

AUG 17-20, 2023

diffusion

About

Since 2016, re:assemblage collective has been committed to championing underrepresented voices and perspectives through public film/video screenings. We are itinerant and intentional. We are "reassembling" assumptions about artist film/video practices: who is shown and the forms of works championed. The re:assemblage collective was co-instigated by Christina Battle and Scott Miller Berry and currently comprises Faraz Anoushahpour with Miller Berry and calls Tkaronto (Toronto) home.

credits

Programming: Faraz Anoushahpour, Daphne Xu, Scott Miller Berry  
Graphic design: Bidoun Studio / Nour Bishouty  
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Contact

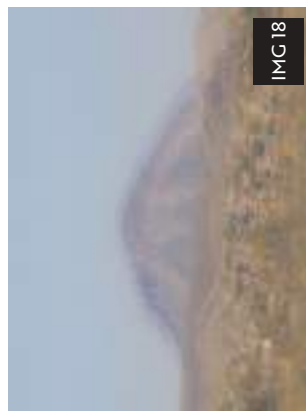
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Thank you

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Special thanks

Emily Muir (Canada Council for the Arts), Ana Barajas (YYZ Artists Outlet), Maria Alejandra Cortes (401 Richmond), Ryan Ferko, Parastoo Anoushahpour, Ami Xherro, Jesse Cumming, Chris Gehman, venue team, artists and audiences!



re:assemblage collective



diffusion



Thursday, August 17, 2023

- 1 → 9PM  
I Created a Memory Torch  
401 Richmond Courtyard  
401 Richmond St W., Tkaronto  
Total runtime: 73 min
- *Parasite Family*  
Prapat Jiwangsan: 2021, 5 minutes, Thailand, HD Video
- *Life Force*  
Cherry Nin: 2023, 15 minutes, USA, HD Video
- *Sight Leak*  
Peng Zuciang: 2022, 12 minutes, China, 16mm film to HD Video
- *Qualities of Life: Living in the Radiant Cold*  
James Richards: 2022, 17 minutes, UK, HD Video
- *Times a God Zillion*  
Natasha Beste: 2020, 10 minutes, USA, HD Video
- *Birds Don't Look Through the Windows*  
Eirini Tampasouli: 2023, 7 minutes, Greece, HD Video
- *Bóng Xà Bông (Soapy Faggy)*  
Nguyễn Anh Tú Phạm: 2022, 7 minutes, Vietnam, HD Video

Friday, August 18, 2023

- 2 → 6PM  
Diaries of Divided Selves  
YYZ Artists' Outlet  
401 Richmond St W., Tkaronto  
Ghost Dance / Total runtime: 73 min
- *The Wind Carries Us Home*  
Udval Altangerel: 2022, 11 minutes, Mongolia/USA, HD Video
- *Zurvan, Diary of a Divided Self*  
Nazgol Kashani: 2023, 20 minutes, Iran, HD Video
- *It'll Be Easier to Find Next Time*  
Shu Pi 皮溯: 2023, 12 minutes, China/Canada, HD Video
- *Three Disappearances and a Song*  
Nadia Ghanem: 2021, 29 minutes, Egypt, HD Video
- 3 → 9PM  
The Works of Morgan Quaintance  
401 Richmond Courtyard  
401 Richmond St W., Tkaronto  
Morgan Quaintance / Total runtime: 71 minutes
- *RIP*  
2022, 3 minutes, UK, HD Video
- *Surviving You, Always*  
2020, 18 minutes, UK, HD Video
- *South*  
2020, 28 minutes, UK/USA, HD Video
- *Repetitions*  
2022, 22 minutes, UK, 16mm film on HD Video

