



Handmade Film  
Virtual Reality for Artists  
Book Making  
16mm Film  
Muybridge Deconstructed  
Coding for Artists + Poets  
Small Gauge Film Projection  
Virtual Photo Critique Group  
Make a Flatgame  
Video Preservation  
and more

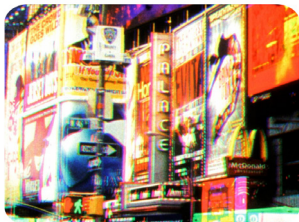


# VISUAL STUDIES WORKSHOP

## SPRING 2023 WORKSHOPS

Sign up at [VSW.ORG](https://www.vsw.org)





# VISUAL STUDIES WORKSHOP

## ***SALON SPRING 2023***

Jan 26 **Margaret LeJeune: Artist Talk**

Feb 9 **Films by Tomonari Nishikawa**

Feb 23 **MONO NO AWARE Film Community**

March 9 **In Dialogue with Anna Kipervaser**

March 16 **In This Moment 2 Book Launch**

March 23 **Autoethnographic Films from Tibet**

April 13 **Queer Games Bundle**

April 27 **Purple Riot: Kelly Gallagher**

May 11 **Community Curator: TV Dinner**

May 25 **To Pick a Flower: Films by Shireen Seno**



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Salon

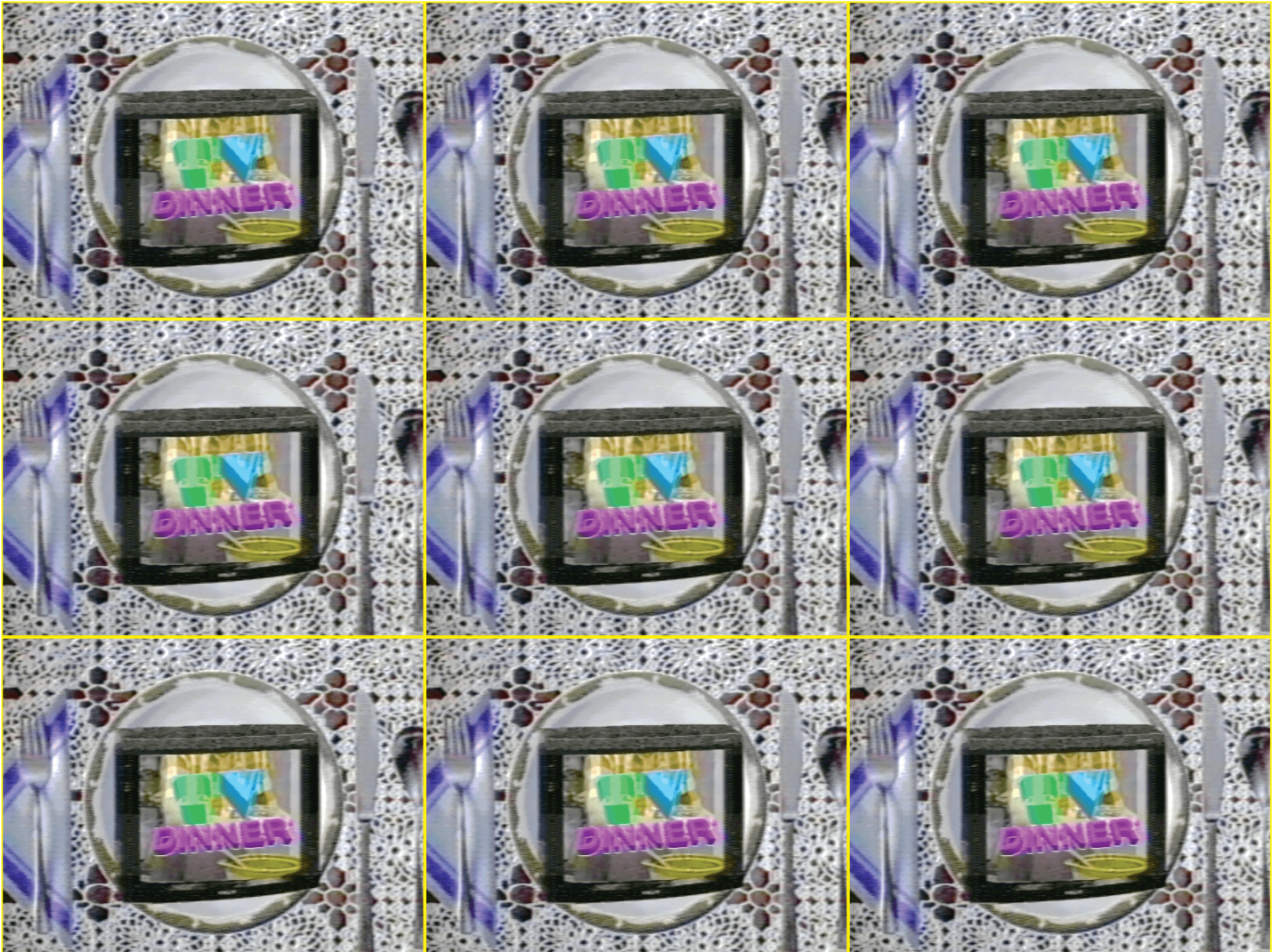
Spring

2023

# Community Curator: TV Dinner

May 11, 7-9pm

Visual Studies Workshop • 31 Prince Street Rochester, NY • Suggested: \$10



TV Dinner was the media task force of Rochester’s Metro Justice for more than two decades, and helped chronicle many of Metro Justice’s concerns and activities, including racial justice, reproductive choice, utility issues, and the ongoing struggle for universal healthcare. Founded in 1987, TV Dinner ran video training workshops, film screenings, community art events and organized a weekly cable access television program.

In Summer 2022, Metro Justice gifted the TV Dinner archive to VSW. This extensive collection of over 1,200 videotapes include produced programs, community reports, documentation of civic events, speeches, rallies, confrontations and celebrations created and collected by Metro Justice members. This program features selections from the TV Dinner archive selected and presented by original TV Dinner producers Ruth Cowing, Nancy Rosin, and Maria Scipione.



TV Dinner Sample for NYSCA (1990)



Central American Days of Protest (1985)

**Ruth Cowing** has worked in film/video/ photography/publications for over 40 years. She has worked at Afterimage, TV DINNER, City Newspaper, and as Festival Director/Co-Programmer at the High Falls Film Festival. She co-founded/co-directed the Reel Mind Theatre & Film Series and the Rochester Int’l Children’s Film Festival. She is currently the Director of Communications at Spiritus Christi Church.

**Nancy Rosin** is an activist and videographer who spent over 40 years documenting the work of numerous progressive political movements in Rochester NY. In addition to her involvement with Portable Channel, TV Dinner and a number of early feminist groups, she is the author of a history of the Rochester Public Market.

**Maria Scipione** has been an activist in Rochester since moving here in 1977. She was the organizer for then Metro Act in the late 80s. She currently is an actor, director, and teacher. She works at The Harley School and the College at Brockport.

**Program**

**Variety**

• **TV Dinner Sample (1991)**

**Original Format: 3/4” Umatic**

This tape features excerpts from TV Dinner segments “TV Dinner PSA” “1492-1992: Celebration/ Reconsideration,” and “Resistance to War.”

• **TV Dinner PSA for NYSCA (1990)**

**Original Format: 3/4” Umatic**

Several excerpts from TV Dinner broadcasts. Includes clips of an AIDS quilt event, Noam Chomsky’s visit to Rochester, an interview with Shirley Chisholm, and a Puerto Rican dance company.

