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NOTES ON Metahaven's *Eurasia*  
(*Questions on Happiness*)

Metahaven's film work *Eurasia (Questions on Happiness)* is difficult to define. A cinematic assemblage of uncanny landscapes, broken interfaces and expanding digressions, the film feels as though it unfolds the collective's graphic design work and their political concerns into temporal form. Animation, science fiction, poetry and documentary analysis swirl into a composite of images, sound, textures, formats and words. Through these complications, the film creates a complex tracing of the contemporary condition by mapping the political and economic fragmentation of a globalised world. By appropriating modes of address from the documentary genre, *Eurasia* presents artist filmmaking as a mutable site of ambiguous intersections and meanings. In this sense, artists' cinema is the perfect container for Metahaven's practice – a mashup of mediums and disciplines that defy an easy reading. *Eurasia* does this by offering an experience in temporality where nothing is fixed and free associations are both encouraged and amplified.

As a mode of cultural production, artist filmmaking is a space where artists engage with sound and the moving image with a particular freedom and intensity; claiming elements of filmmaking as they see fit, while working in defiance of commercial logics and audience appeal. Artist films present a hybrid or intermediate space of enquiry – and Metahaven use this space as a means to manifest the possibilities and potentials of design research through the slippages and entanglements of time and movement. *Eurasia* is a film that harnesses these divergent elements contained within the exhibition and gathers them into a discursive fictioning, where the collective's explorations find vibrant expression beyond the printed page and the walls of the gallery.

Written as a response to  
*Metahaven: Field Report* (7 March –  
9 May, 2020), exclusively developed  
for RMIT Design Hub Gallery,  
RMIT University and presented in  
collaboration with the National  
Gallery of Victoria (NGV).

*Field Report* was conceived and  
designed by Metahaven, Netherlands.  
Guest exhibition curators: Brad  
Haylock (RMIT) and Megan Patty  
(NGV).  
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fieldreport/](https://designhub.rmit.edu.au/exhibitions-programs/metahaven-fieldreport/)