



Broken Film Festival
Chthulucene Grab Bag
Silent Sounds (Silence), April 25, 8 PM, Doors 7:30
Programme Runtime: 110 minutes

The entanglement of humanity and the world that produces us is the subject of this medley of (mostly) silent works, presented with live improvised music by local artists. Are individuals more than the sum of their parts? Are we just a collision of nature and culture?

Musicians:

Nim Agalawatte - no-input mixing board
Connor Bennett - saxophones and woodwinds
Marcela Echeverri - electronic bass
Germaine Liu - drums and percussion

Pre-Screening: *Video Art on the Edge* (15 min)

Directed by Renée Lear

Country: Canada

Video Art on the Edge explores the creative potential of videotape degradation through manipulating documentation of an historical video installation exhibition from The Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam (1984), turning the material failure of video into an abstract, generative force.

La Reproduction (24 min)

Directed by Jean-Marie Villeneuve

Country: France

Marc-Antoine, 35 years old, with an outdated appearance, one day sees a new neighbour arrive in the building opposite his home. Quickly, he begins to observe him.

Intermission

Corn Dog (4 min)

Directed by: Daniel Maggio, Hunter Hawkins

Country: USA

Two people meet in the park...

elemental (8 min)

Directed by: Marie Gayeski

Country: USA

A silent film, addressing the transitioning of the body in form and matter and its return to the Cosmos.

One Hundred White Trucks (4 min)

Directed by: Brice Goldberg

Country: USA

In Richmond, Virginia, a filmmaker's walkabout reveals a monochromatic landscape of behemoth motor vehicles. This film is an exploration in structural methodology and analog filmmaking techniques. What began as an obsession with a singular subject revealed timely symbolism of the late-stage capitalist American landscape.

Balconies (13 min), co-presented with Deeply Rooted

Directed by: Kamal Aljafari

Country: Palestine

An experimental meditation focusing on the deteriorated and unfinished balconies of the home town of Kamal Aljafari, Ramla, and inspired by Romance sonámbulo by Federico García Lorca: "But now I am no longer me, and my house is no longer my House..."

Post-Screening: Paranthropic Audition (24 min)

Directed by Andrew Vincent Uroskie

An expanded documentary of prospect park lake from the aural perspective of the songbird.

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Feeling Out (formerly Bodily Lottery)
Art Bar, April 26, 2 PM, doors 1:30
Programme Runtime: 115 minutes

It seems our numbers are picked for us when we enter life's lottery. There's no way to cheat the draw, but nothing is stopping us from imagining new ways to define existence. This series of dreams and nightmares explores the societal expectations imposed upon bodies, the future of technology and the construction of "wellbeing". What could life be if we were untethered by the boundaries of our skin?

Index (2 min)

Directed by Stacey Sproule
Country: Canada

An in-situ hand drawn animation in four parts. The Animation is a series of looping morphing imagery with mirrors in each part catching a different landscape in stop motion.

Human Movie (36 min)

Directed by: Eryk Salvaggio
Country: USA

Human Movie is a media essay that uses glitched, deliberately "noisy" generated video and audio to explore the definition of being human through contrasts with and comparisons to artificial intelligence systems. Centering static as both an aspect of generative AI infrastructures and as a metaphor for confusion and uncertainty, the film provides a space where borders and definitions are deliberately fuzzy. Nonetheless, the film proposes that noise can be truly generative if humans cultivate creativity and embrace complexity rather than surrender to machines.

This is My Face (6 min)

Directed by: Tara Natalia
Country: Canada

Trapped at an ornate vanity mirror, a young woman spirals into madness while attempting to conceal severe acne. *This Is My Face* uses a combination of digital footage, Super 8mm, scratch film, and film painting to explore the act of concealment, what we hide from others and fail to hide from ourselves.

