How can we broaden the fields of observation of reality? Contemporary art and experimental film are possible ways in that they disturb our assumptions and allow a distance for the observer. Tools or processes used by visual artists and filmmakers - pen camera, looping, fast or slow movements, multiple screens, networking surveillance cameras - question our understanding of the world. These new visions encourage the observers as anthropologists, to change the shape of their stories.

During the 1940s and 1950s, artist and ethnographer Maya Deren researched the practical and theoretical implications of the filmed image. She suggested that it is not enough to save the appearances of the world through film. The filmmakers must subject themselves to restore their double vision through multiple sensory experiences. Similarly, other artists and anthropologists argue that the optical perception of the world is not sufficient, as one has to consider how its formal qualities mingle with acoustic, haptic, olfactory, and gustatory sensations.

The representation of lived time is another field of investigation. Anthropologists, who wonder how to stay closer to the complexity of lived time in the field, look to offer new forms of restitution, while experimental artists, who struggle against the compression of narrative time, set up elements for a new foundation of an increased sensitivity to the real. Anthropology, art and experimental film question our perception. To see is also to understand. This conference attempts to renew visual testing protocols in order to amplify our understanding of the world.
March 30

10.00 – 10.15 Introduction
By Caterina Pasqualino, CNRS & Arnd Schneider, University of Oslo
10.15 – 10.45 ‘Des emotions hyperréelles’ (Caterina Pasqualino, CNRS)
10.45 – 11.00 Discussion
11.00 – 11.30 ‘Photofilm and Anthropology’ (Arnd Schneider, University of Oslo)
11.30 -11.45 Discussion
11.45 -12.30 Film Screening ‘De Dentro’ (directed by Peter Conrad Beyer, Germany, 2006, 10’), followed by director’s presentation and discussion
12.30 – 13.00 Film Screening ‘Making Circles (metamorphosis)’ (directed by Yoko Fukushima, France, 2002, 3’20’’), followed by director’s presentation and discussion
13.00 – 14.30 lunch
14.30 - 15.00 Arts du mythe. A propos de films coproduits par le MQB et Arte (Jean Paul Colleyn, EHESS)
15.00 - 15.15 Discussion
15.15 - 15.45 Break
15.45 – 17.00 Film Screening ‘Yanqui Walker and the Optical Revolution’ (directed by Kathryn Ramey, U.S.A., 2009, 33’) followed by director’s presentation and discussion

March 31

10.00 – 10.30 ‘Can film show the invisible? The work of montage in ethnographic films’
(Rane Willerslev, University of Oslo)
10.30 – 10.45 Discussion
10.45 – 11.30 ‘The Films of Robert Ascher’ (Kathryn Ramey, Emerson College)
11.30 - 11.45 Discussion
11.45 - 12.15 ‘The grain and the pixel, from aesthetic choices to new forms of Narrativities’ (Nadine Wanono, Centre d’Etudes des Mondes africains, CNRS)

12.15 – 12.30 Discussion

12.30 - 14.00 lunch

14.00 - 15.00 Film Screening

‘Tarahumaras 78’ (directed Raymonde Carasco, France, 1979, 30’)

‘Los Pascoleros ‘Tarahumaras 1985’ (directed by Raymonde Carasco, France, 1996, 27’)

presented by Régis Hébraud (film director and co-author with Raymonde Carasco of the films on the Tarahumaras)

15.00 – 15.45 Round table with Vincent Deville (University Paris 3 / La Cinémathèque française), Stefano Savona (film maker), Jacques Lombard (anthropologist, Institut de recherche pour le développement, ex Orstom and filmmaker), Monique Peyriere (Université de Ivry, EHESS)

15.45 - 16.15 Break

16.15 - 17.15 Film Screening ‘The Exception and the Rule’ (directed by Brad Butler & Karen Mirza, UK, 2009, 37’) followed by director’s presentation and discussion

17.15 – 17.30 Concluding Remarks

By Caterina Pasqualino, CNRS & Arnd Schneider, University of Oslo