The Matrix at 20, how the sci-fi gamechanger remains influential

The Matrix wasn't about the internet *per se* — it takes place in a *dystopian* future, approximately 200 years from the present — but it understood where things were headed far better than any film did at the time. Back in 1999, the mind-expanding adventures of Neo, Trinity and Morpheus in a world ruled by machines felt more like a technical revolution than a cultural one, an ultra-stylish Hollywood *thriller* that *wedded* the balletic cool of Hong Kong action cinema with the *stunning elasticity* of CGI.

per se　本身　　　　　　　　　　　dystopian　反乌托邦的

thriller　惊悚　　　　　　　　　　wed　结婚；结合

stunning　极好的；震耳欲聋的　　　elasticity　弹性

Yet objects tend to shift during flight, and in the year 2019, The Matrix has endured as both touchstone and Rorschach blot, a way for people of vastly different ideologies to *make sense of* the world around them. The effects are still a marvel, but the film's ideas have taken root in a destabilized culture where *conspiracy* theories flourish and individuals are defining for themselves what is and isn't real.

make sense of　理解；弄懂　　　　　conspiracy　阴谋

For a film of such *immense* scale and complexity, The Matrix now seems remarkably hopeful about the future, which separates it from the *technophobic* films of the day. Neo may be shaken by learning the dystopia and falsehood of the world as he once understood it, but other paths open up where he can become fully himself, *unbound* by the dictation of others. The internet has helped make that positive transformation possible, and the Wachowskis, the film's directors, saw it long before other film-makers did.

immense　巨大的　　　　　　　　　technophobic　科技恐惧症

unbound　解开；自由的