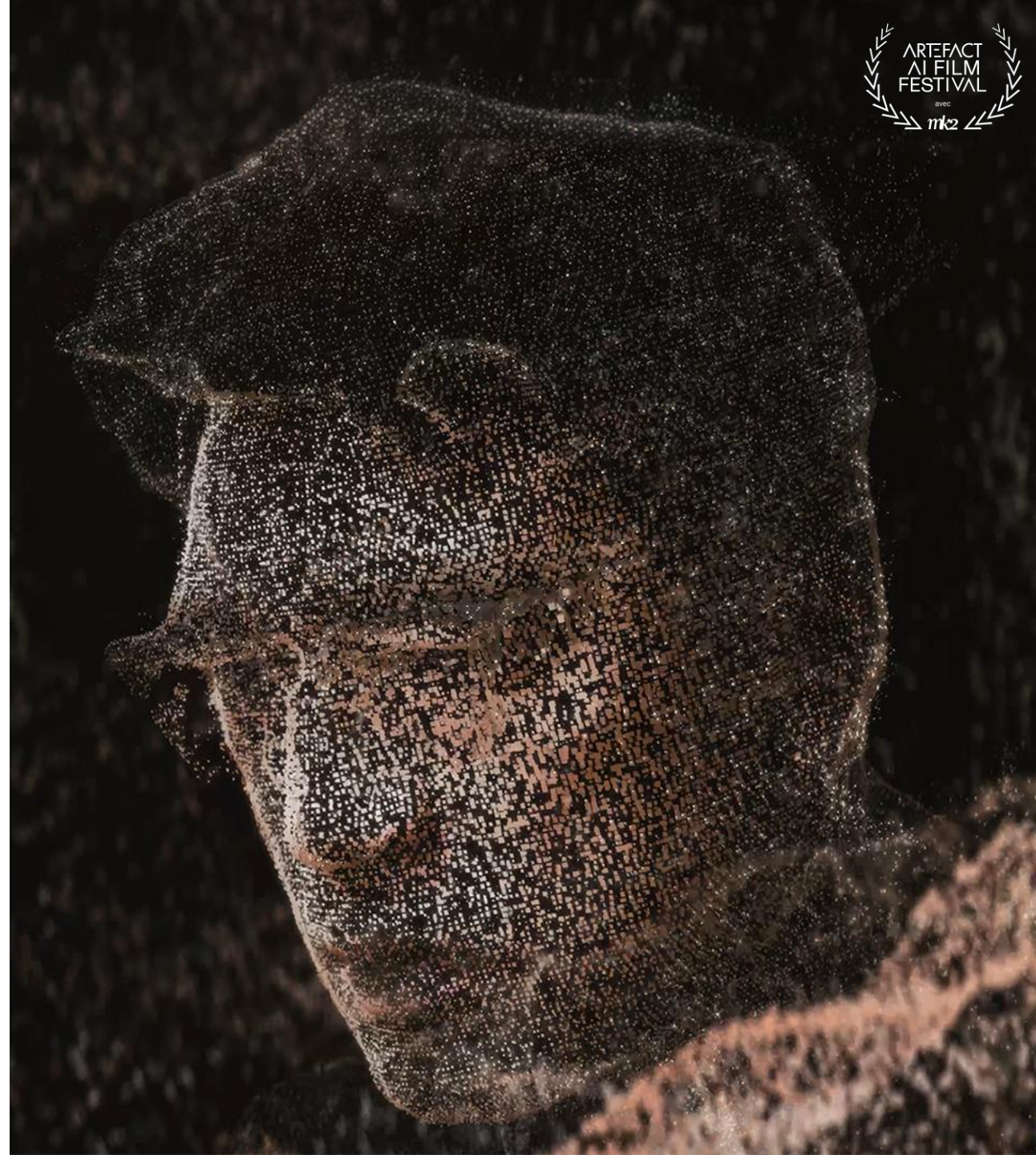
Film Festival, which attracted **267 participants** from **35 countries**.

From fantasy comedies and horror to visions of post-apocalyptic worlds and wacky visual essays, this program represents the creative diversity that these new technologies offer to those who make them their own, blending them with **creativity that's guaranteed to be 100% human**.

...and one of a kind.

The first program to bring together films made using **Artificial Intelligence** and officially distributed worldwide.

Running time: 56 minutes.