Saturday, August 19, 2023

- 4 → 4PM  
YYZ Artists' Outlet  
401 Richmond St W., Tkaronto  
Total runtime: 67 minutes
- *Man sa yay (I, Your Mother) (Ich, deine Mutter)*  
Safi Faye: 1980, 60 minutes, Germany/Senegal, 16mm film on HD Video
- *Failed Calendars*  
Mahshid Mahboubifar: 2022, 7 minutes, Germany, HD Video
- 5 → 6PM  
Psychic Shapes, Lingering Marks  
YYZ Artists' Outlet  
401 Richmond St W., Tkaronto  
Total runtime: 57 minutes
- *Language Unknown*  
Janelle VanderKelen: 2022, 6 minutes, USA, 16mm film on HD Video
- *Corrientes Mercuriales (Mercurial Currents)*  
Carolina Fusilier: 20 minutes, Argentina/ Mexico, HD Video
- *with a salt water pool*  
Yuula Benivolski: 2023, 11 minutes, Canada, 16mm film on HD Video
- *La Plage aux Êtres (The Beach of Beings)*  
Kendra McLaughlin: 2021, 20 minutes, Canada/France, HD Video, BW, Sound
- *Recortes*  
Kimberly Forero-Arnias: 2023, 10 minutes, USA, 16mm film on HD Video
- 6 → 9PM  
401 Richmond Courtyard  
401 Richmond St W., Tkaronto
- *This Cave is Very Large*  
Sabrina Zhao: 2022, Japan/Canada, 79 minutes, HD Video

Sunday, August 20, 2023

- 7 → 4PM  
YYZ Artists' Outlet  
401 Richmond St W., Tkaronto
- *Sada [regroup]*  
Sajjad Abbas, Ali Eyal, Sarah Munaf, Rijin Sahakian, Bassim Al Shaker: 2022, Iraq, 54 minutes, HD Video
- 8 → 6PM  
YYZ Artists' Outlet  
401 Richmond St W., Tkaronto  
Diaries of Divided Selves / Total runtime: 72 min
- *Mayday! May day! Mayday!*  
Yonri Soesanto Revolt: Indonesia, 66 minutes, 2022, HD Video
- 9 → 9PM  
Ghost Dance  
401 Richmond Courtyard  
401 Richmond St W., Tkaronto
- *Sedap Malam (Agave Amica)*  
Gembong Nusantara: 2022, 15 minutes, Indonesia, HD Video
- *Cortar un Arbol en Luna Verde (To Cut a Tree on a Green Moon)*  
Felipe Esparza Pérez: 2021, 8 minutes, Peru/France, HD Video
- *An Asian Ghost Story*  
Bo Wang: 2023, 37 minutes, Hong Kong/Netherlands, 16mm film and SD Video on HD Video
- *Spoils*  
Luciana Decker: 2023, 7 minutes, Bolivia/USA, 16mm film on HD Video
- *Laugh and Die*  
Jonathan Jose Zamora Olarte: 2017, 5 minutes, Philippines, HD Video





**1**  
**Thursday, August 17, 2023 ▶ 9PM**  
**401 Richmond Courtyard**  
 401 Richmond St W., Tkaronto

**I Created a Memory Torch**

Archives of daily life are simultaneously tangible and fleeting. The seven films in our opening program each unfold a memory palace of the familial, familiar and outré. Mysterious communications and missed opportunities. Objects found and objects fleeting. The unknown and the intimate meld through pasts, presents and futures.

• **Parasite Family**  
 Propat Jiwarangsan

2021, 5 minutes, Thailand, HD Video

Negatives found at an out-of-business film lab are manipulated through analogue and digital means, producing an abstract sequence suggestive of monstrous figures of wealth and power. (SGIFF)

• **Life Force**  
 Cherry Nin

2023, 15 minutes, USA, HD Video

Moments before the destruction of an urban green space, a cast of isolated characters navigate crumbling city landscapes while attempting communication via glitching walkie talkies. (MUBI)

• **Sight Leak**  
 Peng Zuqiang

2022, 12 minutes, China, 16mm film to HD Video

When Roland Barthes visited China in 1973, he jotted down some notes that would become part of his *Travels in China*, an underplot of desire in his imagination of the country. Barthes' unsettling judgments about China are refracted in Peng Zuqiang's work as fragments of dialogues on class and looking, responding to the reflections on the same matters elicited alongside Barthes' sense of eroticism.

