

# AVATON

A FILM BY TWIN AUTOMAT

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The autonomous monastic community of Northern Greece is the largest area on earth where access is reserved to men alone. A place of meditation and worship, a place of history and spirituality where all women are excluded except for Virgin Mary. The two female directors of Avaton invent their own, unorthodox ways to reconstruct Mount Athos. This experimental, creative documentary negotiates the inclusion of women in the transcendent via a linear narration and a fusion of hand drawn animations.

Avaton is a word that describes the forbidden, the out of reach. This film negotiates the strict ban of every female presence in the peninsula of Mount Athos. The narration of the film is based on interviews with women only, and in addition, every single person who has contributed in the making of Avaton is female. This multi-dimensional project ignites a previously unthinkable discussion. Why are women banned from Mount Athos?

Twin Automat is a female duo working with moving image. Artist Irini Karayannopoulou and editor Sandrine Cheyrol have been collaborating since 2006, creating art films, hand-drawn animations and video/audio installations. Twin Automat's approach is rooted in concerns over structure, form and meaning, exploring tensions and possibilities between sound, image and text.

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the film's website: [notoriousavaton.com](http://notoriousavaton.com)

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