THE FILMS

THE LAST OF THE ARCANAS. **by Melody Bossan (aka LeMoon)**

Technical data :

Genre: Fantasy / **Running time:** 5min 13 / **Format:** 4:3

Synopsis:

In The Last of the Arcanas, the fates of two children - Major, from the Sublime Celestials of the sky, and Minor, from the shadowy Mole People of the caves - are linked by an ancient prophecy. Bred to rule their worlds, which are at odds with each other, they are destined to unite in an arranged marriage that is supposed to bring peace to the land of the Arcane. But what begins as a hopeful union soon turns to chaos.

The director:

"This film is the result of an artistic collaboration founded by Ethereal Gwirl, an AI artist based in New York, and LeMoon, an AI artist from Nice, France. Le Moon is an AI artist with creative experience in TV production and video game marketing based in Nice, France. Her art explores themes of horror, strangeness and the parallel realities of fever dreams through an approach she calls *absurdist realism*."

His recipe:

Use of AI for storyboard creation and animation, as well as for music, voice-over and sound effects.



THE FILMS

TO WONDERLAND.

by Matthieu Gambert

Technical data :

Genre: Fantasy / Running time: 2min42 / Format: 16:9

Synopsis:

A journey of consciousness into a strange, otherworldly realm...

Director:

"I began my career in the film industry before turning to AI as a means of creative expression. My work focuses on storytelling and exploring emotions through AI. I like to mix believable narratives with surrealism and poetry."

His recipe:

AI was used in the script ideation phase, the creation of the storyboard and its animation for realization, as well as for music, voice-over and sound effects. The director also used film footage retexturized with AI.



THE FILMS

FOAM CITY. by Gusti Fink

Technical data :

Genre: Fantasy / **Running time:** 2min42 / **Format:** 16:9

Synopsis:

In a submerged city, life goes on beneath the waves. Lilly, a daring young woman, takes part in the annual race called *The Crossing*, where the winner has the chance to leave the flooded world behind.

Director:

Gusti Fink (Stanislas Coppin) is a French visual artist living and working in Paris. He uses AI and 3D animation to create short videos of moving landscapes and psychedelic visions.

His recipe:

Use of AI in the script ideation phase, storyboard creation and animation for production, as well as for music, voice-over and sound effects.



THE FILMS

A FRYING PAN ON A BEACH WITH ARMS AND LEGS

by Albertine Meunier

Technical data :

Genre: Comedy / **Running time:** 2min18 / **Format:** 16:9

Synopsis:

How can the legs be on top when they're supposed to be underneath? The absence of arms is particularly intriguing. Has our frying pan decided that arms are superfluous for a day at the beach? What happened to the frying pan itself? This unexpected interpretation begs the question: what really defines a frying pan?

The director:

Albertine Meunier has been working in the field of digital art since 1998, using the Internet in particular as material. She defines herself as a "net artist", an "artist pas nette". This slightly old-fashioned expression gives her a human face, far removed from the coldness of digital machines.

His recipe:

The script was created with the assistance of ClaudeAI, who was also used to compose the music. AI was also used to create the storyboard and animate the film. The director deliberately exploited older technologies and software errors to serve her purpose.



THE FILMS

FUNERAL CRAHSER

by Louise Gib

Technical data :

Genre: Comedy / Running time: 4min19 / Format: 16:9

Synopsis:

