

Salon

Spring

2024

Sawdage

I



1 6mm Film Mashup + FREE ICE CREAM

02.08.24

7-9pm

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

VSW Salon - Spring 2024

February 8: SLUDGE I

As we face a future digital in the main, the physical media object has gained a power, and Visual Studies Workshop has become a unique historical organization with its substantial media collections - paper, glass, bone and plastic inscribed with images, stories, historical document. VSW holds and provides access to these objects for artists and researchers.

In my daily job, I am involved in cataloging and managing the metadata of these collections, and handling the objects themselves. I can attest to the mystery of the archive, of the connections and coincidences that make themselves known as you work with the objects and their errata. The magic of the archive meets you halfway and often gives more than you asked for.

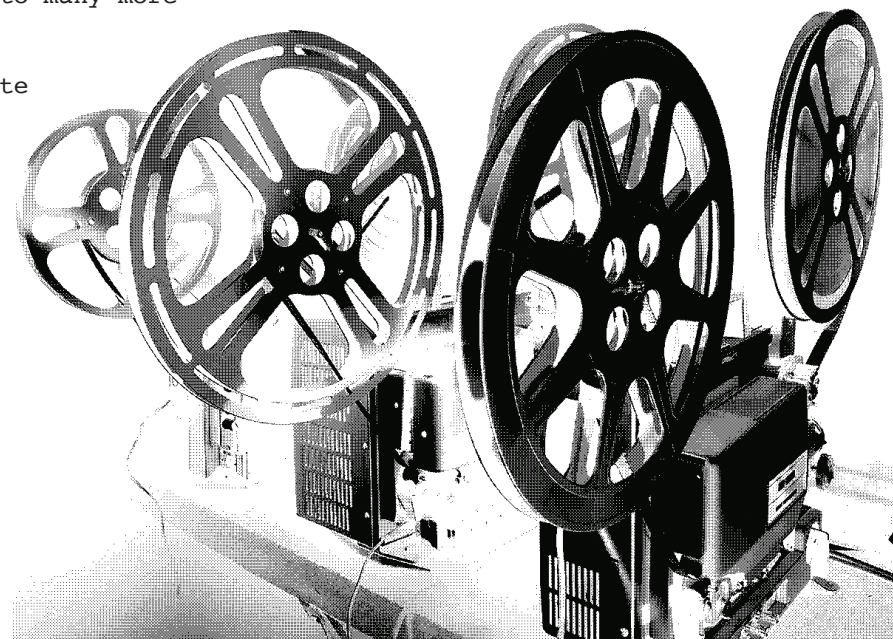
The 16mm collection is a pet collection for me. These 5000+ films, largely divested from public libraries and educational institutions, were produced and used for public information and entertainment. They bear the marks of countless viewings. As public objects, they were made to be seen.

The content of the 16mm collection is a record of historical values and national attitudes, for better or worse. The films are many things, ranging from dry fact presentation to stylish editing fantasias, with everything earnest, pedantic, goofy and entertaining in between; my goal for SLUDGE is to showcase this breadth.

It's debatable whether "sludge" is an ongoing TikTok trend [two or more videos viewed simultaneously] or just a term coined by the New York Times in its efforts to understand young people - but I eagerly adopt it here. I come from an aesthetic of mixtapes and double music, rediscovering the forgotten, mining the niche, making new meaning in combination. To apply the contemporary attention span to the patient pace of 16mm is a true challenge - especially because these Archive objects cannot be spliced or cut. All films will be played in their entirety.

Welcome to and please enjoy this inaugural SLUDGE screening experiment! And here's to many more ~

Mary Lewandowski,
VSW Curatorial & Research Associate



////////// The Films

Brain Power (1982)

11 min, color, sound.
John Houseman introduces your corporate seminar

The Compleat Audiovisualist (1960s)

7 min, color, sound.
Instructional cartoon for film handlers (produced by the Television Film and Radio Commission of the Methodist Church)

Voyager I Encounters Saturn (1980)

7 min, color, silent.
Early NASA + JPL animation

Confronting Conflict (1971)

30 min, color, sound.
Gritty team building therapy (Sheldon A Davis moderates)

High Blood Pressure (1983)

10 min, color, sound.
Health information sponsored by American Heart Association

Two Tars (1928)

22 min, b/w, sound.
Silent film comedy (Laurel & Hardy)

Earthquakes and Volcanoes (1977)