• **Qualities of Life: Living in the Radiant Cold**  
 James Richards

2022, 17 minutes, UK, HD Video

*Living in the Radiant Cold* is a descent to a maelstrom of images and objects, photos documenting the impact of radiation on his body, to Richards' own collection of erotic objects, drugs and ephemera that swim in a dark techno-pharmacological miasma. (NYFF)

• **Times a God Zillion**  
 Natasha Beste

2020, 10 minutes, USA, HD Video

A short film surrounding messages from the artist's mom from the after-life, heroic dosage medicine rituals, and clearing spaces of shame, guilt, pain, and grief. What do you really want to keep in your house? Only keep what you really, really want. Clear the rest out.

• **Birds Don't Look Through the Windows**  
 Iirini Tampasouli

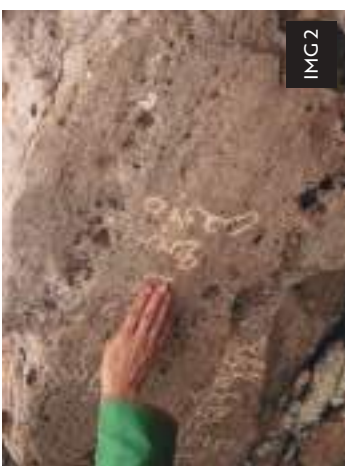
2023, 7 minutes, Greece, HD Video

If I was a bird, I would look through the windows of flats all the time. But they choose not to do so. A film partly created in the Academy of JI.hlava International Documentary Film Festival.

• **Bóng Xà Bông (Soapy Faggy)**  
 Nguyễn Anh Tú Phạm

2022, 7 minutes, Vietnam, HD Video

A gay superhero experiments with his first queer memory while navigating rumours that a "hallitosis bomb" is making queerness contagious in Vietnam.



**2**  
**Friday, August 18, 2023**  
**▶ 6PM**  
**YYZ Artists' Outlet**  
 401 Richmond St W., Tkaronto

**Diaries of Divided Selves**

"The most painful state of being is remembering the future, particularly the one you'll never have." — Søren Kierkegaard

From unearthing and recontextualizing family archives to connecting with lineal burial grounds, the four films in this program touch upon the ephemeral states of being and nothingness as foregrounded through sites and sights of recorded life and death and the ties that bind along the way.

• **The Wind Carries Us Home**  
 Udval Altangerel

2022, 11 minutes, Mongolia/USA, HD Video

Through rituals of birth and death, the filmmaker and her family reconnect with their ancestral land in the Gobi Desert.

• **Zurvan, Diary of a Divided Self**  
 Naggol Kashani

2023, 20 minutes, Iran, HD Video

In 2007, Morad, a farmer and son of a former feudal lord in central Iran received a camera for his 50th birthday. This film is a selection of images captured exclusively by Morad between 2007 and 2009. This is a diary of a divided self.

• **It'll Be Easier to Find Next Time**  
 Shu Pi 皮澍

2023, 12 minutes, China/Canada, HD Video

*It'll be Easier to Find Next Time* is a film on traditional ancestral worship in rural China and North American suburban life and death. The footage is a collection of archived home videos, old social media posts and rescued footage from a trip to the filmmaker's ancestral village in Hunan province, China.

• **Three Disappearances and a Song**  
 Nadia Ghanem

2021, 29 minutes, Egypt, HD Video

As the grandfather's presence in Egypt becomes increasingly problematic, the mother decides never to touch a camera again. At the same time, the father becomes obsessively convinced of his own disappearance.

**3**  
**Friday, August 18, 2023 ▶ 9 PM**  
**401 Richmond Courtyard**  
 401 Richmond St W., Tkaronto



**The Works of Morgan Quaintance**

Working across a multitude of mediums, temporalities, and territories, from archival, autobiographical, historical narratives, the moving image works of London-based artist and writer Morgan Quaintance are portals into layered and affective personal and collective microcosms.

• **RIP**

2022, 3 minutes, UK, HD Video

RIP is part of a series of 'miniature' and improvisatory films that explore a single formal or conceptual idea.

• **Surviving You, Always**

2020, 18 minutes, UK, HD Video

The transcendental promise of psychedelic drugs versus a concrete and violent experience of metropolitan living. These two opposing realities form the backdrop for an adolescent encounter told through still images and written narration.