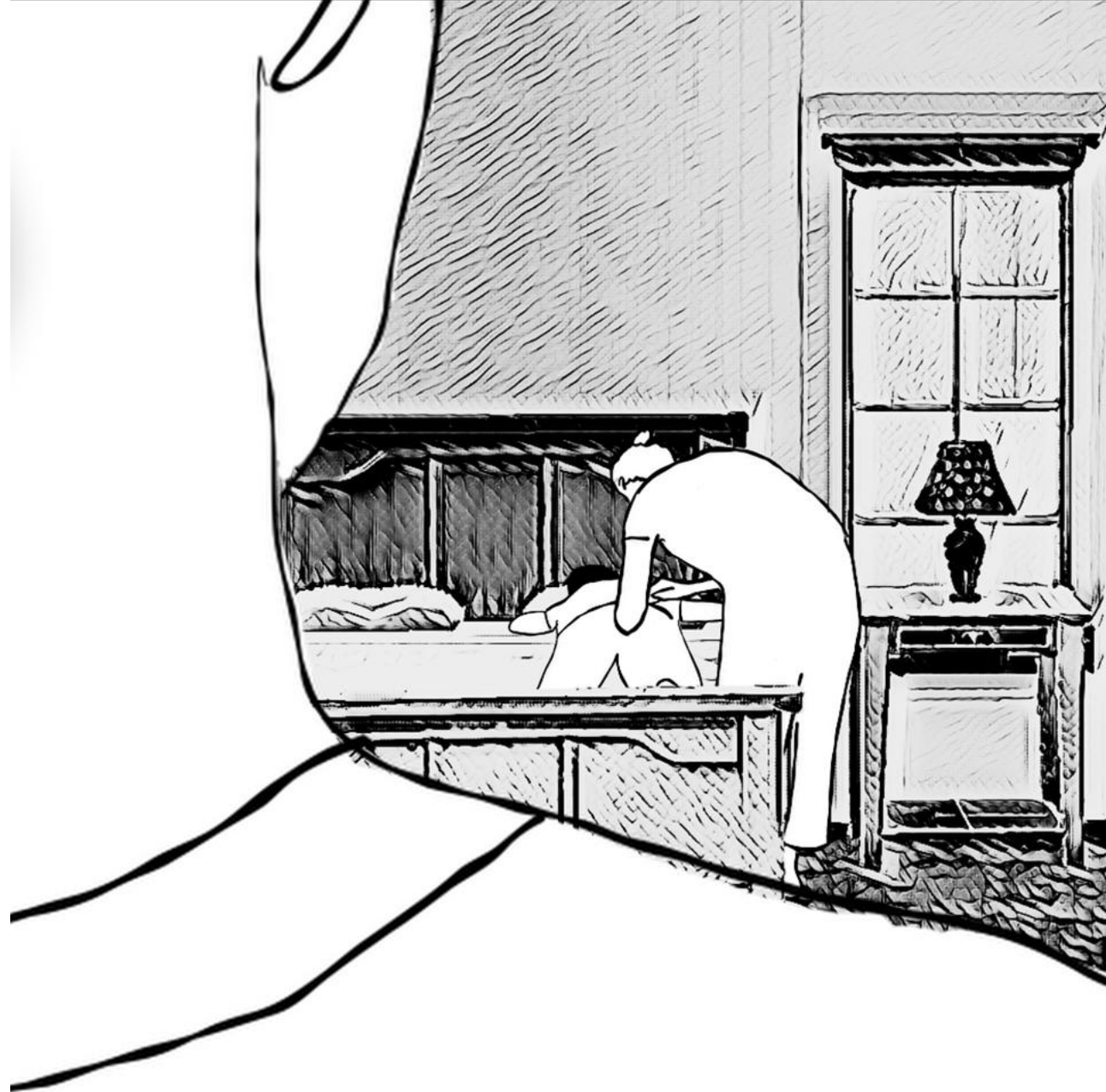
Some thoughts can only be shared when you're dead. Do you have something to say from the afterlife ? The Funeral Crasher is here for you. Some funerals, a grieving audience and a man reading a letter in first person. Revelations, accusations, pure malice : the dead indeed have a lot to say...

The director:

I am a digital artist and filmmaker, with four short films completed and a feature film currently in development. Always fascinated by image and sound technologies, I also work as a DIT, colorist, and VFX artist. In line with this interest, I authored an essay on reframing in post-production, published by Presses Universitaires du Septentrion and awarded by the CST. Following this, I was part of the jury for the Artiste-Technicien Prize at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival.

His recipe:

AI-driven 3D storyboarding and automated generation of camera angles. Each shot was then filmed, with the director performing most of the characters herself. These shots were subsequently transformed into animation using artificial intelligence. Some character voices were also AI-generated.



THE FILMS

$e^{(i*\pi)} + 1 = 0$

by Junie Lau (*Mediawan Award*)

Technical data :

Genre: Science-fiction / **Running time:** 5min07 / **Format:** 16:9

Synopsis:

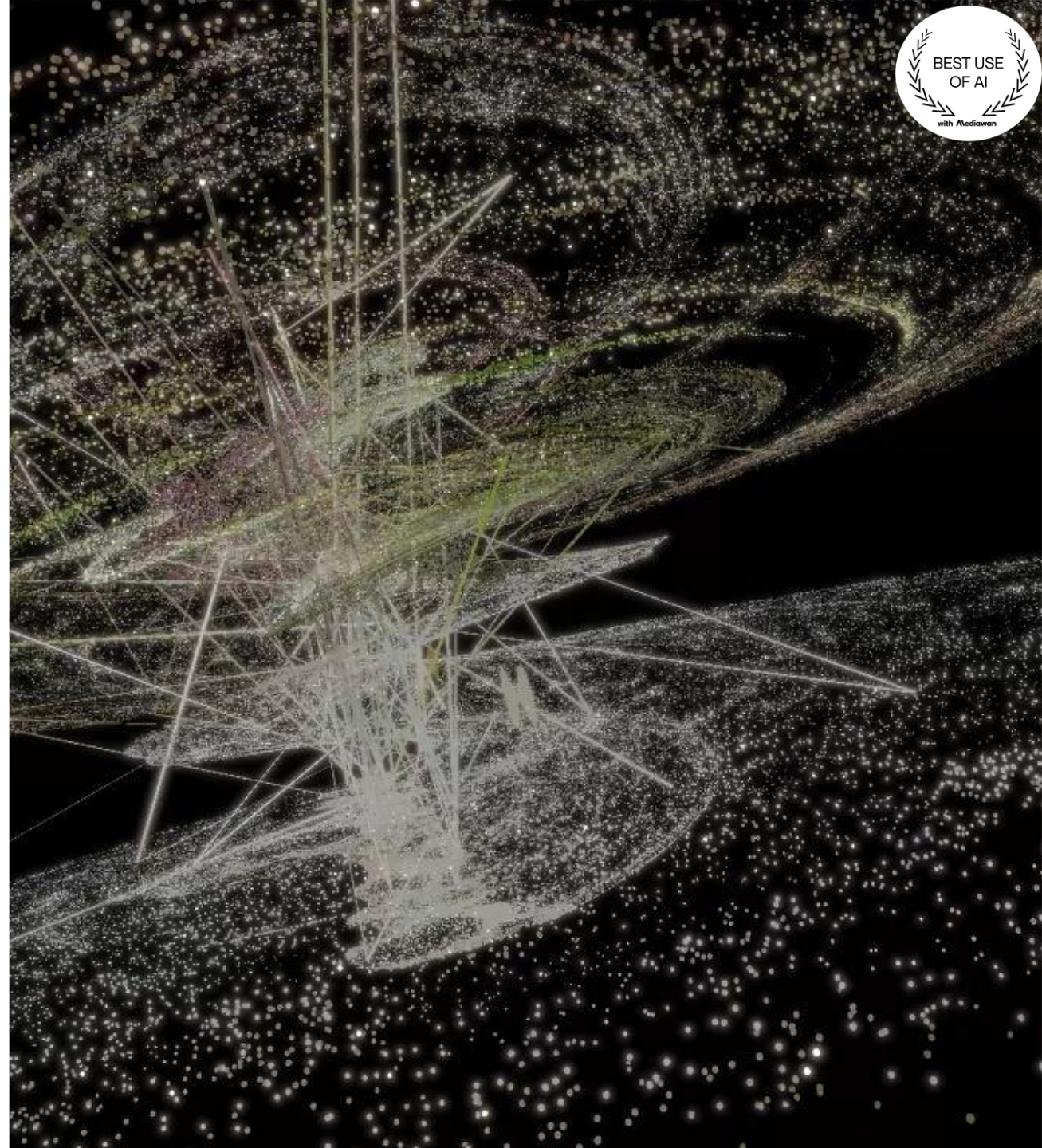
Now retired, the former mathematical genius has transformed himself into a creator of digital comics. He becomes the god of this fictional universe, where time and dimensions wander under his pen. In his story, three characters come to life: Alpha (α), Beta (β) and Gamma (γ)...

The director:

Junie Lau is a multidisciplinary designer living and working in London (UK) and Shanghai (China). She is passionate and committed to the use of cutting-edge technologies in media production, constantly pushing the boundaries of expression. In addition, she directed the production of the AI short film " $e^{(i*\pi)} + 1 = 0$ " for the Sohu 25th Fashion Awards, which won silver at the 2nd Annual International AI Film Festival by Runway and screened at the Tribeca Film Festival.

His recipe:

Several different tools were used in the making of this film: it is the product of a combination of generative AI software and live-action images creating the opposition between the fictional and real worlds. AI was also used to translate the actors' voices and to help in the ideation phase of the design of certain set elements.