• **TV Dinner Sample for NYSCA (1992/1993)**

**Original Format: 3/4” Umatic**

A TV Dinner compilation tape for grant funding. Includes an excerpt from “National Healthcare.”

**Reproductive Rights**

• **TV Dinner Sample for NYSCA (1990)**

**Original Format: 3/4” Umatic**

Excerpt detailing the 1989 March on Washington over abortion rights.

**Police**

• **TV Dinner: Policing the Police Part 2 (1992)**

**Original Format: 3/4” Umatic**

Speakers including Rev. Raymond Graves, Matthew Rusco, Denise Young, Wilma Boddie-Beamon, Erskine Nero, Rev. Lewis W. Stewart, and others discuss civilian review of the Rochester Police Department.

• **TV Dinner: Police Brutality Speakout (1996)**

**Original Format: 3/4” Umatic**

This episode of TV Dinner focuses on a public speakout at New Bethel Church (Rochester, NY) about civilian control over the Rochester Police Department after an incident involving police brutality. Speakers discuss their interactions with the police and city officials in Rochester, and include Mayor William A. Johnson Jr.

**Central America**

• **Central American Days of Protest at Federal Building (1985)**

**Original Format: VHS**

Scenes and interviews from a “death march” protest against US intervention in Central America at the Federal Building in downtown Rochester. Alejandro Gomez, a trade union activist from El Salvador, speaks to the crowd.

• **TV Dinner: Central America (1987)**

**Original Format: 3/4” Umatic**

Sally McCoy speaks about Central America.

All tapes have been excerpted for this program



The VSW Salon is a bi-monthly engagement in the VSW microcinema featuring film screenings, artist talks, Community Curator events, performances, photo presentations and conversations. VSW Salon showcases the work of local and national artists, and invites them to present their work in an intimate “microcinema” equipped to show 16mm, Super 8, digital photography and video on state of the art equipment.

The Community Curator program invites representatives from community groups in the Rochester region to curate film screenings using VSW’s collection of over 10,000 film and video titles. Participants in the program work with the Curator of Moving Image Collections to research and select a full program of films that speak to the interests of the group, while opening a broader dialog with the Rochester community. The goals of the Community Curator program are to empower cultural organizations to create their own media programming, expand global and cultural awareness within the Rochester community, and strengthen ties between students, artists, and communities that will cultivate and advance multi-cultural relationships.



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The VSW Salon is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts and by the ArtWorks program of the National Endowment for the Arts.

**Salon**

**Spring**

**2023**

# **To Pick A Flower**

**Films by  
Shireen Seno**



**May 25, 7-9pm**

**Suggested: \$10**

The VSW Salon is pleased to welcome filmmaker, curator and current VSW Project Space Resident Shireen Seno (Japan/Philippines) back to VSW to show a program of her recent films, along with selections she has made from the VSW 16mm film collection. In 2017, Seno presented a program of Experimental Film and Video from the Philippines in the VSW Film Series, and she has returned to VSW in 2023 as Project Space resident. Seno is an artist and filmmaker whose work addresses memory, history, and image-making, often in relation to the idea of home.

**Program**

***The Life of a Plant: About Flowers***

1974, 10 min, color, 16mm  
A well loved film from the Reynolds Library collection in the VSW Film/Video archive.

***To Pick a Flower***

Shireen Seno, 2021, 17 min, color/B&W, HD  
A video essay incorporating archival photographs from the American Colonial Era in the Philippines (1898–1946), exploring the sticky relationship between humans and nature and its entanglements with empire.

***Trunks***

Shireen Seno, 2012, 1 min, B&W, Super 8 transferred to video  
A short piece depicting the encounters of various trunks.

***Wild Green Things in the City***

Geode Films, 1975, 10 min, color, 16mm  
Two children explore green spaces found in various locations throughout New York City. From the Reynolds Library collection in the VSW Film/Video archive.

***a child dies, a child plays, a woman is born, a woman dies, a bird arrives, a bird flies off (Arcade 4Walls edition)***

Shireen Seno, 2022, 18 min, color, HD video  
This is one iteration of a project that aims to bring together a mix of local and migratory birds in the Philippines, migrating across different generations of moving image media. Birds are like role models for humans – they find ways to survive by various means across varied terrain. This Arcade 4Walls edition was a commissioned piece originally installed on the media facade of the Asia Culture Center building in Gwangju, South Korea.

***Shotgun Tuding***

Shireen Seno, 2014, Philippines/Malaysia, 16 min, Super 16mm transferred to HD, color  
Inspired by family hearsay, this film is also a homage to the Pancit Western – the Filipino counterpart of the Spaghetti Western.



Seno previews films from the VSW Film Collection on the Steenbeck flatbed editor.

Shireen Seno is an artist and filmmaker whose work addresses memory, history, and image-making, often in relation to the idea of home. A recipient of the 2018 Thirteen Artists Award from the Cultural Center of the Philippines, she is known for her films which have won awards at Rotterdam, Punto de Vista, Shanghai, Olhar de Cinema, Vladivostok, Jogja-Netpac, and Lima Independiente and have screened at such festivals as New Directors/New Films, Yebisu International Festival of Art & Alternative Visions, Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin, and institutions including Tate Modern, UCCA Center for Contemporary Art, Portikus, NTU Center for Contemporary Art Singapore, Taipei National Center for Photography and Images, Museum of the Moving Image, National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art (MMCA), Seoul, Museum of Contemporary Art & Design Manila, and MAIIAM Contemporary Art Museum, Chiang Mai. Seno is a 2022 Film Fellow of the DAAD Artists-in-Berlin program.

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Visual Studies Workshop is located at 31 Prince Street, Rochester, NY.



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**Salon**

**Spring**

**2023**

# **Autoethnographic Films from Tibet**

**presented by**  
**Yi Cui**



**March 23, 2023**

6-7pm: Open Studio  
with Project  
Space resident  
Eduardo L Rivera

7-9pm: film  
screening in the  
microcinema

Visual Studies Workshop  
31 Prince Street  
Rochester, NY

Suggested: \$10

## **Program**

### ***Through the Looking Glass, Yi Cui, 2017 (14 min)***

On a high-land Tibetan pasture, a screening event unfolds quietly. Monks, herdsman and their families gather by the screen to observe life captured through their own lenses.

### ***Yak Dung, Dhazey, 2016 (45 min)***

Young Tibetan herdsman Dhazey takes the viewers on a special tour full of pleasant surprises: how Tibetans cannot live without yak dung. With temperatures falling as low as minus 40°C on the Tibetan plateau, yak dung is a valuable heating source for herdsman. A non-polluting fuel, it is used to burn offerings to the gods and to light oil lamps. Children make toys out of yak dung, while artists sometimes sculpt figurines of the Buddha with it. It is also used in construction and in medicine.

### ***The Tourists, Dhukar Kyab, 2017 (16 min)***

A group of Tibetans are guiding tourists through the beautiful land of Nyanpo Yuzee. One of them, the young herdsman Dhukar Kyab, curiously observed the interaction between the locals and the outsiders through the lens of his video camera.

Yi Cui (China/USA) is a filmmaker and educator whose poetic films combine traditions of essay, ethnography and experimental filmmaking. Cui spent several years in Tibet working with the filmmaking program "From Our Eyes" which supports indigenous communities to produce auto-ethnographic films. This program presents a selection of short films made by Tibetan filmmakers reflecting upon daily life, as well as Cui's own films about her experiences working among monks, herdsman and their families on a highland Tibetan pasture.



