*Pestera* (2015)

*Pestera* (2015) visually explores the interior of Ialomita Cave Monastery, in Romania. Every inch of the ceiling dome is spectacularly decorated with paintings. It was agreed that anything above the altar could be filmed during the Eucharistic service. The camera faces upwards for the entire film while the motorized mast, slowly moved down. The frame of the camera slowly starts to reveal the ceiling dome and architecture of the space. As perspective alters so does the perception of the space. As the camera moves down through the space, new architectural structures open up. The chanting and choral singing, the incense, the ritual movements of the priest and acolytes are all captured by the sound recorder attached to the CMR. As the sound recorder physically moves through the space the acoustics affect the sound recording and subsequent playback.

*Pestera* (2015) was presented in *Atelier Contemporary Art Space*, in Bucharest. There was an interesting interaction between the galleries’ architectural features and the film projection, in which film and feature are both illuminated and obscured. The projection challenges the distinction between the physical site and the projected image by creating a play of representations. The monastery, as a site of worship holds a multitude of ‘projected’ symbolisms, for those that pray there, to those who enter as visitors. This cinematic tracking shot through architectural space draws attention to these symbolic readings and shifts our reading of the space from material to iconic.