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Revelations

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Revelations

Abstract

This is a review of the short film, *Revelations* (2021), directed by Jack Dunphy.

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Author Notes

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Revelations (2021), dir. Jack Dunphy

Revelations is a mix of animation and live action. The contrast between the animation and the live actions raises the question of what the animation reveals about the live action and what the live action reveals about the animated segments. The contrast raises the question of whether we are looking at something or when we are really seeing that thing. There is seeing and then there is seeing. It is in the deep seeing, going beyond just looking at, that we find the revelations that are important to us, the revelations that change who we are. The very mix of styles in this film forces us to consider how we see the world.

Dunphy uses a scene in which the main character takes LSD, after which he sees his girlfriend in greater depth than he had seen her ever before as a specific example of seeing beyond looking. Drugs are used by some religions to encourage people to get beyond their own view of things, beyond their own looking. But other religions have their own triggers for bringing about insight. Whatever the triggers, we can get beyond looking. We can see any of the things in our lives, in our world once we get beyond just looking. In some religions we would refer to this as enlightenment or some such notion. Seeing, as opposed to looking, is what feeds the soul.