Top: Still from Yak Dung (2016); Bottom: Still from The Tourists (2017)  
Cover: Still from Through the Looking Glass (2017), courtesy Icarus Films

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Salon

Spring

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# QUEER GAMES

B U N D L E



April 13, 2023

Pop-up Arcade:  
6-9pm

Screening:  
7-7:30pm

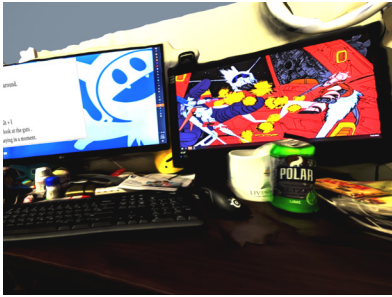
Visual Studies Workshop  
31 Prince Street  
Rochester, NY

Suggested: \$10

PLAYING IN THE ARCADE



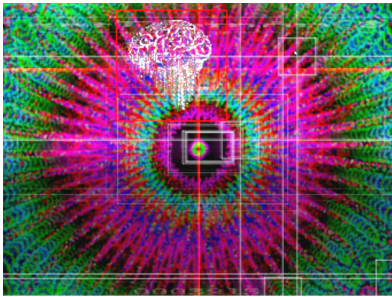
**Fuzzy Ghost - *Queer Man Peering into a Pool.jpg***  
A middle-aged queer man toddles around an island attempting to re-furnish his empty house.  
<https://fuzzyghost.itch.io/queer-man-peering-into-a-rock-pool-jpg>



**Axe Binondo - *name one place***  
Run this memory space  
<https://wingblade.itch.io/one-place>



**sraëka-lillian - *Pangea's Error***  
world map navigation game  
<https://tunditur-unda.itch.io/pangea>



**fotocopiadora - *Burger King Civil War***  
GAMEBLAST noise machine. FLASH WARNING  
<https://fotocopiadora.itch.io/>



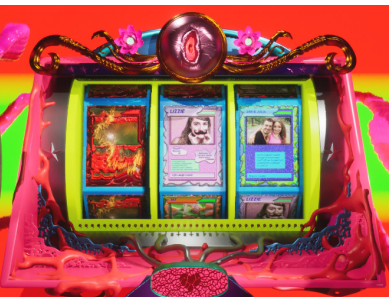
**Lilith Moore - *A Midnight Stroll***  
Fight strange creatures that block your path and collect various items that bring you joy!  
<https://fr0stychao.itch.io/a-midnight-stroll>

SCREENING IN THE ARCADE

**Resnijars - *Manglepaw (excerpt) (45:00)***  
Strange denizens pepper the vast halls of this cryptic building.  
<https://resnijars.itch.io/manglepaw>



**Fantasia Malware - *SEX! At Alexanderplatz (33:00)***  
Crank the lever of your dating app, let the slot machine spin, let sparks of fury fly, let lonely hearts die (alone).  
<https://fantasia-malware.itch.io/sex-at-alexanderplatz>



**lotus - *dandelions (complete) (49:00)***  
about trying to be in the world  
<https://lotusrootrecords.itch.io/dandelions>



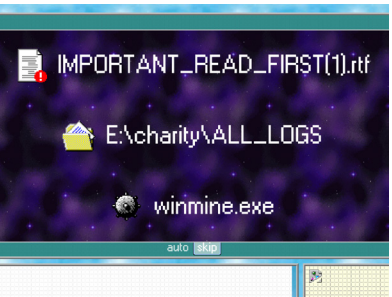
**sraëka-lillian - *empedocles' bones (12:00)***  
made for nonbinary game jam  
<https://tunditur-unda.itch.io/empedocles-bones>

**bagenzo - *a circle of charity (excerpt) (8:00)***  
a gifpunk angel VN  
<https://bagenzo.itch.io/charity>



**shonen book - *katamari 1/3/23 (30:00)***  
Analogue glitch performance (pre-recorded).  
Second floor apartment somewhere in Rochester, NY.

**cody filardi - *control ii (zine)***  
( ͡° ͜ʖ ͡° )  
<https://balm-bomb.itch.io/control-ii>





7:00 - 7:30 IN THE MICROCINEMA

1. nilson - intro (4:30)

video games have been queer

2. velvet - Take a Piss Like A Woman (5:30)

A game where you have a conversation while taking a piss.  
<https://switch-b.itch.io/take-a-piss>

3. gg noni - bathroom man (2:00)

help us catch him!!!  
<https://ggnoni.itch.io/bathroom-man>

4. sraëka-lillian - anywhere else (1:00)

lizard kiss simulator (cover image)  
<https://tunditur-unda.itch.io/anywhere-else>

5. fotocopiadora - Lost Infection: Gold 1 / Dragon Golf + Game and Craft Collection 150 (3:30)

find the best number to satisfy yourself  
<https://fotocopiadora.itch.io/>

6. N.B. Spiders + krise krise - cursed dive into jungle tilesets as narrated by werner herzog (4:00)

Dive into the abyss of colonialist fetishisation of 'The Jungle'  
<https://spiderzone.itch.io/cursed-dive-into-jungle-tilesets-as-narrated-by-werner-herzog>

7. N.B. Spiders - out of bounds 2 (12:30)

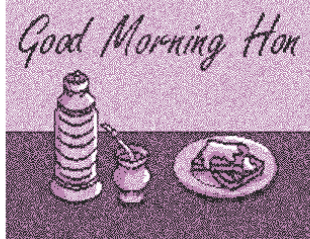
moon phase: waning crescent  
<https://spiderzone.itch.io/>



2424: Earthbound Supplements  
Marc Strocks  
#Physical games  
lofi rpg in a city of scum and villainy



Superstars: Racing Icons  
Tristan B Willis  
a racing ttrpg for 3-6 players using the Firebrands Framework: winners get champagne, legends last forever



Good Morning Hon  
Jess Andz  
You said you'll always be with me.



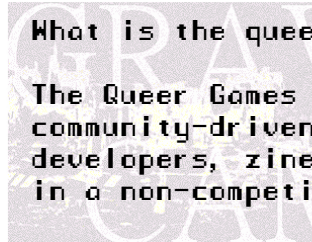
Tamales: Con Familia  
Sam  
Prepare tamales with your family while you listen in on their conversations.



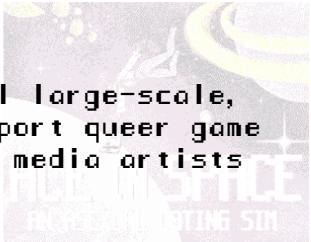
湯圓 [tong jyun]  
npckc  
a little chat about cooking & culture.



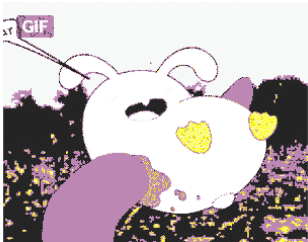
Escape from Pleasure Planet  
Up Multimedia  
Gay retro sci-fi point and click adventure



What is the queer games bundle  
Gracie, nilson, and wendy  
It runs every June, during Pride Month, in response to the increasing power of rainbow capitalism over queer pride. The bundle is a tangible way in which queer artists can support themselves and others.



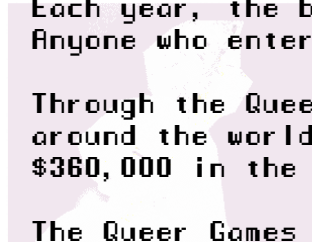
EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE OK  
alienmelon  
EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE OK is a nihilistic horror comedy zine-game about life



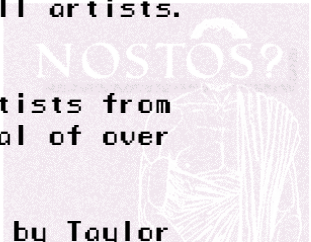
EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE OK  
alienmelon  
EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE OK is a nihilistic horror comedy zine-game about life



generic nonbinary game  
smolalienbee  
are you one of THEM



Lil xim  
An angel falls in love with a boy who talks to the skies. Who is he talking to?