Intermission

Senway (2 min)

Directed by Cai Bell-Jerome

Country: Canada

Senway is a horror short shot on 16mm and underwater it delves into the feminine rage undealt with, forgotten with time. Left by the wayside the need to be felt and dealt with conjure...the *Senway*. This short is a taste of a longer tale, a journey not yet made.

faster! faster! faster! (33 min)

Directed by Noah Yu Schifrin

Country: USA

A film that tries to reflect the contemporary moment and the way it feels to exist in the 2020s as honestly and accurately as possible. Filmed in 2022, a group of people in NYC mostly just try to stay alive and feel okay in a society that seems to be degenerating in every direction. Now time and entropy has scattered us like garbage in the waves. but for one moment we were all together and we were beautiful.

This is the Life (15 min)

Directed by Ryan Cassidy

Country: Canada

The arrival of a pharmaceutical company's promotional VHS tape disrupts an otherwise ordinary day in the life of a Montreal shut-in.

Mechanism (5 min)

Directed by Eva Grant

Country: St'át'imc Nation

Mechanism is an experimental film which features a single character transforming into four comedic archetypes, randomly generated from over 150 terms derived from genre film, fashion, queer camp, web culture, and pop psychology.

Mechanism explores the ways in which laughter can be divorced from humour, particularly for those for whom laughter is both the only escape and the damning symptom of hysteria, malaise, and malevolence.

Film Thought Lab: The Urge to Experiment in Contemporary Times

Art Bar, 5 PM

This panel will welcome photographer and film curator Veronica Rouby, Deeply Rooted organizer Zeinah Kalati, and local filmmaker Ezequiel Garcia Tarrero. The panel will feature a conversation about the possibilities of experimental film's capacities to cleave open space for viewers to imagine a world beyond systems that seek to flatten and condition.

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Burning Maps and Resumes

Art Bar, 8 PM, doors at 7:30

Programme Runtime: 110 minutes

Crises of living wrought by late capitalism and ongoing colonial violence across the globe can make every day feel like we're on the verge of a complete societal breakdown. This program explores belonging, housing, family, and ultimately the limits of filmic expression, and searches for joy amongst the screams of the present. How can we find comfort when the concept of "home" has become so volatile?

***Bracciante* (13 min)**

Directed by: Christopher Beaulieu

Country: Canada

Devastated by the news of his grandfather's imminent passing, a third-generation Italian-Canadian contemplates a move to rural Italy. Wrestling with his family's past and his own future, time seems to fold in on itself as the patterns of history return.

***Your Father Was Born 100 Years Old, and So Was the Nakba* (7 min), co-presented with Deeply Rooted**

Directed by: Razan AlSalah

Country: Canada

A grandmother returns to her hometown Haifa through Google Streetview, today, the only way Palestinian refugees can see Palestine.

Brother's Horn (20 min)

Directed by Majid Asadi

Country: Iran

The rule of the game is that the big brother always wins, Except once. The younger brother should rebel.

Intermission

Chops (2 min)

Directed by: John Dawson

Country: USA

Chops is a film of moving abstract images created by painting directly onto 16mm film stock. The film was made by Colorado artist and filmmaker John Dawson in 2024. It is paint with a pulse, abstraction that moves and comes alive. I am taking an old school technique and trying to do something modern and current with it. My films are all about the colors, motion and having fun!

Friend of the Drifting Light (29 min)

Directed by: Bob Kotyk

Country: Canada

A nameless narrator, new to Toronto, wanders the streets and reflects on the history and reality of the city, while wrestling with the demons of the past.

Beirooth: Busted (9 min)

Directed by: Yaan پ Kaaraajyan

Country: Iran

A man is watching Buster Keaton's *The Goat*. As he watches, sudden and jarring images disrupt the film, gradually overtaking it until they dominate the screen. Captivated, the man rises and approaches the screen, reaching out to touch it. At that moment, the boundary between images and reality blurs, and space-time shifts to Beirut, moments before the catastrophic explosion. Following the explosion, we see the man walking through the ruins of a devastated mansion.

It Feels Like Canada is Taking My Family Hostage (13 min)

Directed by Ezequiel Garcia Tarrero

Country: Canada

An essay film about a girl who goes through life wondering about her position in Canada.