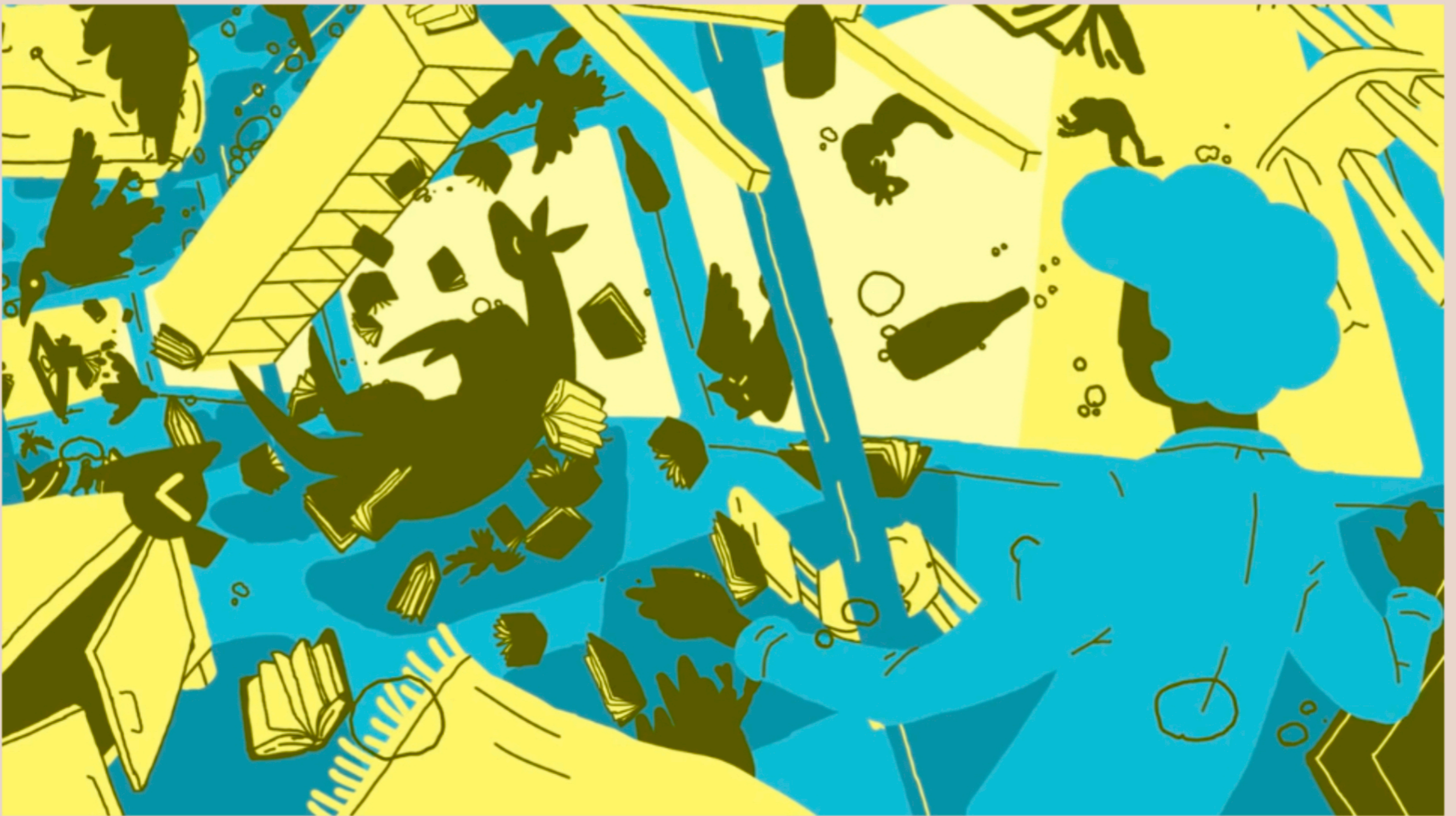




Week 11.

