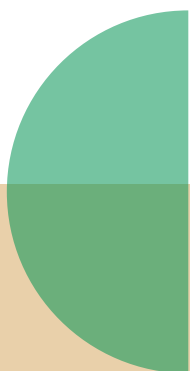
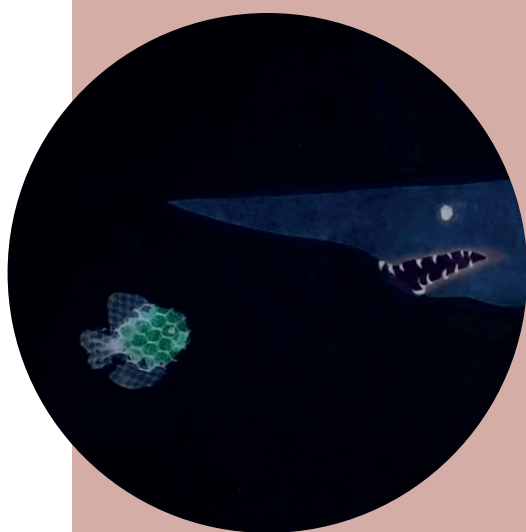
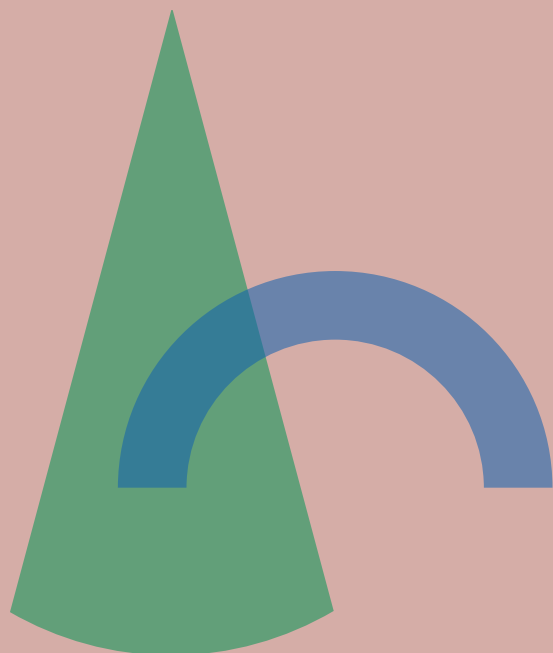
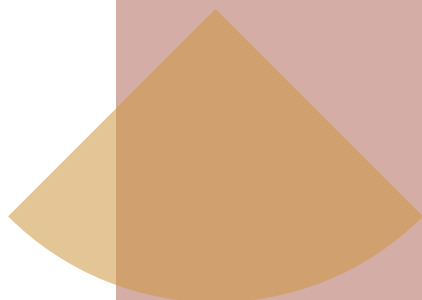




cinemini
europe



How to create a meaningful
film experience with
LES MONSTERS MARINES



A project on film education for 3-6 year old's

From a very young age, children are open to many different forms of art. Film, as an audiovisual medium, is particularly attractive and accessible for almost all children. Children not only enjoy moving image and easily engage with narrative films and documentaries, but also actively respond to abstract and experimental films, which give them a lot of room for imagination.

Children see movies on a daily basis. How can we make film watching a meaningful experience? How and what can we teach children in a very early age about film and media, since the early years are the most formative? We try to answer these questions on a practical way in Cinemini Europe, a film education project with films, activities and teaching materials for children between 3-6 years old.

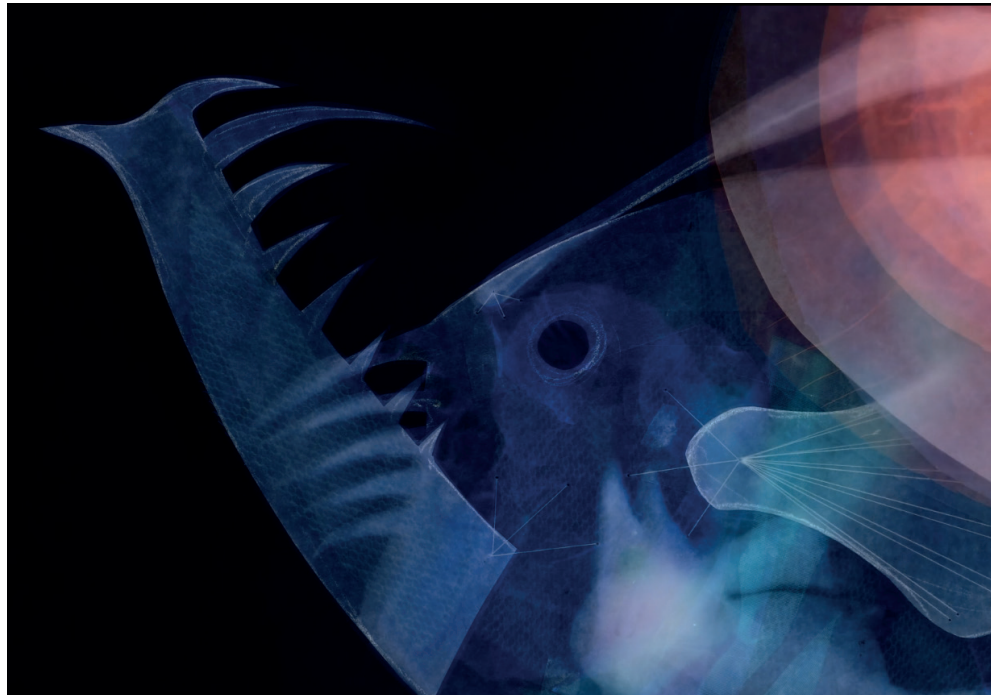
With Cinemini Europe we want to give children and care takers the opportunity to discover the diverse world of moving image in a meaningful and fun way. We believe it is not primarily about understanding film, but rather experiencing it. By watching, playing and reflecting on moving image, we want to stimulate the development of creativity and critical thinking and spark a love for film.

