

↓ Globes

Director's Statement

Often seen as creatures to be carelessly waved away, bees also invite us to take a fresh look at the world. The bee's language consists of a dance, itself a roadmap to fertile flower fields. In honeycombs, the colour of the pollen indicates the flowers living in the wider area: in the hive, a whole landscape is mapped out. A bee is always part of something larger, of its colony but also of society at large. As a cultivated insect, bees have lived together with humans for around eight thousand years. Could it be that bees have a lot to tell us?

The story of the bees starts with the lifespan of a single bee. This immediately forced me to invent my approach to cinematic representation; bees are difficult to depict. They hide in the darkness of their hives; opened up, hundreds of bodies are seen wriggling together. The complexity of the subject led me to an essayistic approach.

Globes began as a narrative in which the invisible is gradually rendered visible. Soon my story began to interweave with that of others; bees take on a role in many histories. I ended up in Slovenia, a country with a tradition of depicting hives containing biblical stories, mythological figures and even news from the surrounding area.

In North America, bees are deeply enmeshed in the story of modernity. In plantations reaching to the horizon, masked beekeepers are reminiscent of space travelers trying to maintain artificial ecologies on a barren planet.

The title refers to a notion of 'worlds', of which the earth comprises many. The documentary considers our globalised economy, but also the landscapes around the beehive. The micro-level is thus always connected to the macro-level, the local to the global. In *Globes*, bonds are forged between culture and nature and the ways in which the concept of 'ecology' can be given meaning are explored. Through these encounters, the film both wanders and always returns to its core, much like the bees which fly around on the hunt for flowers return to their hives laden with nectar.

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