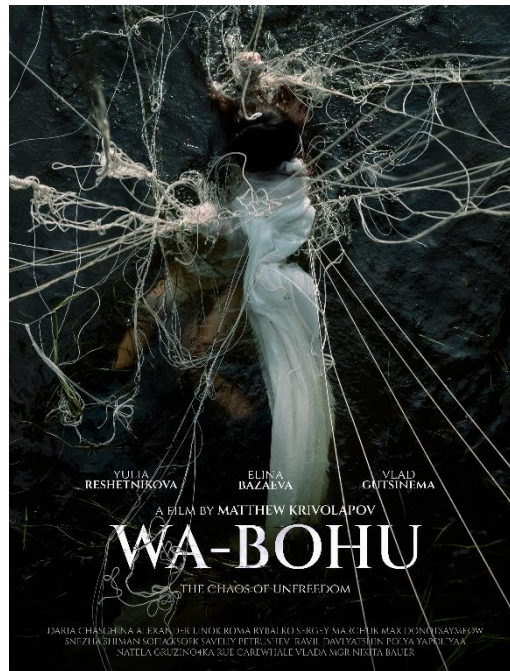


TOHU WA-BOHU

Matthew S. Krivolapov



A breathtaking and evoking the most non-trivial feelings video art project about pain and compassion, about liberation and catharsis. Mental automatism that is expressed in the movie is the real functioning of thought beyond any control from the mind, aesthetic, or moral boundaries.

Two audio-visual portrayals implementing two scenes from the script for the short film "Emptiness and Chaos" (the film adaptation of the full film is scheduled for 2025). Thus, Tohu Wa-Bohu is a demonstration of two scenes from a large author's script by Matthew, which is planned for implementation in the future. Filming took place on the outskirts of Tomsk, Russia in mid-August 2023.

"I made this movie when, after a long time, I was able to feel myself free. During a period of one year a lot of people that were close to me were leaving or cutting our relationships off. This made me suffer from difficult social addictions. The only character of the movie goes through the same experience, which is reflected through the physical obstacles. Her addiction and unfreedom is Wa-Bohu, where she tears up every circumstance that put her in such position. In Tohu she comes to an absolute harmony and catharsis"

Once upon a time, the earth was empty and formless, that is, uninhabitable and disorganized. Life could not exist in such a world, so it remained empty and disharmonious. Such a world did not adhere to any rules of existence; therefore, it is chaos, that is, Bohu from the Bible. Christianity knows only one God and his creation, which is the world. Once upon a time, "the earth was formless and empty, and darkness over the abyss". The Hebrew term Tohu means either emptiness and absence, or harmony. The word Bohu in combination tohu wa bohu is not used in the Bible (except Isaiah 34:11), which simply quotes an expression from the beginning of Genesis. Thus, literally, "the earth was chaos and darkness in the face of chaos". In the Greek sense, one could say that "the earth was hidden by chaos", which did not allow one to see that the Earth was the Earth. Later, the phrase Tohu Wa-Bohu was used in the sense of "Harmony and chaos". Such a combination of opposite concepts in literature is an oxymoron.

And it was precisely such opposite states that I took as the basis of the project.

Being a viewer interested in films of different genres and different modern directors, I formed for myself the image of a strong woman capable of overcoming severe pain. The method of creating abstract emotionally filled audiovisual "paintings" in the center of a narrative plot was inspired by the works of A. Tarkovsky and Lars Von Trier.

Elina Bazaeva, the performer of the main role, participated in the production of the movie for the first time. The result of her hard work in rehearsals and the filming itself amazed even the most experienced viewer because Elina coped with the role perfectly.

This film helped me release the emotions that were stuck in my body. By transferring my feelings to audiovisual work, I shared my experience with the viewer and gave him the opportunity to undergo several difficult emotions during watching my movie.

The task of creating Tohu Wa-Bohu film in the context of the video art genre is to switch the roles of me as an author with the viewer. As a result, I am building a construct of aesthetic space as a communication situation in which the viewer-interpreter finds himself, creatively reading a moving image. The narrative turns out to be blurred, and the processual nature of the viewer's perception comes to the fore. As a result, the film takes the viewer out of a state of passivity and sets him up for a critical mode of perception. It is this type of perception of a media source that is in excessive demand in the 21st century, when the amount of audiovisual information fosters in recipients a passive, trivial reading of information, without living a sensory experience.



[FilmFreeWay link](#) // [Trailer on YouTube](#)

[CV & Portfolio](#) of Matthew S. Krivolapov