Cinemini Europe is an European project by Das Österreichische Filmmuseum, Deutsches Filminstitut & Filmmuseum, Eye Filmmuseum, Kinodvor Cinema Ljubljana, Taartrovers and is supported by Creative Europe.

This material is created to support the creation of meaningful film educational activities.

LES MONSTRES MARINES

Director Perrine Pype
Country Belgium
Year 2017
Prod. by Atelier Graphoui
Length 7 minutes
Image colour
Sound sound



Synopsis

Deep down below, under the surface of the sea is another world. Sea creatures of all sorts inhabit this space. They move with ease in every direction, sometimes just for fun, sometimes to get somewhere and sometimes...to hunt and eat another creature. While all of this is under water it might just as well be in outer space and the creatures we see could be ghosts.

Film aesthetic

In parts mimicking the form of a documentary *Les Monstres marines* is a 2D-Animation film that brings to life sea creatures that cannot be seen because they live too far below the surface. The film gives us the impression of being far far below the surface of the water by designing its entire background black. We do not really see water, we see little monsters moving about in very dark surroundings in which only they seem to be sources of light.

This concept of visibility and invisibility structures the whole film: The monsters themselves are designed in such a way that we see them but also always have the impression that we can see through them. Repeatedly we become aware that an object we are looking at is actually not just a plant but yet another monster that moves suddenly to eat another monster. This visual concept is underlined by a minimal composition consisting of synthesizer sounds that suggest the fluidity of water, the movement of a monster and at the same time feel utterly strange and a little bit scary.

Filmmaker(s)

Perrine Pype is an illustrator and filmmaker from Belgium who studied at the Ecole supérieure des Arts Saint-Luc in Brussels and the Ecole nationale supérieur. Her films are all animated films and often situated between the abstract and the concrete, her creatures being designed from simple, basic forms which – when combined – create faces, bodies, monsters, creatures.

Creating a meaningful film experience

General suggestions on how to work with this film:

- 1 Prepare a meaningful screening for the children, in cinema, at school or kindergarten (ideal setting: large screen, a bit of darkness, clear but not too loud sound, space for playing – potentially with an installation or else with a simple set up like table and drawing paper or light and shadow).
- 2 Have an introductory dialogue with the children on film in general and the project: ask about their personal experiences with film, ask if they've seen a film in a cinema before, tell them about the project and the visit, and discuss the rules.
- 3 Introduce the film(s) and watch the film.
- 4 Allow the children to bodily articulate reactions and to share emotions, thoughts and notifications about their experience.
- 5 Create a safe surrounding for a discussion and encourage a dialogue. Try to let the kids talk and collect what they have to say, draw connections between what they have seen, articulate similarities and follow up on differences (why have different kids seen things differently although they have seen the same film?).
- 6 Let the children process the films by playing freely (with one of the installations or a simple alternative).
- 7 Hand out the activity cards, and let the children play in groups or individually.
- 8 Repeated viewing: watch films again (and again, and again: children love repetition and learn from it).

Talking & Activity suggestions

- 1 Play the film without showing the images first. Ask the children about the soundtrack and find out what it triggers in them: Which kind of images could they imagine to go along with the music?
- 2 Ask the children how they know that these creatures move about under water. Ask them which elements of the picture gave them the impression that this must be under water. Collect elements that give the impression of water, such as the small elements floating through the images, the way the creatures move, bubbles and other traces of water.
- 3 Discuss if the film is at all frightening and if so follow up on why and through which elements.

The activity cards

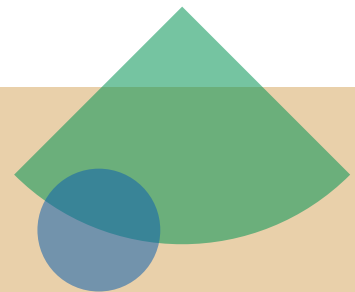
For each film of the Cinemini Europe project two or more activity cards have been created. The activity cards are nice treasures for the children, a remembrance of what they've seen. The assignment on each card invites to reflect and elaborate a bit more on the film. With simple and playful activities like drawing, dancing, acting or imagining children can work on the development of various skills, such as fine motor skills, speaking and listening skills and social and emotional skills. The activity cards can be done in groups, individually, in class or at home.

Further watching or viewing

The following films from the cinemini Europe project might be a good addition to *Les Monstres marines*:

Ostorozhno, dveri otkryvayutsya – This film could be a good addition as it shows how inanimate objects, such as abstract shapes and buttons can be used to describe living beings.

Maly cousteau – This film could be a good way to follow up on the motive of a fascination for the deep sea, giving yet another perspective on how we encounter the creatures from its depths through films.



Colophon

Cinemini Europe is a project by



and supported by

Co-funded by the
Creative Europe MEDIA Programme
of the European Union