• **South**

2020, 28 minutes, UK/USA, HD Video

Taking two anti-racist and anti-authoritarian liberation movements in South London and Chicago's South Side as a point of departure, *South* presents an expressionistic investigation of the power of individual and collective voice. Interlinked with Morgan Quaintance's own biography (time spent living in both London and Chicago), the film also considers questions of mortality and the will to transcend a world typified by concrete relations.

• **Repetitions**

2022, 22 minutes, UK, 16mm film on HD Video

An exploration of recursive patterns, a series of repeated sequences, flickering images and looping sounds. On the surface, *Repetitions* concentrates on inducing retinal excitement and states of anticipation, but telephone messages and speech provide a through line that speaks to physical labor, industrial work and fragile bodies.

**4**  
**Saturday, August 19, 2023 ▶ 4PM**  
**YYZ Artists' Outlet**  
 401 Richmond St W., Tkaronto



• **Man sa yay (I, Your Mother) (Ich, deine Mutter)**  
 Safi Faye

1980, 60 minutes, Germany/Senegal, 16mm film on HD Video

By the time she produced *Man sa yay (I, Your Mother)* for German television in 1980, Senegalese auteur Safi Faye had already honed her skills through an impressive suite of projects that reflect on life in her home nation.

Effortlessly fluid in style, weaving together fiction, non-fiction, the essayistic and the epistolary, the film follows Moussa, a young student at Berlin's Technische Universität. While he does connect with friends and lovers, he is primarily seen alone, working odd jobs, cooking or tidying his apartment. At home is where he reads the letters from family members and his partner in Senegal which structure the film.

At once the centre of the film and a conduit for other lived experiences, Moussa serves to reflect and refract two distinct constellations of social connections. We learn of his loved ones in Senegal (including their wish lists of consumer goods from Europe). Such experiences and desires are mirrored by the sequences of his friends, other West African expatriates making due by hawking "African artifacts" on the street. In each case, we hear the repeated question, laden with longing in some cases, pitched as thinly veiled microaggression elsewhere: "When will you return?" (Berlinale)

Preceded by:

• **Failed Calendars**

Mahshid Mahboubifar

2022, 7 minutes, Germany, HD Video

*Failed Calendars* is an observation and reflection on workers' relationships, workshops, and mass production of photoproducts. It is an experimental short film from the perspective of an art student working in one of the leading mass photo laboratories in Germany. The film is made of residues of faulty photographs collected from the laboratory.



**5**  
**Saturday, August 19, 2023**  
**▶ 6PM**  
**YYZ Artists' Outlet**  
 401 Richmond St W., Tkaronto

**Psychic Shapes, Lingering Marks**

A collective teardrop, a dislocated eyeball, traces of sentience in objects near and far. The five films in this program plumb the materiality and architecture of memory and imagination, and inquire beyond a human scale of time.

• **Language Unknown**

Janelle VanderKelen

2022, 6 minutes, USA, 16mm film on HD Video

This film embraces plant sentience as fact and speculates how beings of the vegetal variety might approach interspecies communication with humans. Leaves, mycelium, and roots playfully examine how humans experience the world, and the (supposedly) silent watchers consider what language the human might possibly understand.

• **Corrientes Mercuriales (Mercurial Currents)**

Carolina Fusilier

2023, 20 minutes, Argentina/Mexico, HD Video

Mercurial Currents begins with the search for a photograph of the artist's father in 1996. A network of sounds composed of human and automated voices give life to stories about spaces that are now abandoned due to enormous technological transitions, the artist's family history, and her affective relationships with these spaces.

• **with a salt water pool**

Yuula Beniuolski

2023, 11 minutes, Canada, 16mm film on HD Video

It's 2003, and a young woman in Toronto shares a one-bedroom luxury condo with an older, married couple. She is rich and bored; her husband is a recovering alcoholic. At first, I slept on the black leather couch, but somewhere towards the end, the three of us shared the big bed.

