

PRESS KIT



Kafka. In Love

ATOM ART and MAUR FILM present

# Kafka. In Love

Kafka. Iemīlējies

Zane Oborenko

2024 | 10 min 11 s

Sand Animation

Latvia, Czech Republic

## SYNOPSIS:

Franz and Milena – between them a distance, her husband and loads of letters – it is love that fills Kafka's life with light and hope and at the same time illuminates the fears and darkness in him. Inspired by Franz Kafka's Letters to Milena Jesenská, "Kafka. In Love" explores the multidimensional experience of falling in love.

## LOGLINE:

"I was obsessed with your letters - in agony, in love, in worry, and in an utterly indefinite fear of the indefinite." Franz Kafka

## DIRECTORS' STATEMENT:

Falling in love is a profoundly intimate experience that's rarely shared with others, and certain aspects of it remain hidden even between lovers and from oneself. Franz Kafka's Letters to Milena Jesenská offer an opportunity to gaze into an exceptionally open and honest record of this particularly vulnerable state of mind and to discover a different side of Kafka, uncommon in his literary works.

How well do we understand what falling in love is and what it entails? Initially there was some regret over the absence of Milena's lost letters, but I believe their absence allowed for a clearer view that falling in love often involves constructing an idealized image of the other person rather than understanding their true personality and loving them for who they are.

The primary interest and goal of this film were to portray the constant emotional shifts that the human mind undergoes when dealing with strong and complicated emotions – from positive to negative, influenced by fantasy and intruding reality. The film explores not just love but also loneliness and the difficulty of loving and accepting oneself.

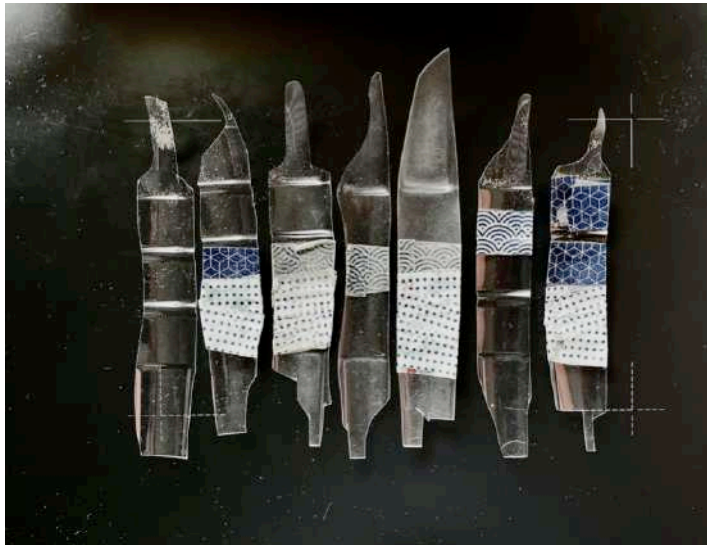
In this exploration, sand animation played a crucial role in conveying the evolving landscapes of love, where the grains of sand symbolize the delicate nature of emotions and the transient illusions we create when we fall in love.

## TECHNIQUE:

Sand animation has a unique power to transform something as ordinary as sand into a profound artistic expression, mirroring the beauty and complexity of human emotions.



Surprisingly, finding the right sand for animation was a challenge in itself. After consulting with geology specialists, we discovered a specific dune in Latvia with sand of the ideal grain size. And Prague geologists led us to an unexpected source—a pet shop, where we found desert sand, typically used for African lizards.



Though sand animation is demanding and time-consuming, it is precisely this medium's vast diversity, natural texture, and organic origin that made it the perfect choice for exploring the authentic aspects of human nature in this film.