NOSTOS?  
shape-clearing tetromino push-em-up  
A Sink to Swim hack about sailing back



Into the Forest  
Secret Foxfire  
A tabletop game for 1-3 players about exploring an ancient forest.



Unto the Night  
Nic June  
Are we really alone?



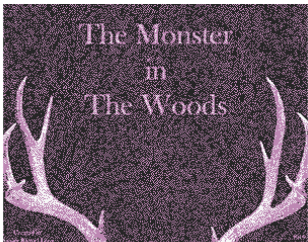
Underground Broadcast  
Will Uhl  
Nimble graffiti punks kick off the rebellion against a tyrannical organization. Shape the future!



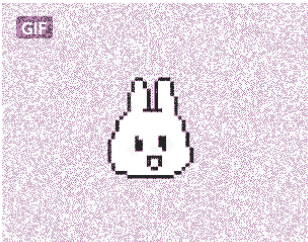
Homing  
Pigeonkind Games  
A sad, queer, narrative-focused epistolary game.



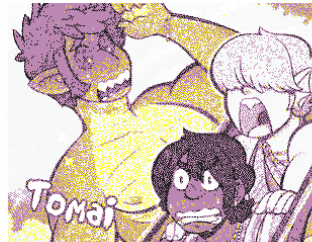
The Great Path  
Sam&Lewis  
Sulkie learns the price of bread.



The Monster in the Woods  
SmokeAndAsh  
A brief tale of a child escaping the monster in the woods.



GIRB  
alienmelon  
Ghibi releases dumb, cute, making Ghibi



Tomai  
DarkChibiShadow  
With just 15 days of summer left, will Tomai pursue romance or responsibility?



Forward  
Leaf Let  
A narrative game about duck platforming and holding hands



Electric Zine Maker (a work in progress, be gentle, hug it often)  
alienmelon  
#Tools



R Line After Dark  
Miles Logan  
A chill public transit themed rhythm game



when we were done and ready to go to our separate rooms, Mona asked if i wanted a hug.

text from dandelions by lotus

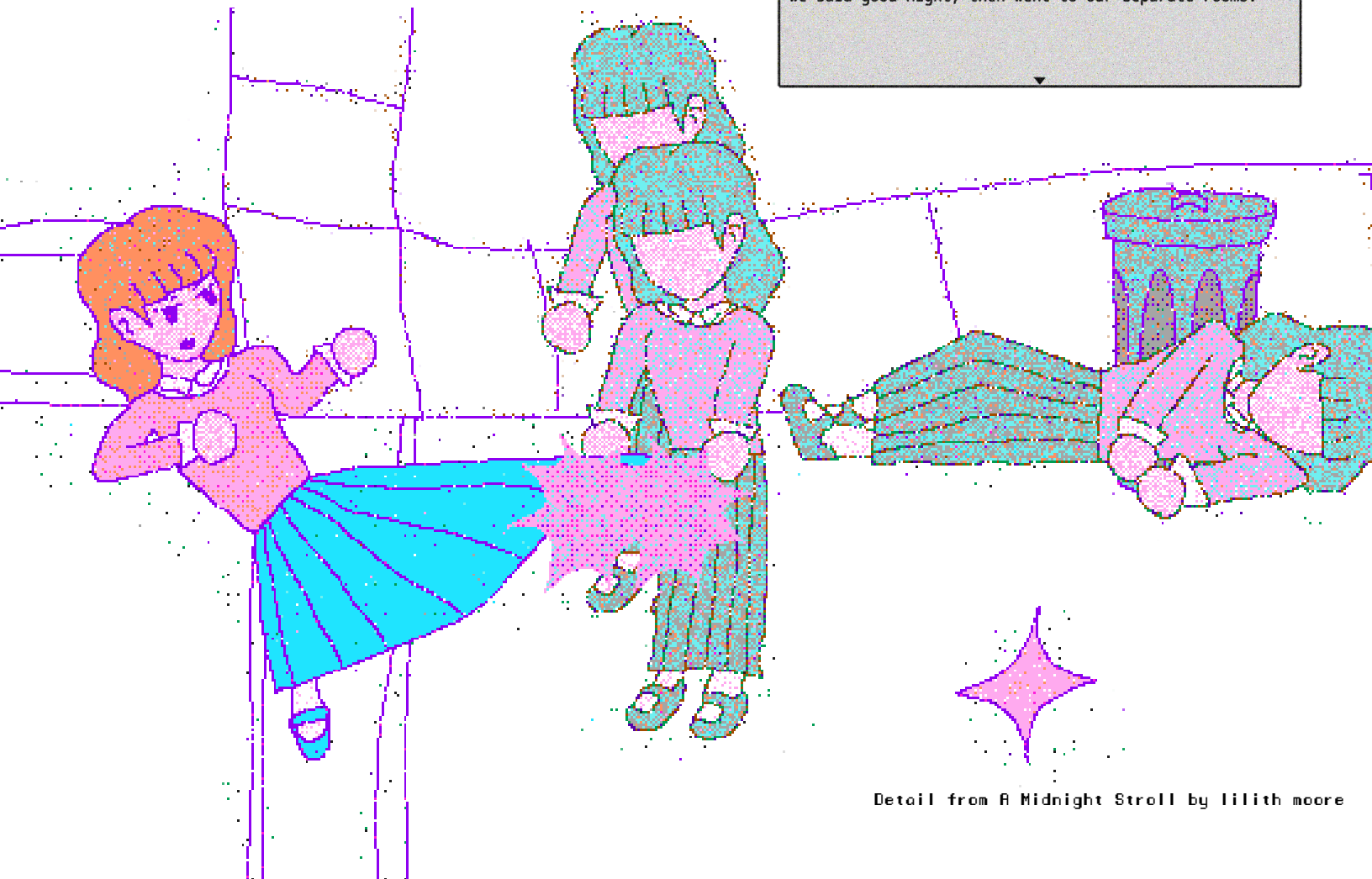
i said yeah, sure.

and we hugged.

and i was very aware of my body.

when my brain said it was the right time to pull away, i pulled away.

we said good night, then went to our separate rooms.



