

Succession

Production statement

Title : *Succession*

Genre : Experimental fiction

Length : 8 minutes

Director : Maël Marechal

Producer : Lucas Donnat

Assistant producer : Arthur Merle

Shooting date : 14 Juin 2025 au 21 Juin 2025

Location : Cruet, France

Project Summary

Succession is an experimental short film that denounces the impact of humankind on its natural environment by exploring, in a poetic and visually powerful way, the confrontation between two temporalities: that of humanity and that of the plant world. Through the opposition of these two temporalities, the film seeks to raise awareness of current ecological issues.

Artistic and Thematic Objectives

Succession stands out for its ability to combine ecological awareness with artistic exploration. The film aims to awaken consciousness about ongoing environmental disruptions while using cinema to create a sensory and emotional experience. Images, sound, and staging are all placed at the service of this reflection.

Originality of the Project

The originality of *Succession* lies in its experimental approach and its primarily poetic visual form. The film does not follow a classical linear narrative; instead, it unfolds through symbolic images and interactions between the two temporalities, within an immersive structure that places ecology at the heart of the viewer's experience.

The setting, an undefined environment immersed in darkness, representing the universe, becomes the ideal playground for this exploration.

The film is also distinguished by its absence of dialogue, favoring images and sound to convey ideas and emotions. This non-verbal approach allows the viewer to feel, rather than simply understand, the urgency of the ecological situation, while reinforcing the artistic dimension of the work.

Ecological Awareness

As mentioned previously, *Succession* places at the center of its narrative the fundamental question of the impact of human activity on nature. Through the contrast between human and plant temporalities,

the film invites reflection on the consequences of human behaviors (pollution, deforestation, urbanization, etc.) and how they affect the fragile balance of ecosystems.

The objective is not only to denounce, but also to question. In this way, the short film encourages deep reflection on our place in the natural world, our relationship to time, and our connection to nature.

Artistic Nature of the Project

Beyond its ecological scope, *Succession* distinguishes itself through its desire to combine intellectual reflection with visual art. The use of light, imagery, sound, and set design aims to enhance the beauty of nature within a black space, an environment that is inherently opposed to life and devoid of it, while simultaneously highlighting nature's fragility in the face of human impact.

The film is conceived as an invitation to contemplation, offering a cinematic experience that does not merely deliver a message, but seeks to engage the viewer's senses and emotions.

The project aspires to be presented as a complete work, in which every detail, from set design to visual effects, from sound to staging choices, contributes to reinforcing the central message: the urgency of restoring a more harmonious and sustainable relationship with nature.

Conclusion

Succession is an experimental, bold, and deeply committed short film that combines ecological reflection with artistic exploration. Through a strong and original sensory experience, the film invites viewers to become aware of humanity's impact on the environment, while offering a visually rich, poetic, and emotionally resonant work.

Written by **Lucas Donnat**.