

444.2 | Volumetric VR Fashion Film

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PROPOSAL

This proposal for Creative Practice showcase consists of a speculative fashion & astronomy-themed VR fashion film requiring a PCVR setup. While *444.2* is a 9min20s immersive experience which has shown internationally at film and digital festivals, it is the first time that it will show on a fashion-centred platform, at IFFTI 'Forming Futures'.

As the first volumetric, real-time VR fashion film of its kind, *444.2* is an immersive experience in the emerging XR theatre genre. The project as practice-based research, is underpinned by critical feminist, posthumanist theory. By drawing from Barad's (2007) materialist feminism, it challenges stereotyped narratives about BIPOC bodies, presenting these as quantum bodies; becoming-technology. The actual site of the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT, terrain and observatory structures) in Sutherland, South Africa, was captured using drone photogrammetry and LiDAR scanning to create the VR world in which the non-narrative fashion film unfolds. Concurrently volumetric filming was used to capture the costumed performance of Jessie Oshodi using a 3-sensor Kinect and Depthkit Studio for capture.

Through affective encounters with fashioned figurations that perform to a cinematic Afro-diasporic original score. *444.2* draws the immersant in a hypnotic, kinaesthetic journey through the African Karoo, through a portal, and into space.

[200]



Figure 1 Volumetric, costumed figuration composited with a shot from the (virtual) interior of the Southern African Large Telescope observatory

REFERENCE

Barad, K. (2007). *Meeting the universe halfway: quantum physics and the entanglement of matter and meaning*, Duke University Press, doi:10.1515/9780822388128