THE FILMS

LIFE FORMS OF TARDI.

by Thiemo Kloss

Technical data :

Genre: Science fiction - Docufiction / **Running time:** 5min13 / **Format:** 1:1

Synopsis:

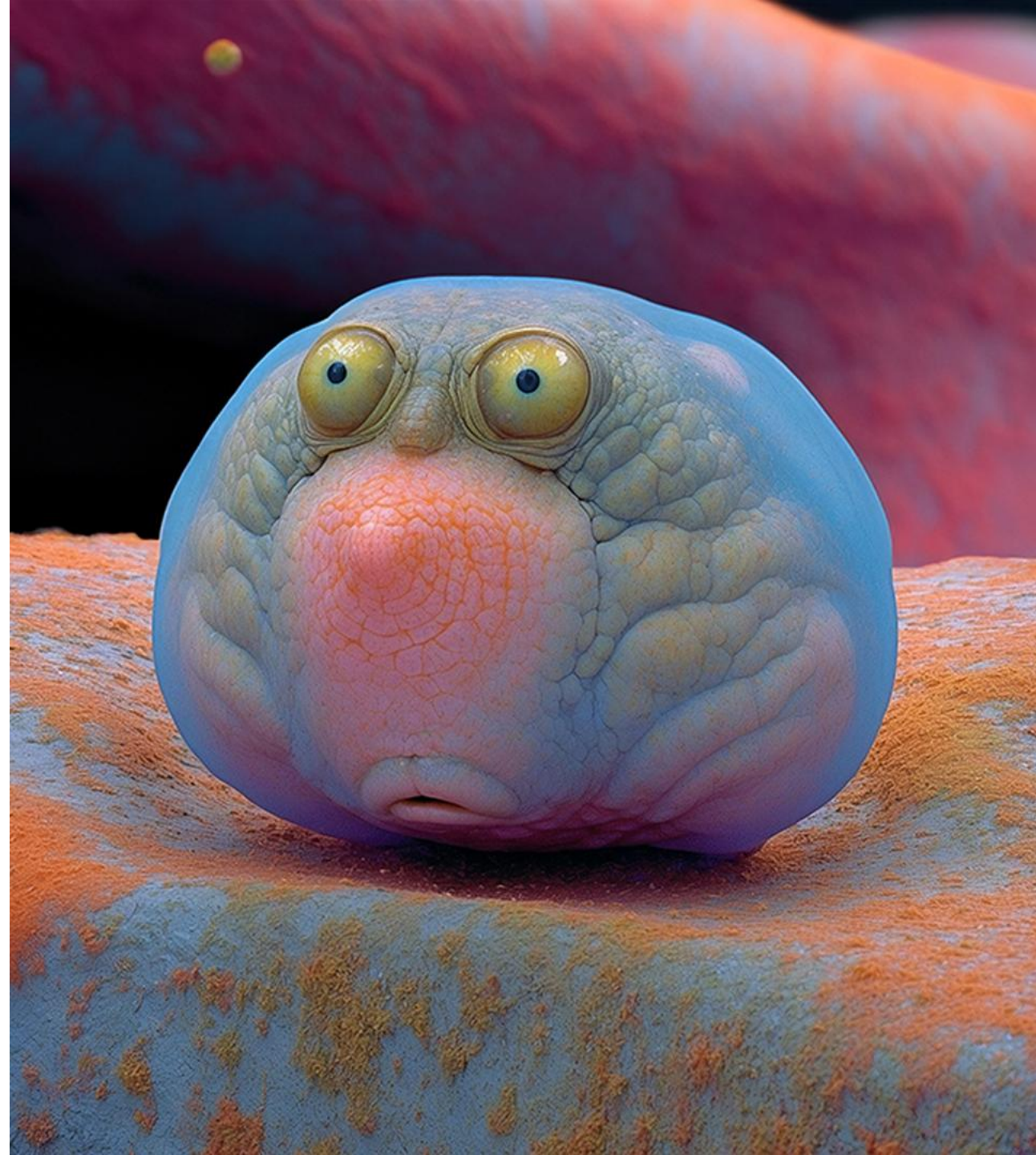
In documentary style, the film follows the meticulous research of the Society of Interstellar Zoologists as they explore the diverse and fascinating creatures of the planet Tardi. With stunning images and scientific insight, the documentary offers an in-depth look at extraterrestrial species, their habitats and the challenges of studying life beyond Earth.

Director:

"I'm a visual artist working primarily with photography and video, generally focusing on serious subjects involving society, transformations, history, technology and the question of self. Since the beginning of 2023, I've been working on the not-so-serious world-building project 'Life forms of Tardi' using AI."

His recipe:

Use of AI in the script ideation phase, sequencing, storyboard creation and animation for production, as well as for music, voice-over and sound effects. AI was also used to lip-sync the alien speaking on camera.