• **La Plage aux Êtres (The Beach of Beings)**

Kendra McLaughlin

2021, 20 minutes, Canada/France, HD Video, BW, Sound

*La Plage aux Êtres* is a meditation on the shared fragility of organic and digital material. In the dark, a team of paleontologists digitizes the traces of a creature that they hope to identify. Among them, a researcher mourns a loved one touched by disease. Cloaked in an atmosphere of uncertainty and inquiry, the film parallels the analysis of these two bodies: one from 150 million years ago, the other from the generation just before.

• **Recortes**

Kimberly Forero-Arnias

2023, 10 minutes, USA, 16mm film on HD Video

Field journal entries, both mine and of others, are ground together to explore what is filtered and what remains as families of fauna and flora move from one environment to another.

**6**  
**Saturday, August 19, 2023 ▶ 9PM**  
**401 Richmond Courtyard**  
 401 Richmond St W., Tkaronto

• **This Cave is Very Large**  
 Sabrina Zhao

2022, Japan/Canada, 79 minutes, HD Video

This cave is very large. About twenty metres in width, fifty metres in height, and some two hundred metres in length. Inside a stream running through, its interiors decked with beautiful stalactites and stalagmites. In



addition, there are several chambers inside, the most famous of which is the Tham Phi Man which is as huge as a hall and in which a prehistoric wood coffin was found.

*This Cave is Very Large* is the second feature by Sabrina Zhao following her debut *The Good Woman of Sichuan* 四川好女人, continuing her exploration of the boundary between fiction and reality as a mysterious space where private and collective memories congeal.

**7**  
**Sunday, August 20, 2023 ▶ 4PM**  
**YYZ Artists' Outlet**  
 401 Richmond St W., Tkaronto



• **Sada [regroup]**

Sajjad Abbas, Ali Eyal, Sarah Munaf, Rijin Sahakian, Bassim Al Shaker

2022, Iraq, 54 minutes, HD Video

Commissioned by documenta fifteen.

From 2011-2015, Sada, an online and in person ad hoc art school, was set up in Baghdad to support artists working through the aftermath of US-led invasion and occupation. Nearly a decade later, former artists of Sada came together again, reflecting on their creative and disparate lives since that time. Artists Sajjad Abbas, Bassim Al Shaker, Ali Eyal, Sarah Munaf, and Rijin Sahakian each created video works, comprising one experimental, interconnected anthology film on individual and collective art practice in a protracted era of international warfare.

Using street footage, narrative, and documentary, Sajjad Abbas's *Water of Life* tracks its filmmakers' urge to forge protest that is bigger than himself, following monumental artwork, migration, and the return to place and protest. In Ali Eyal's *The Blue Ink Pocket*, a mysterious letter from an artist is authored to communicate the futility of describing violence in full, its scattering of meaning, and the power it derives through its lesser understood perpetrators and permutations. In *Journey Inside a City*, shot in Iraq, Turkey, and Ukraine, Sarah Munaf layers her experience as a sculptor and as part of a threatened community of artists and residents in Baghdad, and, later, as a refugee finding her way in coastal Turkey as her parents navigate life in Ukraine. In *Barbershop*, stop-motion animation, cutout drawings, and first-peverson storytelling give shape to the artist Bassim Al Shaker's memory of his own kidnapping and its impact on his personal and creative life in the years that followed. Taking moments from popular and political culture during the 1991 Iraq war and the second invasion of Iraq, Rijin Sahakian's *Anthem* argues against the use of multinational warfare in its varying methodologies—from technology to the arts—to extinguish life. (e-flux)

**8**  
**Sunday, August 20, 2023**  
**▶ 6PM**  
**YYZ Artists' Outlet**  
 401 Richmond St W., Tkaronto



• **Mayday! May day! Mayday!**

Yonri Soesanto Revolt

Indonesia, 66 minutes, 2022, HD Video

In early 2017, the mining corporation 'Freeport Indonesia' laid off several thousand workers from its Grasberg copper mine in Mimika Regency, Indonesia. The miners demonstrated on May Day, inaugurating what would become one of the longest strikes of the 21st century, continuing for over five years. Despite being nationalized in 2018, the company has refused to recognize the strike, denying workers access to public healthcare and thus causing the death of 97 people.

