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# ETHNOGRAPHIC FILM SCREENING

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The Ethnographic Study Collection (ESC) invites you to a screening of THREE/TWO documentaries, made by talented students from the Master in Visual Anthropology. Hear the voices of gods, experience the world of Ayahuasca, and explore the Cuban religious practice of Palo in the films made by Sebastian Lowe, Julie Jespersen and Anne-Sofie Rudolph Christensen.

The films are supported by the ESC, which supplies grants for projects focusing on visual and material culture and on the communication of anthropological knowledge, and facilitates cooperation between the Department of Anthropology at Aarhus University and the Ethnographic Collections at Moesgaard Museum.

## When and where?

The event is free and takes place on the **29<sup>th</sup> of June from 5pm to 7pm** in the **large lecture hall at Moesgaard Museum**. The museum will be open and the lecture hall is situated on the right hand as you enter the main entrance.

## The films

*"The Reality of Illusion and the Illusion of Reality"*

By Julie Jespersen

Why do people experience that drinking a psychedelic brew teaches them about themselves? If the visions that people see are "hallucinations", then how can it teach them anything about reality? This wonderment inspired the film "The Reality of Illusion and the Illusion of Reality". The film is based on a three and a half month's field

work in the Netherlands and explores the understandings of consciousness, soul and reality among members of the spiritual group called '*Ontmoeting met jezelf*' (Dutch for 'Meeting with yourself'). The group is a branch of the Brazilian Santo Daime Church. The group conducts ceremonies consuming the sacrament Daime – a plant medicine with entheogenic properties (also known as Ayahuasca in other contexts). The psychedelic brew creates altered states of consciousness including hallucinations that some experience as divine visions.

### *"Where I Am is Somewhere Else"*

By Sebastian Lowe

This is a short experimental film completed in 2016. It explores how *taonga pūoro* practitioners (traditional Māori instruments) come into dialogue with the voices of the *atua*, or the multiple deities. This project was made in collaboration with Alistair Fraser and Russell G. Shaw, as part of a wider audio-visual ethnomusicological research project on musical composition and perception with *taonga pūoro* in Aotearoa/New Zealand (2016/2017). This film accentuates how *taonga pūoro* practitioners utilise their senses to imagine, empathise and furthermore resonant with something in the environment, before turning these experiences into music.

### *Moving within the Cosmos of Palo Monte*

By Anne-Sofie Rudolph Christensen

Based on a three months fieldwork this film digs into the lives of practitioners of the Afro-Cuban religious tradition Palo Monte. The film touches upon the themes ritual, performance, and the practitioners' engagement with the spirit world. I am inviting you into a performing ethnography; a sensorial exploration of moving within the cosmos of Palo Monte.