12 min, color, sound.
Earth science educational film

Radiance: The Experience of Light (1978)

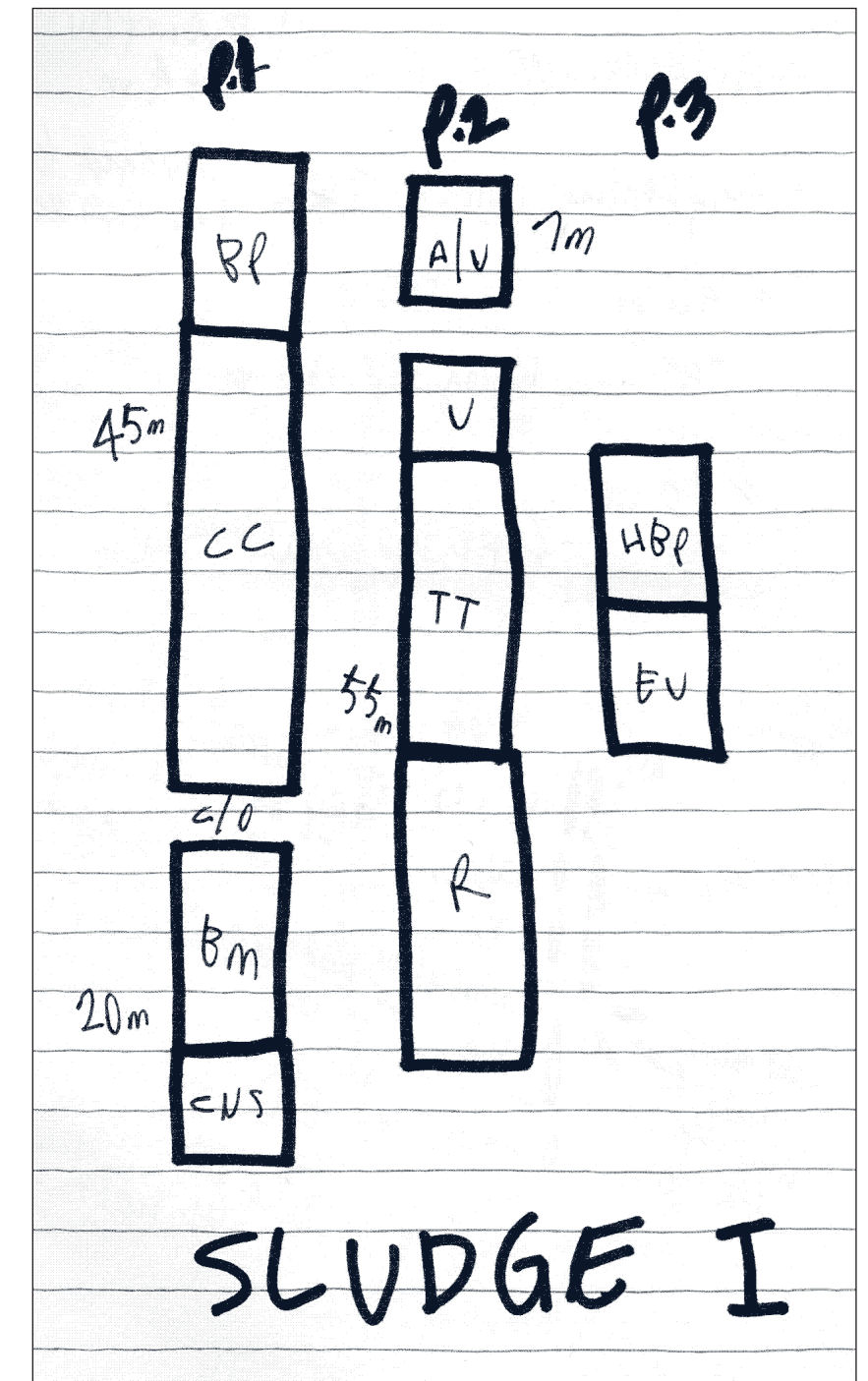
22 min, color, sound.
New age musing (Dorothy Fadiman director, Jordan Belson cinematographer)

Being Me (1967)

13 min, b/w, sound.
Hilda Mullin leads modern dance exercises (Robert Dalva cinematographer)

Curl Up Small (1968)

7 min, color, sound.
Children's book animation (Hiro Narita animator)



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

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

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.



Council on the 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.

LONG LIVE EXPERIMENTAL CINEMA

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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