Yonri Revolt's politically committed documentary *Mayday! May day! Mayday!* is a sincere record of the strike told from the point of view of its participants. Combining reportage, talking-head interviews and archival footage, the filmmaker crafts a lyrical portrait of lives in suspension. We see the workers—mostly ethnic Papuans—take up alternate employment to make ends meet, even as they keep up the strike in the face of corporate indifference and police clampdown. (Srikanth Srinivasan)

**9**  
**Sunday, August 20, 2023**  
**▶ 9PM**  
**401 Richmond Courtyard**  
 401 Richmond St W., Tkaronto



**Ghost Dance**

The five films in Ghost Dance investigate ghosts both omnipresent and in/visible. From the everyday life of a burial ground and a banana plantation to the lasting phantoms of colonialism, each work in our closing program unearths and speaks on behalf of that which cannot be spoken.

• **Sedap Malam (Agave Amica)**  
 Gembong Nusanlara

2022, 15 minutes, Indonesia, HD Video

Immense funerals take place at once, leaving behind exhausted gravediggers and mourning families. Some flowers are brought to the graves to honour the dead.

• **Cortar un Arbol en Luna Verde (To Cut a Tree on a Green Moon)**

Felipe Esparga Pérez

2021, 8 minutes, Peru/France, HD Video

From the diary of Christopher Columbus, 15 October 1942: "These islands are very green and fertile and have very sweet airs, and there may be many things that I do not know, because I do not want to stop to go through many islands to find gold." They had only been on land for four days. The gold did not exist. It is only possible to suppose the sweetness of the air.

• **An Asian Ghost Story**

Bo Wang

2023, 37 minutes, Hong Kong/Netherlands, 16mm film and SD Video on HD Video

A cinematic and conceptually inventive film that explores the haunting memories of Asia's late 20th-century modernization through the large-scale export of wigs during the Cold War. Yet, in every wig resides a ghost from the imperial past. (CPH.DOX)

• **Spoils**

Luciana Decker

2023, 7 minutes, Bolivia/USA, 16mm film on HD Video

"Here between us, I want you to know the truth. There is in my sad loneliness desire to scream, run away, and ask what has happened to your life tuturururu." A collection of spring colours, food spoils, spoils of war, emptied creatures, and fossils. In-camera edit, a diary-like rhythm of first impressions of the US without wanting to waste film.

• **Laugh and Die**

Jonathan Jose Zamora Olarte

2017, 5 minutes, Philippines, HD Video

Found footage of the Lapanday farmers singing *I Want to Break Free* by Queen. Edited with a Marxist vaporwave aesthetic.

**Image Captions**

IMG 1: Qualities of Life: Living in the Radiant Cold (2022), James Richards, film still.

IMG 2: The Wind Carries Us Home (2022), Udval Altangerel, film still.

IMG 3: Repetitions (2022), Morgan Quaintance, film still.

IMG 4: Man sa yay (I, Your Mother) (1980) Safi Faye, film still.

IMG 5: Recortes (2023), Kimberly Forero-Arnias, film still.

IMG 6: This Cave is Very Large (2022), Sabrina Zhao, film still.

IMG 7: Sada [regroup] (2022) Sajjad Abbas, Ali Eyal, Sarah Munaf, Rijin Sahakian, Bassim Al Shaker, film still.

IMG 8: Mayday! May day! Mayday! (2022) Yonri Soesanto Revolt, film still.

IMG 9: An Asian Ghost Story (2023), Bo Wang, film still.

**Image Captions (Back Side)**

IMG 10: The Wind Carries Us Home (2022), Udval Altangerel, film still.

IMG 11: RIP (2022), Morgan Quaintance, film still.

IMG 12: Sight Leak (2022), Peng Zuqiang, film still.

IMG 13: Language Unknown (2022), Janelle VanderKelen, film still.

IMG 14: with a salt water pool (2023), Yuula Beniuolski, film still.

IMG 15: La Plage aux êtres (The Beach of Beings)(2021), Kendra McLaughlin, film still.

IMG 16: Bóng Xà Bông (Soapy Faggy) (2022), Nguyễn Anh Tú Phạm, film still.

IMG 17: South (2020), Morgan Quaintance, film still.

IMG 18: Zurvan, Diary of a Divided Self (2023), Naggol Kashani, film still.