

LOUD CINEMA

OCT 1 8-10:30PM FORT MASON CENTER FOR ARTS & CULTURE

CENTURY-OLD EXPERIMENTAL
SHORT FILMS REIMAGINED
THROUGH MODERN SCORES
WRITTEN AND RECORDED BY A
NEW WAVE OF AVANT-GARDE
ARTISTS

RHYTHM IN LIGHT

1934 | 5 MIN | B&W | 35MM SOUND FILM

CREATED BY: MARY ELLEN BUTE, TED NEMETH & MELVILLE WEBBER

NEW SCORE BY: VERSÂAM

Mary Ellen Bute and her husband Ted Nemeth, with director Melville Webber, refracted and reflected light through prisms to create this film, also utilizing cellophane, ping-pong balls, sparklers, eggbeaters, and bracelets, grounding this abstract short in the objective world. Originally accompanied by the music of classical composer Edvard Greig, now animated by Oakland producer Versâm's signature lo-fi beats.

AN OPTICAL POEM

1938 | 7 MIN | COLOR | 35MM SOUND FILM

CREATED BY: OSKAR FISCHINGER

NEW SCORE BY: DAKIM

German American animator Oskar Fischinger used hundreds of paper cutouts hung from invisible wires to create this mosaic of sound and image. Shot frame-by-frame in synchronization with Franz Liszt's orchestral piece *Hungarian Rhapsody, No. 2*, replaced in this iteration by Dakim's tonal soundscape.

THE LIFE AND DEATH OF 9413: A HOLLYWOOD EXTRA

1927 | 14 MIN | B&W | 35MM SILENT FILM

CREATED BY: ROBERT FLOREY & SLAVKO VORKAPICH

NEW SCORE BY: COLLIN MCCRARY

An expressionist narrative short, characteristic of Vorkapich's montage style, depicting the plight of Hollywood extras. Made with miniature sets and photographed through mirrors with live actors. Reimagined by saxophonist Collin McCrary in a score that pieces together 50-some samples.

ABSTRACT EXPERIMENT IN KODACHROME

1940 | 3 MIN | COLOR | 16MM SILENT FILM

CREATED BY: MARY ELLEN BUTE, TED NEMETH & MELVILLE WEBBER

NEW SCORE BY: CLAYJAY X JABERS

Another, later Vorkapich montage, a stop-motion dance of objects (similar to Oskar Fischinger's abstractions) that is kinetic and visually melodic, silhouetted by a modern score by Clayjay x Jabers.

SIMPLE DESTINY ABSTRACTIONS

1937-40 | 5 MIN | B&W/COLOR | 16MM SILENT FILM

CREATED BY: DOUGLAS CROCKWELL & DAVID SMITH

NEW SCORE BY: CHEFLEE

This footage comprises a number of silent fragments of Crockwell's experiments, alongside sculptor David Smith, in surreal claymation and abstract wax cinematography. Brought into cohesive form through Cheflee's musical vision.

MARY
ELLEN
BUTE

“MUSIC, IN ADDITION TO PLEASING THE EAR, BRINGS SOMETHING TO THE EYE.”

THE LONG BODIES

1947 | 6 MIN | COLOR | 16MM SILENT FILM

CREATED BY: DOUGLAS CROCKWELL & DAVID SMITH

NEW SCORE BY: GILBERTO RODRIGUEZ Y LOS INTOCABLES

Another film by Crockwell and Smith, a series of surrealist animations using oil paint on glass, claymation, photo collages, and wax block forms. Originally silent, now delineated by the psychedelic sound of Gilberto Rodriguez.

ANÉMIC CINÉMA

1924-26 | 7 MIN | B&W | 35MM SILENT FILM

CREATED BY: RROSE SÉLAVY (MARCEL DUCHAMP)

NEW SCORE BY: ZACH GOTLER

Renowned Dadaist, iconoclast, and inventor of the “readymade,” Marcel Duchamp (under the pseudonym Rrose Sélavy) creates optical illusions via rotating discs — containing spiral forms and erotic French epigraphs — which he later sold as “rotoreliefs.” Expressed through free jazz in a playful score by percussionist Zach Gotler, joined by saxophonist Collin McCrary.

INTROSPECTION

1941 | 6 MIN | COLOR | 16MM SOUND FILM

CREATED BY: SARA KATHRYN ARLEDGE

NEW SCORE BY: SALAMI ROSE JOE LOUIS

A dance of disembodied parts moving delicately through black space combines with Salami Rose Joe Louis' ethereal score to create a timeless experimental work that could have been created in 2041 just as easily as 1941.

LA JOIE DE VIVRE

1934 | 9 MIN | B&W | 16MM SILENT FILM

CREATED BY: ANTHONY GROSS & HECTOR HOPPIN

NEW SCORE BY: KADHJA BONET

An escapist film of animated line drawings that follows the movement of two woodland sprites across varied landscapes. Often referred to as a "tone poem," this film is characteristic of the graphic style of painter Anthony Gross and the photographic vision of Hector Hoppin, rhythmically expressed through a syncopated, harmonic score from the multi-instrumental and idiosyncratic artist Kadhja Bonet.

PARABOLA

1937 | 9 MIN | B&W | 35MM SOUND FILM

CREATED BY: MARY ELLEN BUTE & TED NEMETH

NEW SCORE BY: FRANK

Another motion picture by partners Mary Ellen Bute and Ted Nemeth, *Parabola* is a series of still images of Rutherford Boyd's sculptural pieces under controlled illumination, originally accompanied by the music of Darius Milhaud, presented with a dynamic score by producer Frank that brings the listener through various moods, building with the visuals to create a narrative experience.

These films are restored and licensed by *Unseen Cinema: Early American Avant-Garde Film 1894-1941*, a retrospective project curated by Bruce Posner for Anthology Film Archives in collaboration with 60 film archives and support from Cineric Inc., Canyon Cinema, Filmmakers Showcase, Eastman Kodak Company, and Film Preservation Associates.

This selection of 10 pre-Maya Deren avant-garde films presents experimental film as a product of both mixed media surrealist works and multisensory artistic investigations. Through imaginative scores, Bay Area music artists push the confines of the medium to create a profound and original artistic experience that reinvigorates and redefines the genre. Presented in drive-in format, this screening is thoroughly unconventional, and requires a suspension of disbelief. *Thanks for your curiosity.*