

# COSMOBILITY

FEATURE DOCUMENTARY FILM



# C O S M O B I L I T Y

---

## BASIC CONCEPT

Cosmobility is a visual documentary essay reflecting on the mobile, cosmopolitan experience of modern day nomads and mankind's perennial desire to *"be somewhere else"*. Through series of thematically and aesthetically linked vignettes film will present a vision of our planet on the move, exploring the myriad of ways in which humanity has become mobile in our era. Through observational moments, reflective voice over and associative use of archival footage, film aims in making visible the underlying forces and historical currents shaping the human mobility. Starting point for the project is to examine the foundational role that *movement* plays in human experience. The way we move (or do not move), has an effect on the way we perceive the world around us, and that in turn shapes our worldviews, lifestyles and the ways we organise our societies. Arguably there have been two key transitions in human history in relation to our mobility. First one took place roughly 15 000 years ago when the migrating bands of hunter-gatherers gradually settled down, started farming and tied themselves to *a place*. This ended the experience of constantly shifting perspective that presumably characterised the nomadic lives and led not only to a radically different way of life, but also to a profoundly different mindsets. In sedentary way of life the world was evermore perceived as being composed of static, fixed places, rather than a living totality. At this very moment we are in the midst of a second mobility revolution. During the last few hundred years the chains of *"the place"* have started to loosen their grip on us. In fact, modernisation process could be seen as a gradually accelerating liberation of human mobility after millenias of voluntary self-imprisonment. But how is this newly discovered mobile way of life changing the parameters of human condition?

The core narrative thread will be thematically composed from observational moments that loosely follow a diverse cast of cosmopolitan characters around the globe. Aim is to capture the prevalent moods of the cosmopolitan mobile experience and to make visible the underlying socio-historical currents. The private moments are juxtaposed against more distanced observations: impressionistic moments of collective experience filmed around the globe and associative use of archival sources. These little vignettes of mobile life are accompanied with reflective contemplation by some of the worlds leading thinkers on post-modernity, cosmopolitanism and contemporary human condition: eg. philosopher *Charles Taylor*, anthropologist *Dean MacCannell*, writer *Pico Iyer*, sociologist *Mimi Sheller* etc. Despite its highbrow, scholarly ethos, the film will however never venture into lecturing about anything, but maintains throughout its course an associative and visually driven quality. All these seemingly unrelated threads are weaved together thematically and aesthetically into a playfully flowing symphonic arrangement of Cosmobility.

*"The most fundamental human desire is not sex.  
It is 'to be somewhere else'."*

- Dean MacCannell





## PRODUCTION

## IDEASTHETIC

*Cosmobility* is currently under pre-production. Since late 2021, the project has been developed with help of grants from several art & film foundations: Finnish Film Foundation, Finnish Cultural Foundation & Arts Promotion Centre of Finland. Some filming has been already conducted in New York, Berlin & Helsinki. Film will be produced as an international co-production in collaboration with Ideasthetic's past co-production partners: Dag Hoel Produksjon (Norway), YLE - Finnish Broadcasting Co., GEO Television & RTL (Germany), SVT - Swedish Broadcasting Co., Finnish & Norwegian Film Foundations etc. In addition to tv-broadcast, the film will be distributed through the international film festival circuit, limited theatrical release and VOD platforms.

Along with the feature film, a mini-series with five 60 minute episodes is being developed simultaneously. Each episode would focus deeply on one particular aspect (eg. mobile life, urbanisation, global citizenship, information, cosmos etc.). Estimated release for the film will be in 2024 and for the tv-series in 2025.

## FILMMAKER

## MIKA MATTILA

Mika Mattila is Finnish visual artists & filmmaker specialising on uncompromising essayistic, creative documentary content, working on a variety of mediums and platforms, ranging from tv-series to essayistic theatrical films & multi-channel video installations. His works tend to reflect on foundational socio-historical undercurrents of modern condition, with a strong emphasis on global perspectives in terms of the subject matters, collaborations as well as well audiences. Mattila divides his time between the roles of producer, director & cinematographer and is the founder of Helsinki-based production company Ideasthetic. Mattila's work regularly screens at top film festivals on all continents, major tv-broadcasters, streaming platforms as well as museum and gallery spaces.

## LINKS

**IDEASTHETIC:** [www.ideasthetic.com](http://www.ideasthetic.com)

**CARNIVAL PILGRIMS (2020)** - feature documentary film, 88 min

Like *Cosmopolis*, directors previous film *Carnival Pilgrims* also revolves around the perennial human desire "to be somewhere else". *Carnival Pilgrims* examined this by taking the audiences on a kaleidoscopic tour around the globe to witness *modern* holiday rituals. *Cosmobility* turns the camera around and takes simultaneously a one step towards the future by examining the *late-modern* everyday experience back at home. In a sense *Cosmobility* will start from where *Carnival Pilgrims* finishes. Main difference however is that *Carnival Pilgrims* features practically no scholarly voice over reflection, whereas this will be central element in *Cosmopolis*.

TRAILER: <https://vimeo.com/385308013>

WEBSITE: <https://www.ideasthetic.com/carnival-pilgrims>

SCREENER: <https://vimeo.com/365966068> / PW: pilgrinale

# IDEASTHETIC

ιδέα (idéa) & αἴσθησις (aísthēsis)  
“sensing concepts” or “sensing ideas”

Laivastokatu 4 B 13  
00160 Helsinki, Finland  
+358 (0)50 581 9206  
[mika@ideasthetic.com](mailto:mika@ideasthetic.com)  
[www.ideasthetic.com](http://www.ideasthetic.com)

