

We R the
World/Mold



A close-up, macro photograph of mold growing on a textured, yellowish-brown surface. The mold consists of a dense network of fine, white, hair-like filaments (hyphae) that branch out across the surface. Interspersed among these filaments are numerous small, dark, spherical spores. The background is a blurred, warm brown color, suggesting a wooden surface or similar material. The lighting is soft, highlighting the intricate, web-like structure of the mold.

TITLE

We R the World/Mold

**COUNTRY AND YEAR
OF PRODUCTION**

Canada, 2016

RUNTIME

6 min 45 sec

SHOOTING FORMAT

HD, Color, 16:9

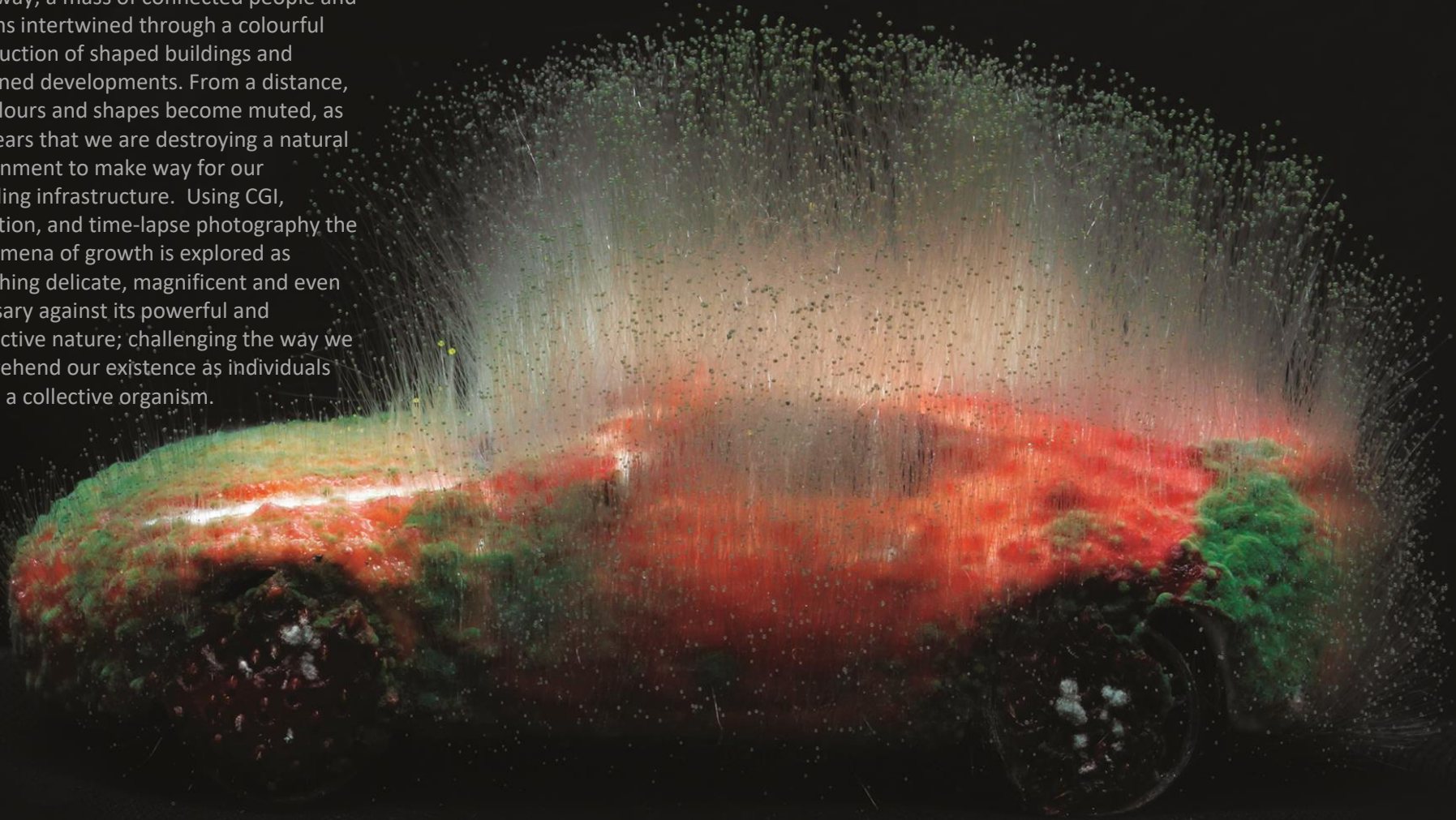
SCREENING FORMATS

Digital File, Blu-Ray, Stereo

SYNOPSIS

Magnified, mold is an intricate mass of branching hair like filaments creating a connected web. Fruiting bodies develop into a diverse array of colours, patterns and shapes. Soon it begins to spread and inhibit other areas of its host. When viewed from a distance, mold loses its complexities and a more destructive nature is realized.

Urban development can be viewed in the same way; a mass of connected people and systems intertwined through a colourful construction of shaped buildings and patterned developments. From a distance, the colours and shapes become muted, as it appears that we are destroying a natural environment to make way for our sprawling infrastructure. Using CGI, animation, and time-lapse photography the phenomena of growth is explored as something delicate, magnificent and even necessary against its powerful and destructive nature; challenging the way we comprehend our existence as individuals and as a collective organism.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

The “spore” of this idea originated from discovering a beautiful decaying apple in my compost pile, when I saw it I *knew* it had to be on a big screen! The problem with mold is that it is not a very “dynamic actor” however, during this time, I was working on a time-lapse plant piece and I figured I could apply the same time-lapse methods to mold growth. The last part of the piece, was inspired by a Joe Rogan comedy special where he equates bacteria to people and suggests humankind’s purpose is to destroy the earth. Instead of bacteria I thought mold might be an even better visual metaphor for the human destruction of the planet. And so, over a 10 month period I experimented growing and filming mold in a controlled environment in my basement. I then used CGI, compositing, and animation techniques in combination with the time-lapse work to create the piece. The audio for the piece was also recorded in my studio. I used organic materials and common household items to create sounds and then digitally altered them to get the desired effect.