Related Work Summary

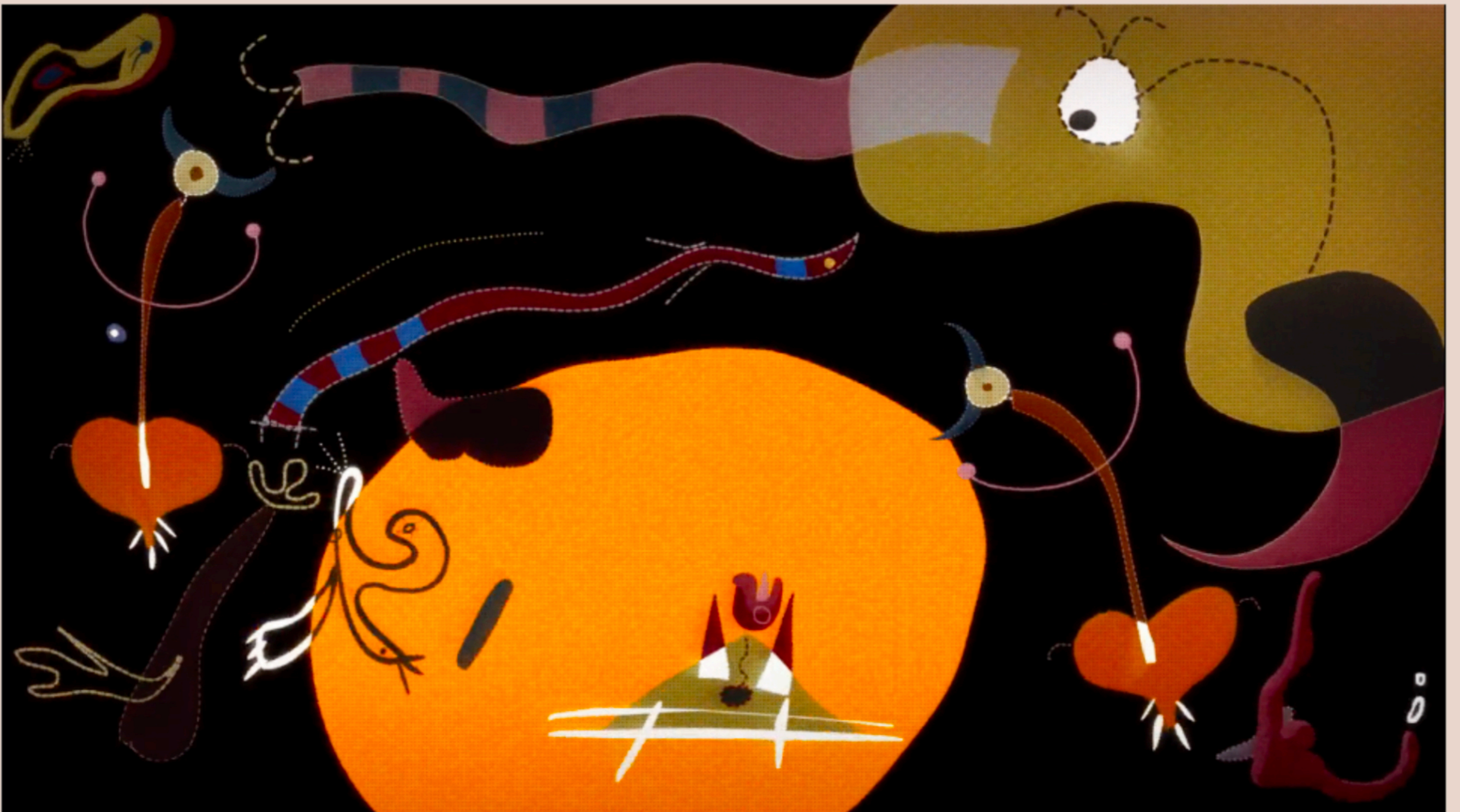




## Ruben Leaves

Director: Frederic Siegel

*Ruben Leaves* is an animated short about a guy who is haunted by obsessive-compulsive thoughts; is the front door locked? Is the stove really turned off? As Ruben's creative mind is invaded by increasingly absurd scenarios, reality and imagination begin to merge... The film is a funny and colourful take on the theme of constant preoccupations that consume our thoughts. With a spare, yet vibrant visual aesthetic Siegel deftly explores the line between run-of-the-mill anxiety and outright paranoia—a line that is blurrier than you may expect, which is important because this subject matter needs more representation in the field.



## Romance Sonambulo

Director: Theodore Ushev

*Romance Sonambulo* is a surrealist journey through colours and shapes inspired by the poem *Romance Sonámbulo* by Federico García Lorca one of Spain's most important twentieth-century poets. The short film balances the themes of spontaneity and stream of consciousness with precision and strong compositions which is important because the work can be seen as an allegory over the joy and mystery of life. Ushev's is of the few animators in the field who is hugely influenced by artists from all over the art world including Pablo Picasso, Alexander Calder, Wassily Kandinsky and many more and pays a little homage to them with his animations.



## It's a Date

Director: Zachary Zezima

*It's a Date* is an animated short about anxieties surrounding a first date, the feeling that your date might not “get you” that they won't see who you truly are. Themes such as uncertainty, awkwardness, and vulnerability under the surface are expressed throughout the film with equal in parts fantasy and reality. Zezima mixes the best of both in creating a truly unique, yet familiar world of first dates. He employs stylistic elements such as using a 4×3 screen ratio instead of the standard widescreen 16×9, to aid in his storytelling to perpetuate a sense of claustrophobia which is innovative in the field. Furthermore, the film deals with the protagonist's struggle with anxiety and the ability to cope in stressful situations which is super relevant in today's society.