

Experiments in Political Space

The 3rd Annual Festival of Cinematic & Audio Visual Experimentation (CAVE3)

Cellular Cinema

Bryant Lake Bowl Theater

3pm, January 5, 2019

An allegorical ethnographic film in the Chiapas, an experimental travelogue about Southeast Asian immigrants in St. Paul, Minnesota, a poetic memoir about losing homes in Miami, Florida, a short on billboard design for commercial and right-to-life advertising, and an experimental documentary featuring refugees living in Nashville, Tennessee, this program, curated by Jonathan Rattner, presents work by filmmakers seeking to balance formal and poetic qualities while exploring how to make meaningful work in our current political space. This program includes both rough drafts and completed works.

Program: 57 minutes total

Robin Starbuck

The Stags Mirror

Length of Work: 20 minutes

Synopsis: Legend has it that an extraordinary event occurred in the late 19th century in a native village of the southern Mexican highlands. A community of deeply oppressed people rose up in revolt and claimed a Christ child from their own ranks. Filmed in Chiapas Mexico, *'The Stag's Mirror'* is an allegorical response to this intricate story described in Rosario Castellano's novel, *The Book of Lamentations*.

Jonathan Johnson

River Ghosts

5 minutes

Synopsis: In this experimental travelogue, images, shadows and memories are used to follow traces of migration through the forests and cities of Southeast Asia. Loosely inspired by the informal storytelling sessions between recent Southeast Asian immigrants that took place in my mother's beauty shop in the 80's and 90's in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Lisa Danker

Foreclosed Home Movie

8 min

Synopsis: A memoir of losing a home in 1930, in Miami, becomes the sister tale to a foreclosure in 2013. Unable to accept the loss of her foreclosed home, the filmmaker's mother recounts its rooms and features. Photographs and abstractly animated details of the house and its furniture—made from linoleum blocks printed directly onto 16mm film—alternate with the memoir of the 1920s, evoking the cyclical nature both of economic booms (and busts) and of trauma.

Stephen Crompton

Highway Semiotics

4 minutes

Synopsis: An outdoor advertising specialist offers insights into the industry and discusses the effectiveness of billboards as a promotional medium for commercial, as well as political and religious, messaging.

Jonathan Rattner

Southern Refuge

Length of Work: 20 minutes

Synopsis: *Southern Refuge*, currently in production, is an experimental observational film that portrays the daily lives of refugees in Nashville, TN, and their experiences of resettlement. Shot on 16mm film and video, the final work will include a variety of filmic techniques – participatory filmmaking, observational and diaristic footage, black-and-white film stock and color video, non-sync sound design, and collage editing – in an effort to convey the complicated and multilayered social, emotional, mental, and sensory experiences of the men, women, and children living in Nashville as refugees.