Some of the tools to animate sand



TRAILER: <https://vimeo.com/944766351/12401c3c47>













## CREATIVE TEAM:

Director, Art Design: Zane Oborenko  
Sand animation: Zane Oborenko, Līva Piterāne, Pola Kazak, Jan Bohuslav  
Composer: Ģirts Bišs  
Sound Design: Ģirts Bišs  
Kafka's Voice: Kaspars Znotiņš  
Editing: Julie Vinten, Zane Oborenko  
Editing Consultant: Lucia Kajánková  
Production manager: Marcela Vrátilová, Agne Skane, Ieva Zeldere  
Producer: Sabīne Andersone  
Creative producer: Edmunds Jansons  
Co-producers: Martin Vandas, Alena, Vandasová  
Production Company: Atom Art  
Co-production Company: Maur Film

## TECHNICAL INFORMATION:

Language: Latvian, English (in making)  
Subtitles: English  
Lengths: 10'11 min  
Screen Ratio: 14:9  
Colors: Black and white  
Sound: 5,1., Stereo  
Animation Technique: Sand Animation  
Screening Format: DCP / MOV. / MP4.

Title: **Kafka. In Love**  
Latvian title: Kafka. Iemīlējies  
Country: Latvia, Czech Republic  
Category: Animation  
Year: 2024



**ZANE OBORENKO**

Filmmaker

Photo : Raimonds Krūza

## Directors BIO:

**Zane Oborenko** is an animated film director and artist from Riga, Latvia. She has completed BA studies in Brera, Academy of Arts of Milan, Italy, and MA in animation at the Estonian Academy of Arts. Zane has developed unique author's handwriting in sand animation. Her diploma film "IMG\_00:01. JPG" received the Best Student Film award at the Fredrikstad Animation Festival in 2014. Zane has created numerous animations for exhibitions and music events. Her work has been exhibited in various festivals and projects, including the historical exhibition "The KGB Building – "The 'Corner House" Case Nr. 1914/2014. in Riga. Her sand animation short "Kafka. In Love", in its development stage won the Best Short Film Project Award at the CEE Animation Forum in 2019.

### Selected filmography:

**Hope** / 2020 / 3 min / Short film

**IMG\_00:01.JPG** / 2014 / 3 min. / Graduation film

**Atom Art** is an independent animation studio based in Riga, Latvia, that tends to be a platform for young talented animators and their experiments. In the last years Atom Art has become one of the most noticeable creatively active Latvian animation studios. The films produced by Atom Art has been selected at the festivals all over the world, such as Berlinale, Annecy, Ottawa, Oberhausen, Clermont-Ferrand, Dok Leipzig, Hiroshima, Zagreb and many others, and has been awarded in many of them. During the last years Atom Art has premiered feature animation film “Jacob, Mimmi and the Talking Dogs” and more than ten award winning short films that travel festivals around the world. In 2022 Atom Art premiered in Berlinale animated short for pre-school age children “Hush Hush Little Bear” by Māra Liniņa, and screened artistic animation short by Edmunds Jansons “Guard of Honour” at Clermont-Ferrand. Another feature film “Born Happy”, and several animation shorts are in production and development. Besides animated films the studio also collaborates with all different partners to provide videos, designed titles, animated sequences, opening sequences a.o. creative material, for documentaries, feature films, TV shows, etc.

**MAUR Film** is a film studio based in Prague, specialized in animated films and in the latest years has become one of the biggest and most important animated film producers in the Czech Republic.

“We want to make films that are fun to come up with, produce and share with our viewers. With the viewers we like, hold in deep respect and with whom we live our film dreams, stories and poems.”

#### **Distributor:**

Atom Art, Tērbatas street 49/51 – 12, Rīga, LV-1011, Latvija

#### **Sales and distribution:**

Sabīne Andersone  
+371 29389694  
sabine@atomart.lv

#### **Production Company:**

Atom Art  
<https://atomart.lv>

#### **Festivals and screenings:**

Anda Briede  
+371 26107764  
anda@atomart.lv

#### **Co-production Company:**

Maur film  
<https://maurfilm.com>







**maurfilm**



National  
Film Centre of Latvia