THE FILMS

DARK, LIGHT, YELLOW.

by Francisco Gas

Technical data :

Genre: Science-fiction / **Running time:** 5min13 / **Format:** 16:9

Synopsis:

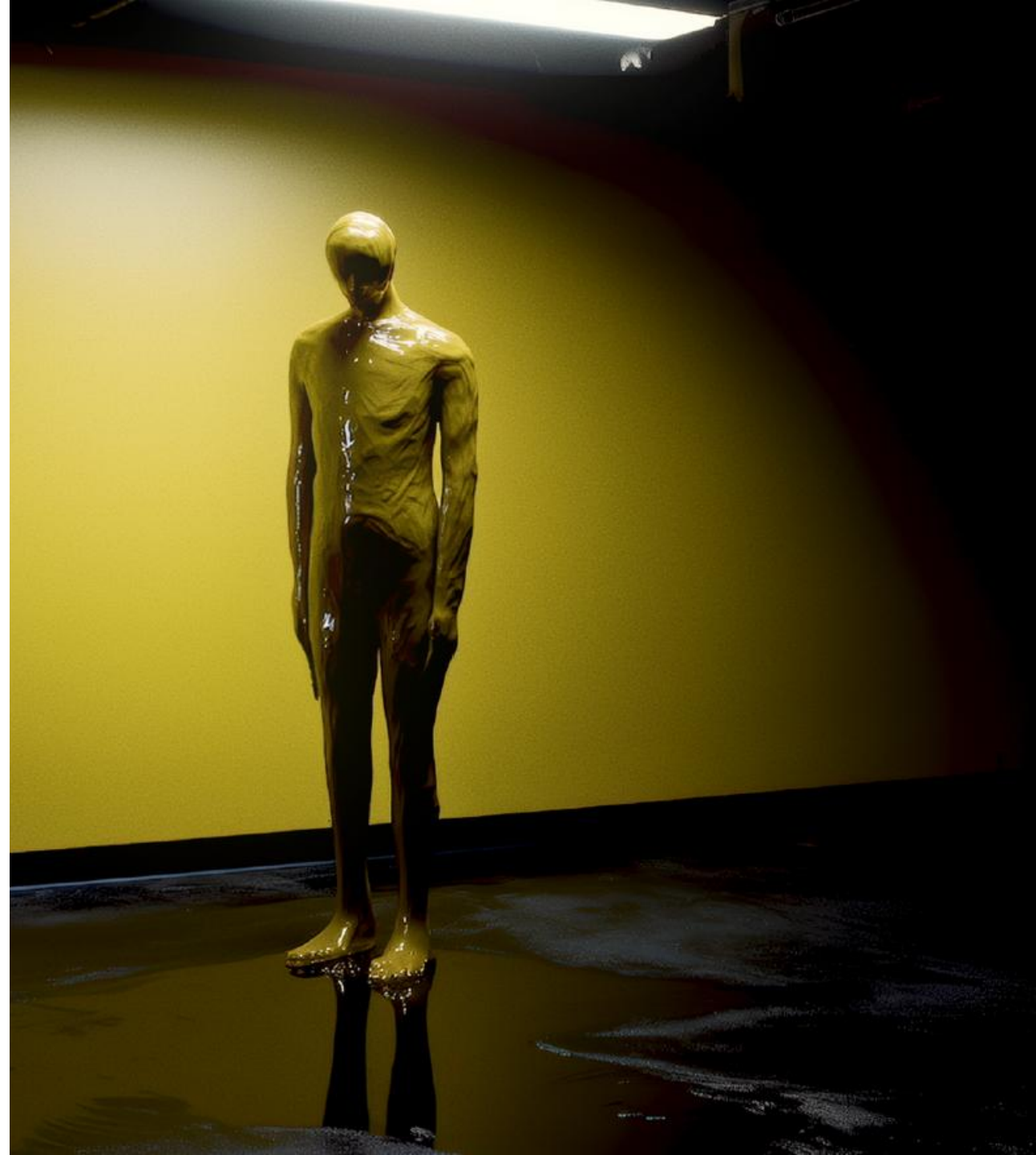
Yellow is born. Color psychology will attribute to him the different ways in which Yellow will interact with the world...

