

Salon

Spring

2023

Connectivity through Cinema: the MONO NO AWARE Film Community



February 23, 2023, 7pm
Visual Studies Workshop
31 Prince St., Rochester, NY

6-7pm: Open Studio with
Project Space Resident
Martin Krafft

7-9pm: Screening in the
microcinema

Suggested: \$10/PWYC

Mono No Aware is a non-profit organization and film positive community working to promote connectivity through the cinematic experience. Based in Brooklyn, NY, Mono No Aware (MNA) presents screenings, organizes affordable analogue filmmaking workshops, facilitates equipment rentals, and hosts an annual exhibition for contemporary artists and international filmmakers whose work incorporates Super 8mm, 16mm, 35mm or altered light projections as part of a live performance or installation. This screening will be presented by members of the MNA film community, including the MNA founder Steve Cossmann, and will feature a selection of recent films made in the MNA workshop.

Cellular Reconstruction, 2022
2 min. 16MM w/ OPT SOUND by
DERRICK SCHULTZ

Direct manipulation of a faded educational film using traditional and digital technologies. An exploration of themes on conservation and reinvention, both in film and ecology.

Derrick Schultz is a post-AI artist and filmmaker. artificial-images.com/

Jacob's House, WIP / 16MM -
DIGITAL by LUCAS KANE

Jacob's House is a slow exploration of what constitutes a house and how a house constitutes a way of life. Made collaboratively between two neighbors—filmmaker Lucas Kane and painter Jacob Eye—this film traces Jacob's 15 year relationship to his home and his ongoing resistance to a brutal eviction attempt as a new wave of gentrification sweeps the neighborhood. By prioritizing Jacob's own emphasis on the spiritual nature of this battle, and by focusing on the physicality of the house and its many transformations over the course of this violent eviction, this living document seeks to lay bare the injustices of NYC's housing crisis and open deep and rippling questions on the nature of what is a home.

Lucas Kane is a brooklyn-based film and theater maker, whose work ranges from experimental documentary film to community-based forum theater. For the past year, he's been exploring the ideological underpinnings and political implications of Brecht's learning plays by staging them in collaboration with different Brooklyn based activist groups as a means to facilitate conversation around arts and organizing. Prior to this, she worked as an assistant director to Peter Brook at the Bouffes du Nord theater in Paris. They are currently working on a collaborative and experimental documentary with their neighbors which traces the history of the gentrification of their block and a short diary film about working with Peter Brook and his approach to theater. He also works as the Lab Manager at the cinema non-profit Mono No Aware.

Container Film, 2023
4 min 16MM to DIGITAL by DENA KOPOLOVICH

Based on various religious, anthropological, and artistic texts, Container Film is a meditation on the idea of the vessel as the first cultural tool. The film uses handmade or organic objects and human bodies to imagine the visible and metaphorical containers that reflect communal relationships and drive humanity forward.

Dena Kopolovich is a multimedia artist & filmmaker from New York. Her recent work uses past and present aesthetics to investigate the origin and continuity of meaning. She is interested in using cinematic forms to explore the derivation of instinctive human rituals & objects. In 2022 she completed a fellowship at LABA Laboratory for Jewish Culture, where she spent a year creatively interrogating ancient mythological texts. She is a forthcoming resident at Squeaky Wheel Film & Media Art Center, where she will continue working on her hybrid short, Container Film. Dena teaches and participates in the cinema-arts workshops at Mono No Aware. She received her formal education from the Purchase College Conservatory of Theater Arts, with a concentration in Directing and the Integrated Media Arts MFA at Hunter College.

mass noun, WIP
4 min 16MM to DIGITAL by JORDAN CAROOMPAS

There was the color red, and then there was snow—neither will last forever. A poem written with film, “mass noun” comes from a fascination with winter and the arguably obsolete Ice Ladders found in Brooklyn's Prospect Park. It is the first film in a series of experiments in speculative writing, documentary, sculpture, and animation that consider the ways changes in our environment elicit feelings of both loss and wonder.

Jordan Caroompas (they/them) is a writer, musician, and animator/filmmaker living in Brooklyn, NY. Language, humor, considerations of climate and consumption, and the unexplainable/inexplicable are omni-present in Jordan's work, which is often hybrid in genre and medium. Their chapbook, Niu Fish, was a finalist for the 2021 Gold Line Press Fiction Chapbook Contest and was published by Bottlecap Press in August, 2022. Jordan is currently at work on an album cycle and their debut novel. Jordan has been involved with MONO as a student since 2021 and also teaches the Intro to 16mm course.