Detail from A Midnight Stroll by lilith moore

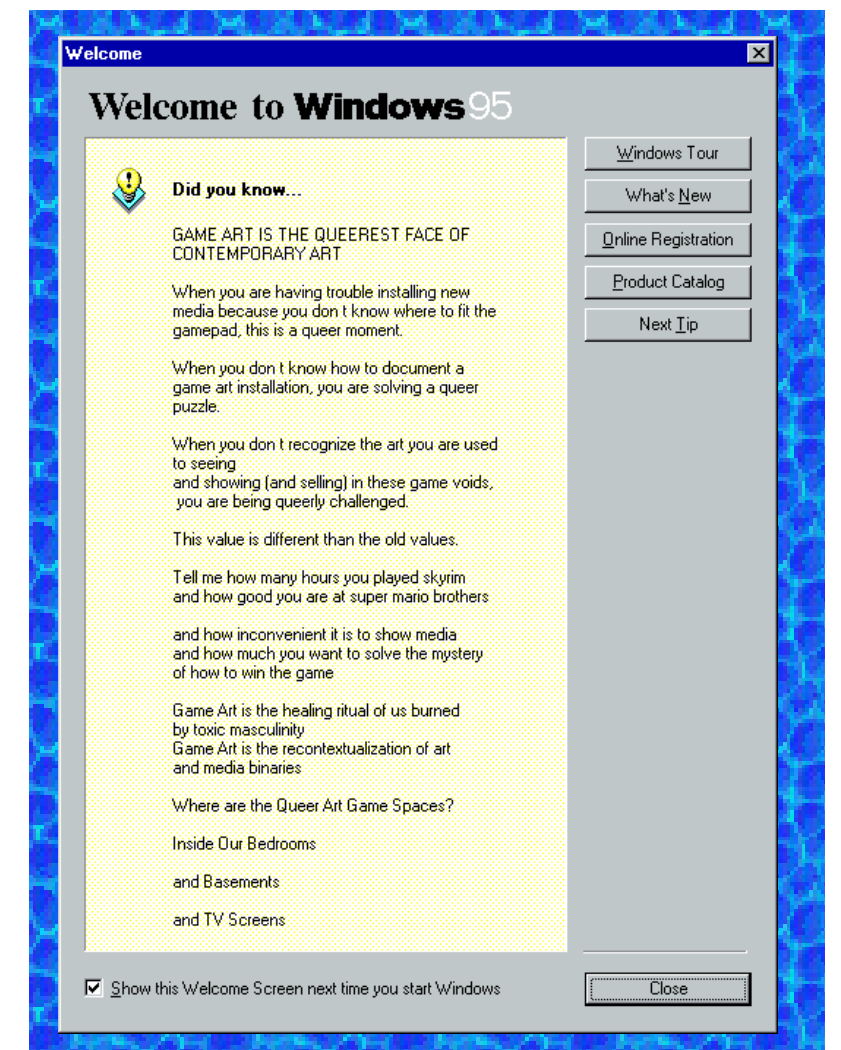
Video games are as queer as their makers. Video games are as queer as their players. Queer video games have always existed. I agree with games critic Bo Ruberg when they write that “queer” does not denote gay lifestyles or gay sex but refers to a “challenge to dominant beliefs about pleasure and power.”

Some of the games included in this event explicitly refer to queer experience, and some don’t. What is a common thread however is that each game pushes on or against the assumptions of what video games are – how they are made and how they are played.

Many of the games are made with accessible game-making tools like Bitsy and RPGMaker, user-friendly tools that allow folks to jump right into making. For the past decade, tools like Bitsy and Twine have broken barriers between artists and game making. Artists like alienmelon and mark wonnacott and communities like glorious trainwrecks continue to open new paths through the old fortress often referred to as “Game Development.” Itch.io, where many of these games are hosted, allows small games artists to move away from traditional, restrictive online platforms like Steam and IRL stores like GameStop (RIP), which require a “publisher” such as Nintendo to get into. It may not always be this way, but at the moment, Itch.io is closely related to the zine fair or maybe the flea market.

sraëka-lillian’s –Pangea’s Error–, made in RPGMaker, is an intense meditation on orientation with nods toward a form of decolonialism. Similarly, lotus’ –dandelions– was also made in RPGMaker, and is experienced as longform RPG poetry about “trying to be in the world.” The renaissance of small games tools could perhaps be understood to run parallel to the introduction of Super 8 or the Portapack, tools designed to be for more people with smaller budgets (here, these tools are often freeware). velvet’s –Take A Piss Like A Woman– was made in Bitsy, and exemplifies what makes Bitsy so valuable: the ability to create short, personal games quickly and to get them out into the world.

nilson







still from sračka-lillian's "Pangea's Error"

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THIS EVENT IS SUPPORTED BY SWAMPBABES, A SMALL DIY QUEER GAME ART COMMUNITY FOUNDED IN ROCHESTER, NY. SWAMPBABES WAS FOUNDED IN THE SUMMER OF 2019 BY NILSON AND CODY. VISIT US AT SWAMPBABES.ORG



Salon

Spring

2023

# Family, Friends, Lovers and Comrades: on Love + Solidarity

*In Dialogue*

with Kelly Gallagher



**April 27, 2023**

6-7pm: Open Studio with Project  
Space resident Joshua Tonies

7-9pm: film screening in the  
microcinema with Kelly Gallagher

Visual Studies Workshop  
31 Prince St Rochester, NY  
Suggested: \$10





Photo from the Project Space, WIP by Joshua Tonies

Tonies works across the disciplines of drawing and the moving image. His practice centers around temporary ecological studies that take form as animation, works on paper, and book arts. Recent works include visualizing an arctic soundscape in collaboration with the Scripps Institute of Oceanography and using photogrammetry to animate micro-plastics.



Still from *We Had Each Other* by Kelly Gallagher

Experimental filmmaker and animator Kelly Gallagher presents a program of her own films along with excerpts from the VSW early video collection that embody themes of solidarity, family, activism and love.

#### **Program:**

##### ***Father***

**Bonnie Klein/Portable Channel, 14m (1975)**

A portrait of the filmmaker's husband as a father reflecting contemporary concerns about the confusing impact of feminism on family relationships.

##### ***Photographs from My Father***

**Kelly Gallagher, 14m (2014)**

An animated and found footage personal essay film, exploring the relationship between my Father and Uncle, amid old photographs and sports stories. A preservation of memories and example of self care through art production.

##### ***My Gossip***

**Kelly Gallagher, 15m (2019)**

Incorporating live-action stop-motion and digital animation, this personal documentary colorfully explores the radical importance of women's close friendships by examining the filmmaker's relationship with her own best friend, and how women's close friendships were historically weaponized against them.

##### ***Women on Women (excerpt)***

**Women's Television Project/Portable Channel, 6m (1973)**

The first program of Portable Channel's Women's Television Project, whose members came together to make videotapes expressing positive, alternative images of women.

##### ***SMUT Postering Project (excerpt)***

**Nancy Rosin/Portable Channel, 7m (1977)**

Behind the scenes footage of an action organized by Women Against Violence Against Women in Rochester, NY in 1977.

##### ***Pine and Genesee***

**Kelly Gallagher, 3m (2020)**

A short experimental documentary about the site of a former stop on the Underground Railroad, the erasure of history, and what we owe those who came and struggled before us.

##### ***Attica Inmate Sinclair Scott (excerpt)***

**Charles McGill, Clarence Graham, Sanford Rockowitz/Portable Channel, 8m (1971)**

Interview with former Attica Prison inmate on conditions, events leading to rebellion and re-taking of prison.

##### ***We Had Each Other***

**Kelly Gallagher, 15m (2021)**

A group of powerful, bold, Irish women political prisoners at Armagh Jail shook Ireland to its' core in 1980 when they began a transgressive "no-wash" protest, refusing to bathe for a year to bring attention to their plight and the abusive mistreatment of Irish political prisoners by the British government.

The VSW Salon is a bi-monthly engagement in the VSW microcinema featuring film screenings, artist talks, Community Curator events, performances, photo presentations and conversations. VSW Salon showcases the work of local and national artists, and invites them to present their work in an intimate “microcinema” equipped to show 16mm, Super 8, digital photography and video on state of the art equipment.

**Kelly Gallagher** is a filmmaker, animator, and Associate Professor of Film at Syracuse University. Her handcrafted films and commissioned animations have screened at venues including: the Museum of Modern Art, the National Gallery of Art, Sundance Film Festival, Tribeca Film Festival, and the Smithsonian Institution. Recent commissioned animations have screened on Netflix and PBS. Her latest film, *WE HAD EACH OTHER*, about the strength and solidarity of Irish Republican POW women, won the Research Award at the 2022 Athens International Film and Video Festival. Kelly enthusiastically organizes and facilitates fun and inclusive film workshops and camps for communities of all ages, from Kentucky to California, from New York to Iowa and beyond.