Director:

Fran Gas is a Spanish director, filmmaker, screenwriter, editor and musician. He won the +RAINFilm Fest (Barcelona), Europe's first international festival for films made with artificial intelligence, with his short film *Of Youth*, a multi-award-winning, internationally acclaimed work that won Best Film on Artificial Intelligence at the International Festival of Alternative Media FICMA (Mexico), Narrarel Futuro (Colombia) and the Experimental Festival of Brazil, among others. He has also worked on soundtracks with *Lavenzza*, his experimental music project, and in 2023 was nominated for a Crystal Pine Award (Croatia) for the soundtrack he composed for *Of Youth*. His work reflects a strong interest in narrative and audiovisual experimentation.

His recipe:

AI was used in the script ideation phase, the creation of the storyboard and its animation for realization, as well as for music, voice-over and sound effects. The director also used film footage retexturized with AI.



THE FILMS

ONE WITH NATURE. by Erik Gen

Technical data :

Genre: Docufiction / **Running time:** 4min / **Format:** 16:9

Synopsis:

An absurd yet realistic short film in the form of a mockumentary combining Herzogian style and Found Footage. The story of a small group of scientists and a film crew who investigate and document a strange symbiosis between man and nature in a remote forest region. All elements, including voices and sounds, were generated by AI.

Director:

Erik Gen is the pseudonym of Oliver Roeger, Senior Professor of Digital Media Design at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Originally from Germany, with a degree in design, he has lived in the USA since 2000 and has been conducting intensive AI research and experimentation since summer 22.

His recipe:

Use of AI in the script ideation phase, sequencing, storyboard creation and animation for production, as well as for music, voice-over and sound effects. AI was also used to lip-sync characters and improve image resolution.



THE FILMS

NEVER NANSA MEMORIES

by Ella Bedia (*Jury Prize*)

Technical data :

Genre: Drama / **Running time:** 2min14 / **Format:** 4:3

Synopsis:

Jamais Nansa Souvenirs tells the story of the day my Algerian grandfather left his country for France after the war. I wanted to reconstruct that special day, guided by everything I wanted to ask him, tell him...

The director:

"I'm a 22-year-old art direction apprentice. I have a real passion for all types of video formats. Using AI-based design tools has become my hobby over the past year. This is my first short film."

His recipe:

Use of AI for storyboard creation and animation, as well as for music composition and subtitle translation.



THE FILMS

THE CARTOONIST by Nicolas Pomet

Technical data :

Genre: Horror / Running time: 3:58 / Format: 4:3

Synopsis:

An exhausted manga artist retreats to the forest to escape a stalker. But his solitude is soon disturbed. Is this the nightmare of a stressed man, or a frightening reality taking dangerous shape? Perhaps he's not as alone as he'd hoped...

Director:

"I'm Nicolas Pomet, a French art director working mainly in Motion Design and Animation. I've always wanted to make films, and AI has finally made this dream accessible to me and many independent creators."

His recipe:

AI was used to create the storyboard and animate it for production, as well as to generate Japanese voices from dialogue written in French.



THE FILMS

LA VIE QUAND T'AI MORT

by Raphaël Frydman (*Grand Prix*)

Technical data :

Genre: Comedy - Fantasy / **Running time:** 5min / **Format:** 4:3

Synopsis:

10-year-old Raphaël spends his days staring at the ceiling. He mentally projects onto it a strange film about life after death.

Director:

[Raphaël Frydman](#) is a screenwriter and director. He was born and works in Paris. He is 47 years old and tries to keep a child's soul.

His recipe:

Use of AI to create the storyboard and animate it for production, as well as to generate certain voices in the film.



THE FILMS

RHÉIA

by Johann Marin-Thiery

Technical data :

Genre: Drama / **Running time:** 5min13 / **Format:** Scope

Synopsis:

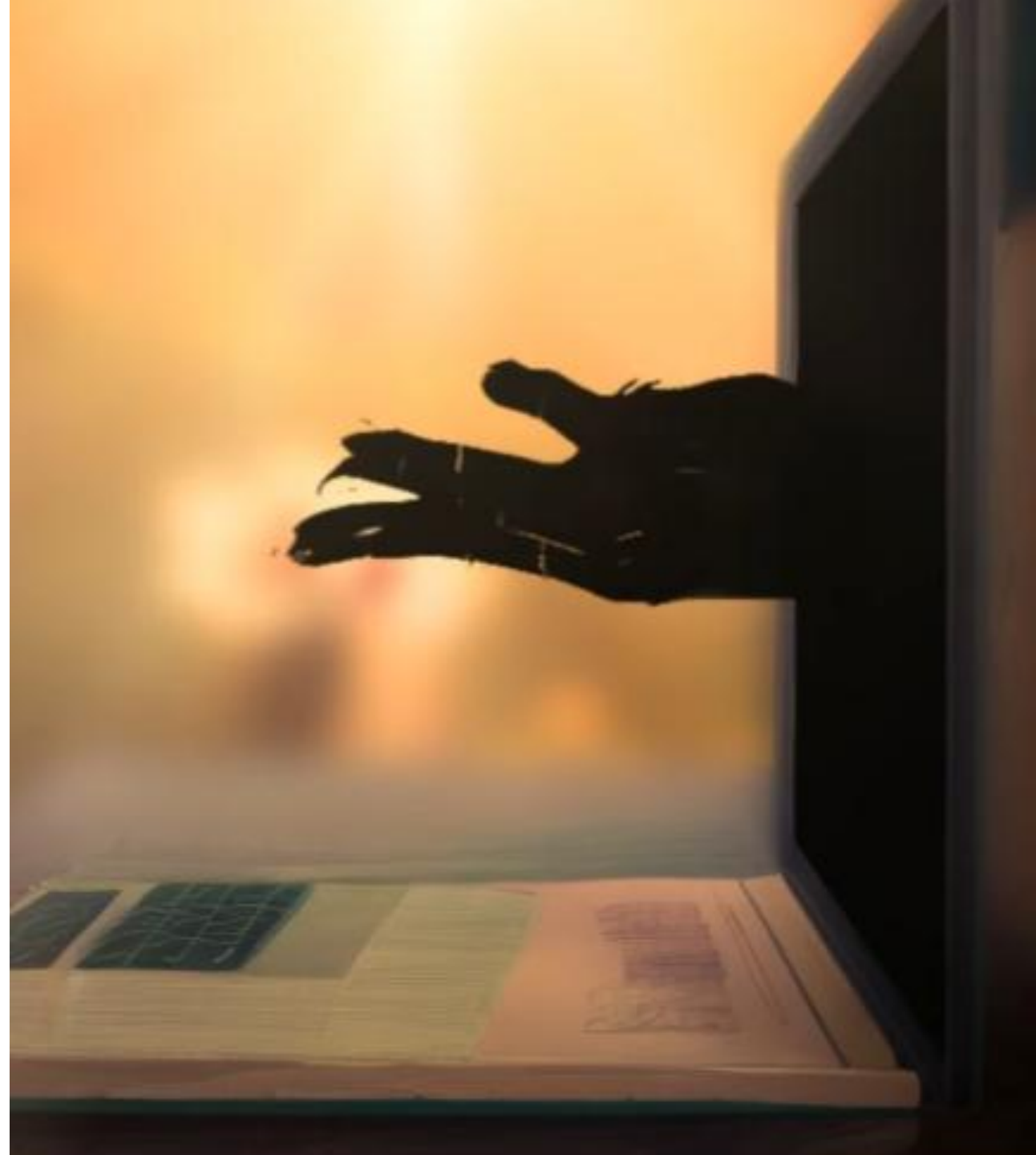
Doctor Dolores Leroy is faced with a dilemma when the medical AI she uses recommends a controversial course of treatment for one of her young patients. Dolores must choose between following the advice of technology or listening to her intuition and human experience.

Director:

I'm a writer and director of documentary and fiction films. I'm very interested in image-generating artificial intelligence, and have already made three animated shorts using this technology. I see AI as a creative tool that I fully control, not as an autonomous machine. I share my experience of generative AI through training courses in the Grand Est region of France.

His recipe:

Use of AI in the creation of fixed sets, the storyboard and its animation for the production. The director also trained three different AI models for each phase of his story, and to rotoscope pre-filmed images.



THE FILMS

A DREAM

by Evgenia Shabuni (*Audience Award*)

Technical data :

Genre: Drama / Running time: 5min13 / Format: Scope

Synopsis:

The film is based on a childhood dream of the director. In the age of social media, where we are constantly glued to our phones, we fall into the trap of so-called "information noise", where a constant stream of thoughts becomes commonplace...

Director:

She uses human beings as the driving force behind her creativity, exploring their sexuality, beauty and inner state. She enjoys creating transformations in appearance and exploring the character's inner world from a psychological point of view. She incorporates artificial intelligence into her work, which she combines with real shots and various 3D visualizations.

His recipe:

Using AI to create the storyboard and the character. The director used virtual avatar generation technology to animate her character. Morphing" software was then used to combine several shots into a single one, and the video's resolution was also increased thanks to AI.