- DAWN GEORGE





DIRECTOR'S BIO

Dawn George is a Halifax based independent media artist working in film, video and installation. She is a graduate of Ryerson's Radio and Television Arts Program and received her film and media arts training through the Atlantic Filmmakers Cooperative (Afcoop) and the Centre for Art Tapes. She remains a strong advocate for artist run centres and cooperatives. Her DIY approach to filmmaking reflects her appreciation and respect for movement, nature, and sound. She often uses the recorded moving image in combination with time-based and CGI effects to explore environmental and societal themes. The soundscapes to her films are primarily created by recording and modifying sounds found in nature and her kitchen. Currently, Dawn is experimenting with eco-processing techniques to create a small gage film about weeds. Her works have most recently screened at WNDX, Antimatter [media art], FLEX Fest, and the Dalhousie Art Gallery.

FILMOGRAPHY

Before, I was...snow Super 8 mm	3 min 2016
We R the World/Mold Digital	7 min 2016
Submission Digital	loop 2016
Bees 'N Trees Digital	11 min 2015
Ants on a Log 16 mm	loop 2015
Negative Nature Super 8 /digital	6 min 2013
Adaptation Digital	11 min 2012

OFFICIAL SELECTION

Aesthetica Short Film Festival
London Experimental Film Festival
Carmeltie Café - Bow Arts
CineEco
Simultan Festival 2017
SuperNova Digital Animation Festival
Humboldt International Film Festival (Honorable Mention Experimental Film)
4th International Motion Festival Cyprus Festival
Dawson City Short Film Festival
Arizona International Film Festival (Jury Award for Creative Achievement)
West Virginia Mountaineer Short Film Festival
Oxford Film Festival
Black Maria Film Festival (Director's Choice Award)
Hamilton Film Festival
South Texas Underground Film Festival
Silver Wave Film Festival (Nominated for Best Experimental Film)
WNDX - Festival of Moving Image
Charlottetown Film Festival
Pile of Bones Film Festival
Toronto Independent Film Festival
Atlantic Film Festival
Halifax Independent Filmmakers Festival
CBC Exhibitionist in Residence – Season 5, Episode 9, Neon Dreams

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