**Josh Tonies** is an artist who works with drawing and the moving image. His work centers around temporary ecological studies that take form as animation, drawing, works on paper and book arts. He is a lecturer on record at University of San Diego and UC San Diego, teaching courses in film, video art, animation and studio arts. He has exhibited his work most recently at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco, Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal, The Center for Fiction in NYC, Comfort Station in Chicago Illinois and the San Diego Museum of Art.



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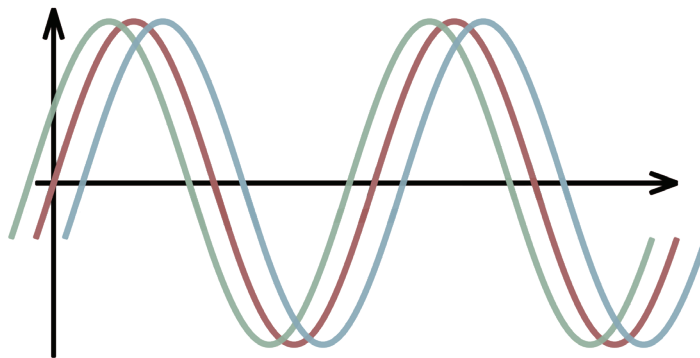


# Wavelength:

A Tribute to Michael Snow

February 2, 2023, 7pm

Visual Studies Workshop



On Thursday, January 5th, artist Michael Snow died at the age of 94. Snow was a prolific book artist, painter, musician, filmmaker, and sculptor, whose works expanded beyond formal traditions to challenge the expectations of audiences and inspire generations of artists. On Thursday February 2nd, VSW will pay tribute to Snow with a free screening of his 1967 structuralist masterpiece, *Wavelength* (projected on 16mm film), preceded by a live "reading" of Snow's iconic 1975 artist book, *Cover to Cover*. Both *Wavelength* and *Cover to Cover* are part of the VSW Collections.

Gordon Nelson, Assistant Curator of Digital Collections at the George Eastman Museum, will introduce the film.

- **Music** The Last LP: Unique Last Recordings Of The Music Of Ancient Cultures (Michael Snow, 1987, Art Metropole)

- **Book** Cover to Cover (Michael Snow, 1975, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, 300 pages)

- **Film** Wavelength (Michael Snow, 1967, US/Canada 43 mins.) Chosen by the Audio-Visual Preservation Trust of Canada to be preserved for future generations in 2006.

"Wavelength was shot in one week in December '66 preceded by a year of notes, thoughts, mutterings. It was edited and the first print was seen in May '67. I wanted to make a summation of my nervous system, religious inklings and aesthetic ideas. I was thinking of planning for a time monument in which the beauty and sadness of equivalence would be celebrated, thinking of trying to make a definitive statement of pure Film space and time, a balancing of 'illusion' and 'fact', all about seeing. The space starts at the camera's (spectator's) eye, is in the air, then is on the screen, then is within the screen (the mind).

The film is a continuous zoom which takes 45 minutes to go from its widest field to its smallest and final field. It was shot with a fixed camera from one end of an 80 foot loft, shooting the other end, a row of windows and the street .... The room (and the zoom) are interrupted by four human events including a death. The sound on these occasions is sync sound, music and speech, occurring simultaneously with an electronic sound, a sine-wave .... It is a total glissando while the film is a crescendo and a dispersed spectrum which attempts to utilize the gifts of both prophecy and memory which only film and music have to offer."

-Michael Snow, program notes for the fourth International Film Festival, Knokke-le-Zoute, Belgium, 1968







VSW is located at 31 Prince St., Rochester,  
New York. Learn more at [VSW.ORG](http://VSW.ORG)

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# Salon Spring 2023 Films by Tomonari Nishikawa

February 9, 2023, 7pm  
Visual Studies Workshop



Filmmaker Tomonari Nishikawa (Japan/USA) will present a program of his experimental Super 8 and 16mm films at the VSW Salon, and discuss his process-based approach to visual and temporal composition. Nishikawa's intricate cinematic technique weaves time and space into graphic patterns, undulating rhythms and colorful forms, resulting in an expansive perceptual experience of often familiar subjects.

**Program:**

**Sketch Film #1 (2.5 min, Super 8, silent, 2005)**

**Sketch Film #2 (2.5 min, Super 8, silent, 2005)**

**Market Street (5 min, 16mm, silent, 2005)**

**Sketch Film #5 (2.5 min, Super 8, silent, 2007)**

**Lumphini 2552 (2 min, 35mm, sound, 2009)**

**Clear Blue Sky (4 min, digital video, sound, 2006)**

**16-18-4 (2.5 min, 35mm, silent, 2008)**

**45 7 Broadway (5 min, 16mm, sound, 2013)**

**sound of a million insects, light of a million stars  
(2 min, 35mm, sound, 2014)**

**Tokyo — Ebisu (5 min, 16mm, sound, 2010)**

**Ten Mornings Ten Evenings and One Horizon (10 min,  
16mm, sound, 2016)**

**Amusement Ride (6 min, 16mm, sound, 2019)**

**Note: 35mm films will be projected as digital video tonight**

Nishikawa's films explore the idea of documenting situations/ phenomena through a chosen medium and technique, often focusing on process itself. His films have been screened at numerous film festivals and art venues, including Berlinale, Edinburgh International Film Festival, Hong Kong International Film Festival, International Film Festival Rotterdam, London Film Festival, Media City Film Festival, New York Film Festival, Singapore International Film Festival, and Toronto International Film Festival. He is one of the co-founders of KLEX: Kuala Lumpur Experimental Film and Video Festival and Transient Visions: Festival of the Moving Image. He lives in Japan/USA, currently teaching in Cinema Department at Binghamton University.



Top Image: Still from **Market Street** (2005), 16mm  
Bottom Image: Still from **45 7 Broadway** (2013), 16mm



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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 Cossman, 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/](http://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 themself 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 Junglepussy, 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 Junglepussy.

–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.