Jonmodiin | জন্মদিন, WIP
3 min 16MM to DIGITAL by NASHWA ZAMAN

Using home video footage and 16mm film, filmmaker Nashwa Zaman contemplates family, diaspora and her birthday.

Nashwa is an artist, filmmaker, performer and arts community facilitator based in NYC.

Thời Thơ Ấu, 2022
7 min. 16MM to DIGITAL by VI TUONG BUI

Thời Thơ Ấu explores my understanding of my bố mẹ as people outside of their roles as my parents through looking at how they dream for their late parents and homeland as former refugees of the US War in Vietnam / Vietnam War. What concessions will I need to make to begin to see my parents as expansive individuals? What will I gain from embracing them in their fullness?

I collected their dreams, stories, and memories using 16mm and Vietnamese and in my childhood home in Annandale, Virginia and Queens, New York. Vietnamese is the mother tongue of my parents, but English is the language I know myself by. We spoke in Vietnamese for the making of this film, and I slowly translated their words to English.

Deprivation, 2022
16MM FILM WITH OPTICAL SOUND -
CAITY ARTHUR & CHANDLER ARTHUR

Just a year after losing their partner, Chuck is still battling nightmares and paranoia, leading them to believe that what appears in the shadows is all in their mind. They quite quickly find themselves unable to explain the unusual hauntings and surreal visions that seem to keep intervening. Are these delusions of sleep paralysis a product of repressed grief, or are they actually real? Centered on the repercussions of trauma, Deprivation asks what limitations there are when it comes to blurring reality from personal fear.

CAITY ARTHUR (they/them) is a director, analog filmmaker, SFX artist, and experimental photographer with a focus on clown drag and horror. Some of their most recent projects include directing videos for the artist Julepussy, supporting her on a North American tour alongside Tame Impala, in addition to their work editing and producing at Vice Media (and previously for Condé Nast). As a filmmaker, their work is influenced stylistically by Japanese and European horror films where narratives often intersect with fantasy and domesticity. Like their first short, a vampire horror film (LILITH) set in present day, DEPRIVATION explores the psychological effects of holding onto trauma from their perspective.

CHANDLER ARTHUR (b. 1994, New Jersey - She/Her/They) is an illustrator and graphic designer based in Chicago, Illinois. Her multi-layered practice, which focuses on

themes of femininity, power, and individuality is expressed through her vibrant illustrations and colorful character design. Her work primarily showcases women of color and creates empathetic narratives inspired by her lived experiences. Her work has been featured with RAW Artists Showcases and Braided Magazine, and has worked with Def Jam Records (2020); Walker Nickel Design (2020); Ace Hotel Chicago (2021); Jukebox Collective (2021); and Julepussy.

