

Swedenborg Film Programme & Richard Ashrowan

8TH JULY, 2015 | 7-9PM



The opening of this year's festival features two screenings; a special selection of films previously shown at the SSF, followed by the remarkable works of Richard Ashrowan, who will take part in a Q&A with the audience.



7pm: **SWEDENBORG SHORT FILM PROGRAMME** (50 mins)
Featuring award winning work by Chiara Ambrosio; Kate Davis & David Moore; Erica Eyres; Bartosz Kruhlik; and Toby Tatum; and Ezra Wube

These selected films from editions of the festival (2010–13), illustrate the scope of the 'Swedenborgian' theme – from the symbolic imagination of *Hisab* (Ezra Wube, Ethiopia, 2011, 8m) to the Surrealist performance of *The Cut* (Kate Davis & David Moore, UK, 2010, 3m). *Charon* (Chiara Ambrosio, UK, 2009, 12m16s) presents a mythical vision of the underworld, whilst the documentary *Tomorrow* (Bartosz Kruhlik, Poland, 2008, 13m33) offers a wry portrait of everyday existentialism. Meanwhile, *The Hand in the Plastic Bag's* (Erica Eyres, Canada, 2012, 9m36s) absurdist humour exposes the gap between appearance and reality, and *The Subterraneans* (Toby Tatum (UK, 2011, 4m37s) suggests a heightened consciousness of hidden worlds.

8pm: **RICHARD ASHROWAN: POST LUX MATERIA – AFTER LIGHT**
(74 mins) + Q&A

Richard Ashrowan is a moving image artist who lives and works in the Scottish Borders. He works primarily with 16mm film and HD video, creating short single-channel films, immersive video installations and live multi-projector performance experiments. His works are exhibited at artist-led spaces, galleries and film festivals around the world. He also curates experimental film and moving image works, as Creative Director of Alchemy Film and Moving Image Festival in Scotland and at Summerhall in Edinburgh. (Find more on www.ashrowan.com)__

- **FILM FESTIVAL**
Swedenborg Hall
The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way,
London WC1A 2TH
- **TELEPHONE**
02074057986
- **EMAIL**
admin@swedenborg.org.uk
- **CURATORS:**
Nora Foster/Gareth Evans
- **DATES:**
8TH JULY
- **PRICES:** £8.50; CONC £6.50
- **FOLLOW US:**
[@SwedSoc](https://twitter.com/SwedSoc) on Twitter
[@SwedenborgSoc](https://www.facebook.com/SwedenborgSoc) on Facebook

Richard Ashrowan Screenings:

Post Lux Materia – After Light / 74 minutes plus Q&A

This programme explores Richard Ashrowan's recent work. His films are substantively concerned with landscape, luminous transformation and presence. Referring to the language and processes of alchemical transformation, his work is founded upon an investigation of landscape and a metaphysics of place. His research-driven practice has included an exploration of the use of light by alchemists from the 12th to the 18th centuries, examining their experimental methodology, their diagrammatical structures and early pre-scientific philosophies of light. These historical antecedents often inform the content and structuring principals of his films, combined with a personal sense of deep presence.

Alchemist / 29m 24s / 2010 / Scotland

Exploring the transformative qualities of landscape through alchemy, featuring actions by internationally acclaimed performance artists Alastair MacLennan and Sandra Johnston, with the words of 12th-century Scottish alchemist Michael Scot.

Mutus Floris / 3m 41s / 2010 / Scotland

Composed of more than 5000 photographs of wild flowers, the film explores our perceptual relationship to natural things — flowers as objects of attention, the fixing of dynamic life in symbolic thought.

Diagram / 7m / 2011 / Iceland & Scotland

Filmed in Iceland, this work explores the idea of the fixed and the volatile as a diagrammatic space. Repetitive processes of 'fixing' the volatile and 'liberating' the volatile from the fixed are ideas not only central to historical alchemical discourse, but might also be considered central to the act of perception itself.

Cubiculum Umbrae / 8m / 2013 / Svalbard

Shot on 16mm on a residency/voyage around Svalbard / Spitzbergen in the high arctic. A critique of sorts on the presence of cameras in such places, and on their hunger for images. An experience diminished in the fixed quality of the shuttered images... and of a kind of seeing contested by cameras.

Speculum / 17m / 2014 / Italy & USA

A film in seven stages or seven failed experiments. Each experiment started out as an attempt to understand and interpret one of the seven stages described in the first quartile of the famous alchemical Ripley Scrawl, shot from a perspective within the alchemist's alembic.

Of the Excellence of Wheat / 8m / 2015 / Czech Republic / World Premiere

"A bright spirit of light inhabits this grain", stated Robert Fludd (1574-1637), an English physician-hermeticist who conducted alchemical experiments to extract the 'essential ligament of the elements' from wheat. The film refers to Fludd's wider body of work in pre-scientific light philosophy and luminous cosmogenesis.

The Swedenborg Film Festival is curated by Gareth Evans, writer, presenter, producer (Patience: After Sebald; By Our Selves and Unseen) and Film Curator at the Whitechapel Gallery, London; and Nora Foster, formerly Assistant Curator, The Swedenborg Society and now Communications Co-ordinator, Frieze.

Tickets available direct from <https://eventbrite.com/event/17390504467/> or by phone or in person at Swedenborg House. For any other inquiries please see the Swedenborg website; www.swedenborg.org.uk or call us on: 02074057986



- **FILM FESTIVAL**
Swedenborg Hall
The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way,
London WC1A 2TH
- **TELEPHONE**
02074057986
- **EMAIL**
admin@swedenborg.org.uk
- **CURATORS:**
Nora Foster/Gareth Evans
- **DATES:**
8TH JULY
- **PRICES:** £8.50; CONC £6.50
- **FOLLOW US:**
[@SwedSoc](#) on Twitter
[@SwedenborgSoc](#) on Facebook