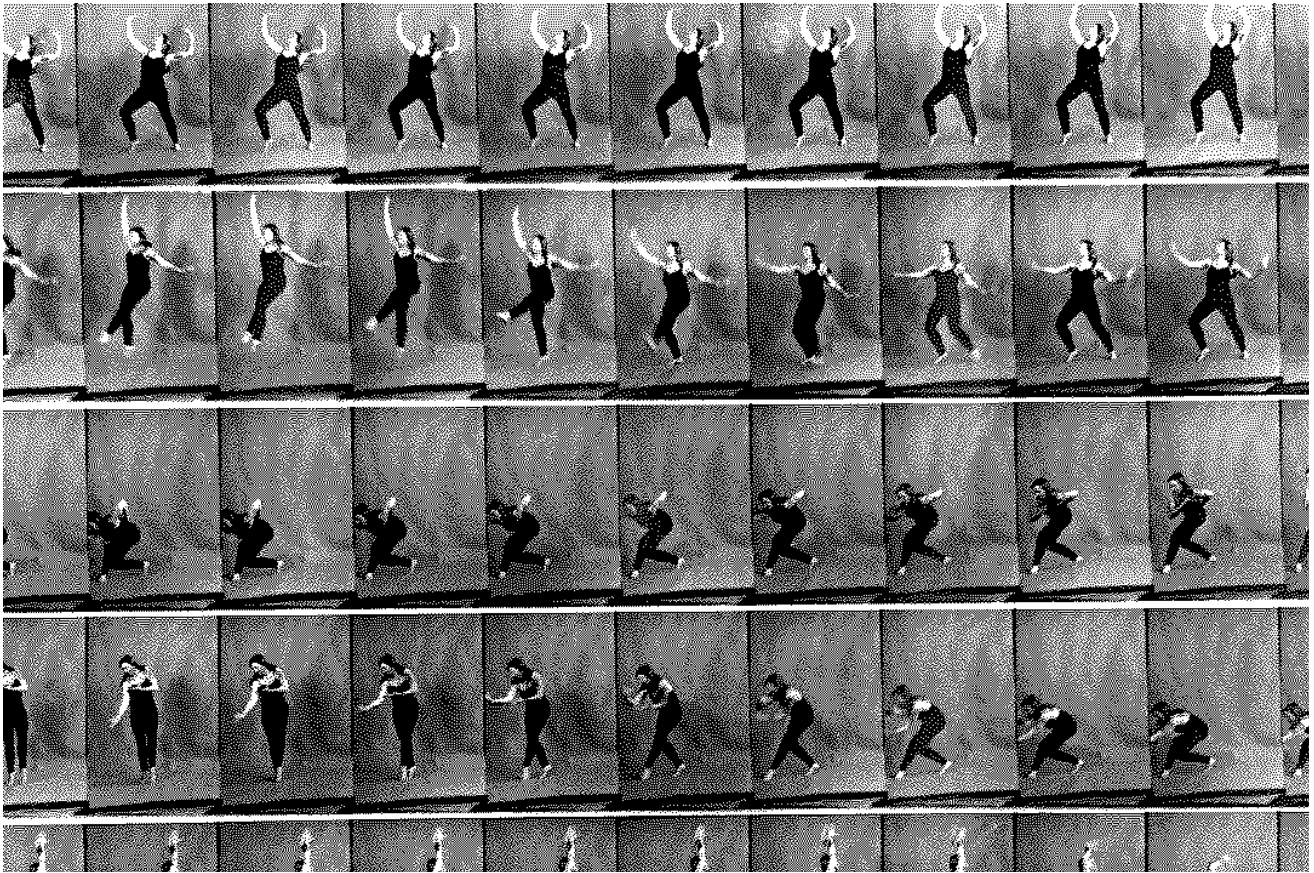
**Stepping Into The Frame, 2022**  
**16MM TRIPLE PROJECTION PERFORMANCE by**  
**LAUREN NOELLE OLIVER**

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.

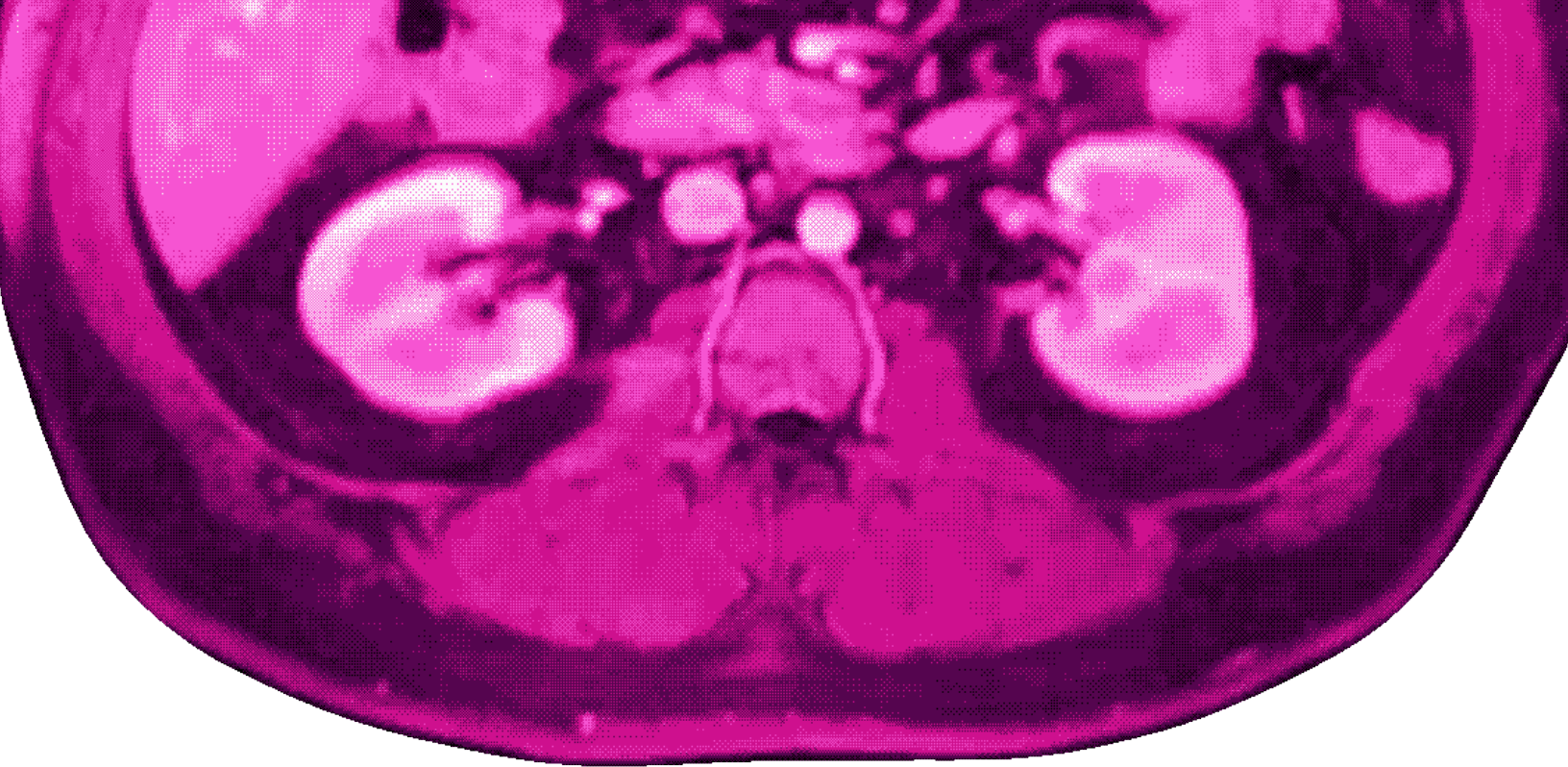


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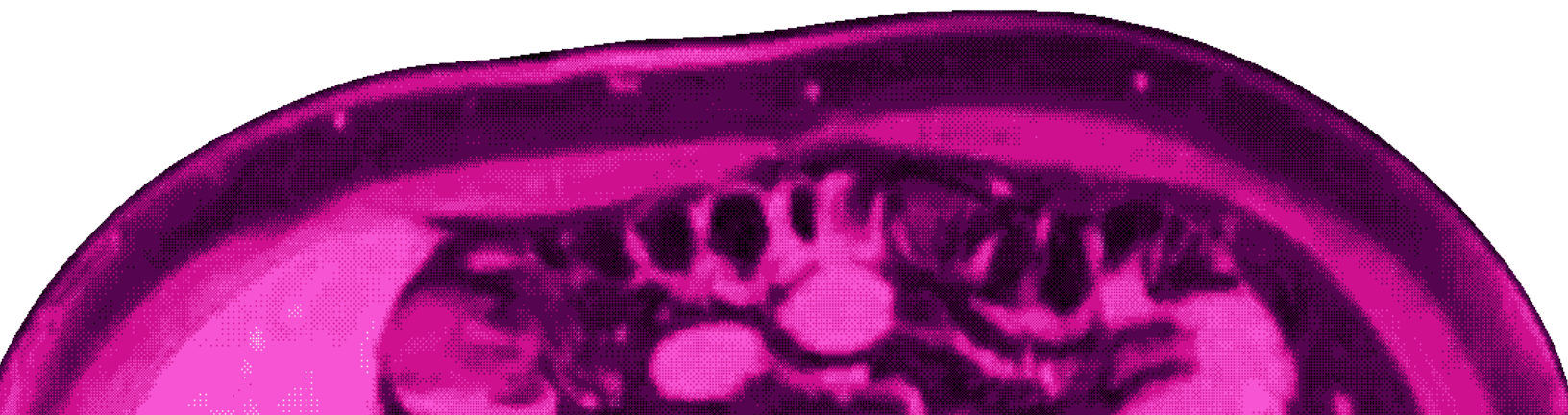
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**Salon                      Spring                      2023**  
**Perceptual**  
**Exploration:**  
**In Dialogue with**  
**Anna Kipervaser**

