

Visual Studies  
Workshop  
Spring 2024  
Salon Calendar





## Visual Studies Workshop Spring 2024 Salon Calendar

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.

VSW Salon events are offered on a sliding scale price structure – suggested price is \$10 for each event, however you can choose the price that is right for you. ASL interpreters will be made available upon request at least two weeks before the workshop. Please email [accommodations@vsw.org](mailto:accommodations@vsw.org) with any accommodation requests or accessibility inquiries. Learn more at [vsw.org](http://vsw.org).

### January 25:

**OR119 with Peggy Ahwesh and Jennifer Montgomery**  
Film Screening + Discussion

Visual Studies Workshop Project Space Resident and experimental film and video artist Peggy Ahwesh will present *OR119*– her recent collaboration with filmmaker Jacqueline Goss – a theoretical musical based on the ideas of radical psychologist Wilhelm Reich. As Freud’s favorite student, Reich centered his study on the intersections of psychoanalysis and Marxism. Reich’s work advocates for a re-imagining of family structure and gender roles, sexual liberation for younger people and the working poor, and a deep understanding of the effect of fascisms on the body. The screening will conclude with a discussion with Ahwesh and one of the stars of the film: filmmaker and longtime collaborator Jennifer Montgomery. The discussion will also be livestreamed via [twitch.tv](https://www.twitch.tv).



Still from *OR119* by Peggy Ahwesh and Jacqueline Goss

### February 8:

**SLUDGE screening I**  
16mm Film Mashup

The SLUDGE Film series offers an evening’s experiment of mashed up titles and topics from VSW’s 16mm collection, finding new meaning in old formats and playing with our new tempos of media consumption. 16mm film is media evidence of the cultural values of 20th century America, a format both dictating and reflecting educational standards and national viewpoints of yesteryear. SLUDGE takes its name from a contemporary TikTok fad of watching multiple unrelated videos simultaneously. How can we confront old media with our new attention spans and global perspectives? This series is curated and projected by Mary Lewandowski, VSW’s Curatorial & Research Associate.



Still from *The World Like a Jewel in The Hand: Unlearning Imperial Plunder II* by Ariella Aïsha Azoulay

### February 22:

**The World Like a Jewel in The Hand: Unlearning Imperial Plunder II with Ariella Aïsha Azoulay**  
Film Screening + Discussion (in-person and online)

Ariella Aïsha Azoulay is an artist, filmmaker, author, curator and theorist of visual culture. For over ten years, her work has focused on developing and demonstrating potential history, a radical concept that contends with imperial violence and erasure. *The World Like a Jewel in The Hand* is the second film in her series, *Unlearning Imperial Plunder*, which goes beyond the movement to repatriate looted museum objects, and questions the very foundation of imperialism. The film, within this widened landscape, focuses on the destruction of the Jewish Muslim world in North Africa. Her film insists on making it imaginable and inhabitable again. The screening will be followed by a virtual discussion with Azoulay.

**Cover Image: Still from "Home R Where The Heart Is" (2019), a video game by Blake Andrews (Barnyardia)**

### March 14:

**Open Studios and Artist Talks with Project Space Residents Sophie Schwartz and Robert Doyle**  
Artist Talks

VSW invites the community in for open studios with the February-March 2024 Project Space residents, Sophie Schwartz and Robert Doyle. Their studios will be open from 6-9pm, with a break at 7pm for short artist talks in the microcinema.



Fatimah Arshad, photographed by Mara Ahmed, while filming *Return to Sender*

### March 28:

**In Dialogue: Mara Ahmed**  
Film Screening + Discussion

Mara Ahmed is an interdisciplinary artist and award winning activist filmmaker. Ahmed’s documentaries center marginalized voices and have focused on communities grappling with nuanced experiences around racism, colonization and islamophobia. She will present a program that incorporates her work with films she has researched and chosen from the VSW archive. Ahmed will also present clips from her latest film, *Return to Sender: Women of Color in Colonial Postcards & the Politics of Representation*, which was awarded a NYSCA film grant, and will premiere at a future time in Rochester. The evening will culminate in a discussion with Ahmed.

### April 11:

**Open Studio with Project Space Resident Rianna Jade Parker and SLUDGE screening II**  
16mm Film Mashup

### April 25:

**Hardware and Software by Barnyardia**  
Experimental Video Games

VSW will host a one-night pop-up arcade with Barnyardia, a NYC-based experimental games collective pushing the boundaries of gameplay, interaction, and controllers. Their work focuses on live, collaborative play through subversive or silly game mechanics and alt-controllers. Barnyardia will have an interactive installation of a dozen games of varying length for audience members to play and participate in. The evening will culminate in a live performance. Barnyardia is Blake Andrews and Frank DeMarco. Artists in attendance.

### May 9 - 16:

**In Dialogue: Sarah Friedland**  
Archival Media Installation

VSW Project Space Resident Sarah Friedland is a filmmaker and choreographer working at the intersection of moving images and moving bodies. Friedland has selected films and videos from the VSW archives that resonate with a selection of her own videos, and designed a multimedia installation in the VSW microcinema. This engaging installation focuses on the movements found in social guidance films and how they stage choreographies that attempt to mold, train, and make-up the social body. Friedland’s *Movement Exercises Trilogy* will be in conversation with works from the VSW archive which perform exercises, drills, and instructions for moving bodies at home, at work, and at school.

## VSW Project Space Residents Spring 2024

**Peggy Ahwesh**  
January 10 - February 7

**Sarah Friedland**  
May 1 - 29

**Robert Doyle**  
February 21 - March 24

**Željka Blakšić**  
June 5 - July 3

**Sophie Schwartz**  
February 21 - March 24

**Barbara Justice**  
July 10 - August 7

**Rianna Jade Parker**  
March 27 - April 24


**Sonja Thomsen**  
August 14 - 30





Visual Studies Workshop nurtures experimental and expansive approaches to photography and media arts,

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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.

and builds community among artists and the public through exhibitions, publications and residencies.

VSW envisions a society that values the human need to create and share ideas.



31 Prince Street, Rochester, NY  
Learn more at

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