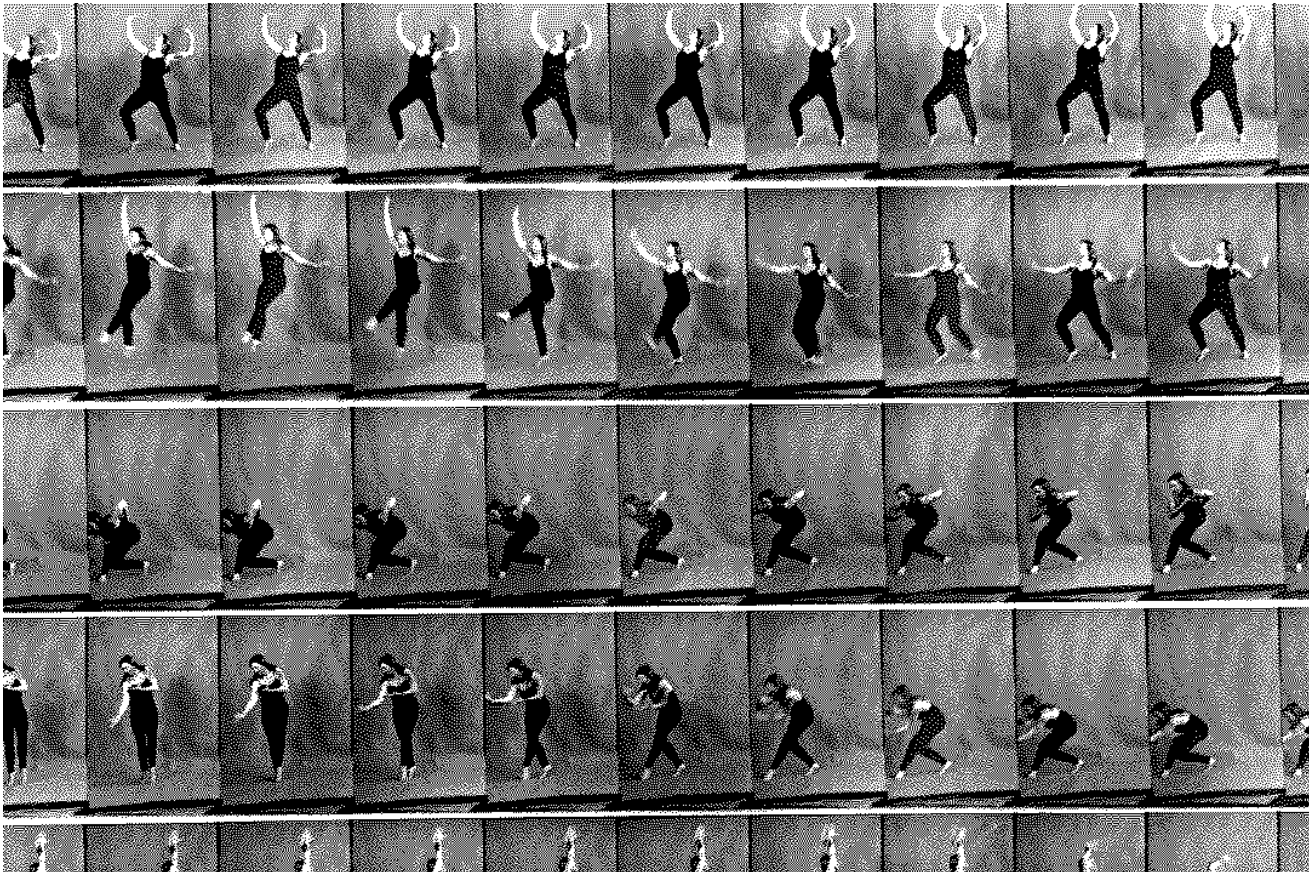
—DEPRIVATION was commissioned by and received full production support from MONO NO AWARE. The film was captured by the artist using an AATON LTR Camera and ARRI lighting kit on 16mm color film supplied by the organization. Optical sound exhibition prints were timed, printed and developed by our partners ColorLab, MD.

Stepping Into The Frame, 2022
16MM TRIPLE PROJECTION PERFORMANCE by
LAUREN NOELLE OLIVER

Stepping into the frame, by Lauren Noelle Oliver, is an intimate glance into the artist's paradoxical self-portraiture practice. Best known for her still photographic work, Oliver now turns her gaze to her process. Through the use of a 16mm bolex, the artist has opened her self-portraits beyond the moment of capture, allowing viewers into her unique process. Oliver often meticulously pre-plans each of her shots but, because she must step out of the frame to reset the camera between each image, it is impossible for her to recreate each scene exactly. Viewers are brought to a better understanding of the ephemeral nature of Oliver's photography and the fluidity and freedom behind her portraits.

Lauren Noelle Oliver is a New York City-based multidisciplinary artist who uses photography, filmmaking and performance to explore her multicultural identity. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in photography from SUNY Purchase. Her photographs have been featured on i-D, Buzzfeed, F-stop Magazine, and The Luupe. Her first monograph, “Temple of the Self”, published by Monolith Editions in 2020, is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art and the Thomas J. Watson Library at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Lauren works between the Gowanus Community Darkroom and the International Center of Photography where she teaches and helps coordinate educational programming.

STEPPING INTO THE FRAME was commissioned by and received full production support from MONO NO AWARE. The film was captured by the artist using a Rex-5 Bolex Camera & Crystal-sync motor on 16mm color film supplied by the organization. Exhibition prints were timed, printed and developed by our partners at ColorLab, MD. The film was edited on a 4-plate Steenbeck flatbed editing table, spliced with a CIRO Guillotine Splicer, and test performances were run at the MONO NO AWARE Micro-cinema.



Muybridge Deconstructed: 16mm to Still Image

Saturday Afternoon (February 25)

10:00am - 4:00pm, \$100, \$85 for VSW members

Led by the Mono no Aware film collective

Star in your very own Muybridge motion study! Learn the history behind these early motion studies and the critical role they played in bridging photographic technologies with proto-cinematic devices, then enter the VSW studio to capture your own 'motion study' on B/W 16mm film. From there we will develop the film by hand, mount the strips into a negative tray, print a still photographic sheet of your study, develop, dry and frame it under glass for you to take home and share with friends and family.