

THE TIME OF THE MOON

curated by Lucia Pietroiusti

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What happens to us in moments of rupture? When the ground begins to shake beneath our feet, politically and ecologically, what changes in the ways we perceive, how we gather, how we listen, and how we make sense of our present? Across histories and geographies, times of environmental and social instability have often coincided with a renewed sensitivity to forces that exceed the individual: spirits, landscapes, ancestors. Forms of knowing that sometimes appear marginal, from ritual to prayer, to ecstatic vision, return to command our attention. We seek intensity, the sublime, a different kind of connection.

The 2026 edition of 8Albe continues the investigation that began with *Sunsets: Cosmogonies and Ends of Worlds*, the 2025 edition, which concerned itself with beginnings and ends of the world. This year, the festival gathers films that propose altered registers of experience as a way of making sense of the present time. The works bring together ecological breakdown and spiritual intensity as intertwined conditions of living in a world that is changing faster than our languages can describe it. The spiritual appears as direct experience, not as ideology: something lived through bodies, movements, transformations, landscapes and collective gestures. Continuing an exploration of geomorphology, the films also interrogate the deep interconnectedness between myth, storytelling and environmental change.

As a physical, metaphysical and symbolic force, the moon re-appears to us powerfully in these moments. It proposes cyclical over linear time, moving tides and bodies. To turn to the moon, in this sense, is not to withdraw from the world, but to search for new coordinates when familiar frameworks no longer hold. In this collection of films, psychedelia, mysticism, ecstasy and metamorphosis become modes of attention: ways of lingering with contemporary instability, of inhabiting a world that is fragile, volatile, and profoundly animate. They suggest that if those certainties that held us in place are now falling apart, it may be because they were holding on too tight to begin with, leaving very little space for the murmuring rest. New communities form, or reform, around ecstasy and ritual, both on and off-screen.

Many of the films in *The Time of the Moon* move within the liminal space between inner and outer worlds. They stage, respond to, and provoke states of consciousness in which the boundary between the human and the more-than-human becomes permeable; in which ecological belonging articulates itself through breath, vision, rhythms and storytelling.

If the 2025 edition of 8 Albe concerned itself with the collapses and rebirths of the world, *The Time of the Moon* remains with the metabolics of transformation, with those ritual, visions and forms of togetherness emerging under cover of night. As the future becomes difficult to imagine, we stop looking forward, and start looking up, listening out to a planet that continues to speak to us, even as its ground quakes in tumult.

Lunar time resists acceleration, progression, solution. It returns in ebbs and flows of intensity and continuity, teaching us how to accept and embody infinite and inevitable change. In turning toward the moon, this edition of 8Albe suggests that in moments of instability we may wish to sense more than we wish to control – we may choose to create community over asserting our individuality – we may remember ancient knowledge systems that continue to press on the present. We may remember that we, too, can be shapeshifters.

Recommended reading:

Giorgio Agamben, *The Time that Remains* (Stanford University Press, 2005)

Federico Campagna, *Prophetic Culture* (Bloomsbury, 2021)

David Graeber and David Wengrow, *The Dawn of Everything: A New History of Humanity* (Allen Lane, 2021)

Davi Kopenawa and Bruce Albert, *The Falling Sky: Words of a Yanomami Shaman* (Belknap, 2023)

Ailton Krenak, *Ideas to Postpone the End of the World* (Anansi, 2020)

Dirk Vis, *Study Trip* (Set Margins', forthcoming 2026)

Simone Weil, *Gravity and Grace* (Routledge, 2002)

Elvia Wilk, *Death by Landscape* Soft Skull Press, (2022)