Gravitational Lensing: Feminist Film Dialogues

Program 7: Everyday Sublime

Shapeshifters Cinema, April 19, 2025

Miss Jesus Fries on Grill by Dorothy Wiley, 1973, 16mm film, 12:00 mins

A mysterious, striking evocation of pain and the short-circuiting sensations of living in this predicament of death.

Freya by Elisa Gonzalez, 2022, DV, 21:00 mins

Tethering falconry and motherhood, *Freya* weaves together themes of death and magic, where seasons re-arrange, just as myth and memory are re-cast through a childhood spell.

Ningun Lugar Para Morir by Andrea Novoa, 2019, 16mm shown on DV, 14:45 mins

Ningun Lugar Para Morir begins from an unexpected change of place. Everyday images in a territory with memories of war in southern Chile coexist with those of a childbirth. Light and darkness meet in colors, blacks and whites. The film portrays a forest, a death, and glimmers of light.

* * * INTERMISSION * * *

Maternal Filigree by Sandra Davis, 1980, 16mm film, 18:00 mins

Maternal Filigree began as an exploration of life in the female body, and led me astray. The film finally led me back to the original question. (Sandra Davis)

Blue Hour by J.D. Shields, 2023, DV, 15:00 mins

Two personal journeys intersect when a struggling young photographer is hired for a cheap last minute portrait gig. The unfolding photo session, while transient, leaves an indelible mark on both women.

An Odd Pair by Melissa Friedling, 2021, 16mm & 8mm shown on DV, 29:44 mins

Exploring human/non-human entanglements and (odd) kinships spawned in assisted reproductive technologies, the film tracks a search for the origin of a fugitive pair of birds that landed one day on the filmmaker's fire escape while investigating the circumstances of her own twin pregnancy. The paired studies riff on doubling puns and human/bird analogies while troubling binary formulations that differentially privilege paired concepts like culture/nature, human/animal, intention/accident, success/failure.

Gravitational Lensing: Feminist Film Dialogues is dedicated to exploring the visions, voices, concerns and lineage of women, non-binary, genderqueer and trans filmmakers through public film screenings, workshops, conversations and presentations.

Curators: Amy Reid and Kathleen Quillian

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Sponsored by Southern Exposure's Alternative Exposure grant funding.

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