**March      9,      2023,      7-9pm      •      Visual      Studies      Workshop**  
**31      Prince      St.,      Rochester,      NY      •      Suggested:      \$10/PWYC**



## **Program**

### **Brain Power\***

**Karl Epstein**

**1982 | 16mm | sound | 11:00**

John Houseman discusses three key principles of perception: recognition (pay attention to details), interpretation (tolerate a little ambiguity), and expectation (beware limiting expectations).

### **And By The Night**

**Anna Kipervaser**

**2017 | 16mm | silent | 09:45**

After a period of no revelations, Surah al-Duha was revealed to Prophet Muhammad, stating that God had neither forsaken nor forgotten him. And to be patient. The film is also a response to my abortion.

### **Factors in Visual**

#### **Depth Perception\***

**Frank N. Stanton**

**1965 | 16mm | Silent | 10:00**

An educational film about perception from the Ohio State University Department of Psychology.

### **The Order of Revelation:**

#### **Surah An-Najm**

**Anna Kipervaser**

**2017/2021 | 16mm | silent | 07:07**

The Order of Revelation is a long-form, multi-part, silent 16mm film translating / transliterating the Quran from Arabic to Visual in the order it was revealed, rather than the order in which it was canonized. The film reclaims Visual as a Language and challenges the way translation prioritizes semantic meaning over considerations such as form fidelity. It asks whether the revelatory nature of the Quran rests solely in its semantic content, or if revelation can be experienced on account of connections, collisions between letters, between sounds.

### **Divination by Animal Tracks\***

**Hermann Schlenker**

**1965 | 16mm | sound | 7:00**

"For the purpose of giving an initial understanding of Dogon religious practice, this films show a common method of divining. A shaman, the Dogon soothsayer, an elder of the village, enters the sacred ground. By members of his village, he uses a symbolic language to draw a representation of the village in the sand. He then drops peanuts at strategic places to lure the night jackals into the field. The following morning the shaman returns to prophesy the future from the tracks left by the jackal in the sand." (NYPL catalog)

### **How a Sprig of Fir**

#### **Would Replace a Feather**

**Anna Kipervaser**

**2019 | 16mm | silent | 07:30**

Taking its title from Charles Altamont Doyle, the film is a meditation on ritual, at once a labor of love and of pain, of parting. A taxonomy of the investigation of love, of becoming. In perpetual beginning. In perpetual ending. Coming into vision, into the present, a leaving. A leaving.

### **Mujer De Milfuegos<sup>+</sup>**

**Chick Strand**

**1976 | 16mm | sound | 15:00**

"A kind of heretic fantasy film. An expressionistic, surrealistic portrait of a Latin American woman. Not a personal portrait so much as an evocation of the consciousness of women in rural parts of such countries as Spain, Greece and Mexico; women who wear black from the age 15 and spend their entire lives giving birth, preparing food and tending to household and farm responsibilities. MUJER DE MILFUEGOS depicts in poetic, almost abstract terms, their daily repetitive tasks as a form of obsessive ritual." (Canyon Cinema catalog)

## **Time Being<sup>+</sup>**

**Gunvor Nelson**

**1991 | 16mm | silent | 8:00**

"This extraordinary film manages to craft a delicate portrait of her mother through time and refracted light while unfolding in purple silence the relationship of Nelson and her mother as well." - Crosby McCloy, filmmaker

## **With The Tide, with the tide**

**Anna Kipervaser**

**2022 | 16mm | sound | 02:49**

I know, you're a seasonal beast  
Like the starfish that drift in with the tide  
With the tide  
So until your blood runs  
To meet the next full moon  
Your madness fits in nicely with my own  
With my own  
Your lunacy fits neatly with my own  
My very own

- from Sea Song by Robert Wyatt

## **in ocula oculorum**

**Anna Kipervaser**

**2021 | digital | sound | 12:14**

***\*flicker warning + pain inducing  
sound warning\****

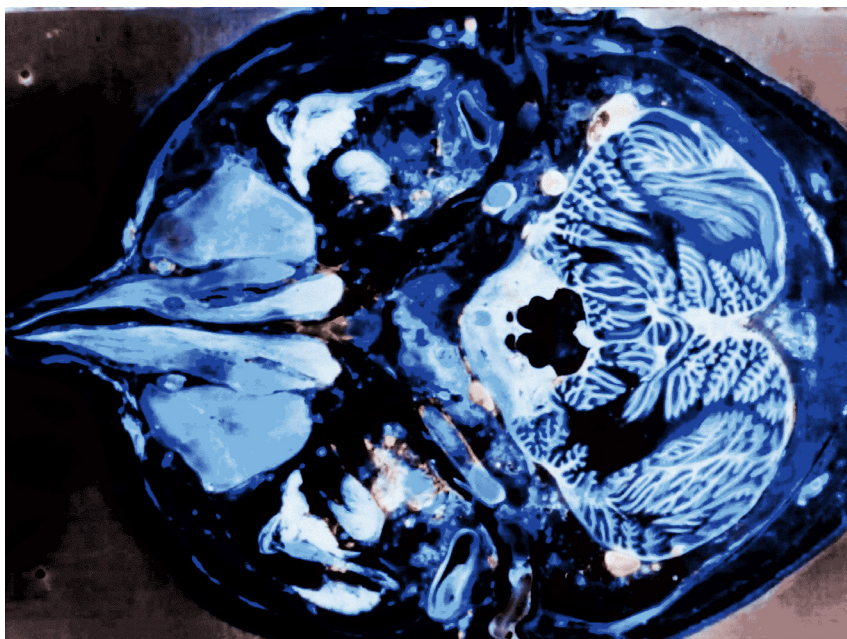
in ocula oculorum interrogates the unknown and the internal, in both subject matter and experience. Dealing with the contemporary state of perpetual doom, the film contemplates various stages of life and death from the point of view of our human bodies and perceptual systems. It explores beta movement and phi phenomenon, pushing the limits of intermittence and persistence of vision, playing with our innate desire for continuity and cohesion by forcing image slip.

**\* films from the VSW Film Collection**

**+ films from Canyon Cinema**

**Anna Kipervaser** is a Ukrainian-born artist whose work engages with a range of topics including human and animal bodies, ethnicity, religion, colonialism, and the environment. Her dynamic film practice is informed by a commitment to formal experimentation and incorporates 16mm, digital video, CT scans, archival images and optical printing. Currently a VSW Project Space artist, Anna has curated a program of her films along with films from the archive at VSW.

Film still from "in ocula oculorum" (2021) by Anna Kipervaser





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