

## **Gravitational Lensing: Feminist Film Dialogues**

### **Program 13: Memory, Archives & Reclaiming History**

#### **Shapeshifters Cinema, March 6, 2026**

#### ***Dominion* by Bea Mariano, 2023, DV, 7 mins**

Landscapes, things, men, women and children taken by an "evil eye" more than a century ago haunt the present in this jagged reverie. A persona voicelessly narrates, via captions, going through colonial photographs, digresses to eating fruit and entering a cave on a tropical vacation island.

#### ***The Letter From Tomorrow* by Nataliya Bek-Gergard, 2023, 16mm shown on DV, 6 mins**

This film is a dedication to all victims of totalitarian regimes. Can a single image tell a story of the invisible thread that interweaves past and present tragedies together? The film was my personal portal to my great-grandma Feodosia, my ancestors and time as a whole. Bridging five generations and more than a century, it created a new family archive of light and shadows on 16mm film.

#### ***Agua y mas agua* by Francesca Svampa, 2022, double-8mm shown on DV, 6 mins**

A look toward Barcelona, after some years of living abroad, from the director's perspective, as a migrant and as a woman. A dreamlike portrait of the city shot in 8mm, mingles with an autobiographical collage of micro-memories touching collective themes like migration, gentrification, relationships. The act of making this film, involving the haphazardous double exposure and the fragility of the physical film itself, becomes a metaphor for the perpetual tension between memory and oblivion.

#### ***Why some people be mad at me sometimes* by mahlet cuff, 2024, DV, 3 mins**

A meditation on the misappropriation of Dancehall music while using Black Feminist Citational praxis.

#### ***Slow wave* by Pooja Kadam, 2023, DV, 9.5 mins**

Born out of grief and loss, this essayist piece attempts at recalling memory both conscious and subconscious, non-linearly. The narrative is fragmented and edited to reflect the stream of consciousness—woven together to give the illusion of linearity.

#### ***Crow Requiem* by Cauleen Smith, 2015, DV, 11 mins.**

"Crows are well known for their mythological reputation as tricksters and harbingers of death, but less for the reality that they are creatures of remarkable intelligence who lead complex social lives. Smith became fascinated by these misunderstood animals when she noticed the massive flock of crows roosting outside her bedroom window during her artist residency at Light Work. She learned that the native population of crows circulates between Syracuse and nearby Auburn, NY; and that this migration is partly in response to harassment and, at times, state-sanctioned violence at the hands of a human population who view them as a nuisance. Smith interweaves the figure of the crow through the histories of these two cities, both of which were key stations on the Underground Railroad and innovators in early cinematic and 3D optical technologies. *Crow Requiem* connects this history to recent and ongoing violence against

