

AUGUST 08 - 11 2024



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 coinstigated by Christina Baffle 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

Operations: Tram Nghiem

Graphic design: Bidoun Studio

Technician/projectionist: Alexi Manis

Venue lead: V. Vallières

Tech providers: Charles Street Video, the Images Festival, the Commons

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Thank you

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Special thanks

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diffusion



IMG 1

Thursday, August 08, 2024 ▶ 9PM
401 Richmond Courtyard

401 Richmond St W. Tkaronto
 Total runtime: 61 min

DIFFUSION 1: THREE TURNS

Moving through familial histories and domestic spaces both intimate and fleeting. The five films in our first program touch upon acts of witnessing, whether loss of domestic space, the death of a relative, the impact of natural disasters, or the revisiting of one's homeland. Each frame is a window into the past, present and future.

Holographic Will

Mike Stoltz
 2023, 5 min, USA, 16mm film

A domestic swirl filmed while the building was being sold. How much longer can we afford to stay? A kaleidoscopic portrait of destabilization during the struggle to stay in a rent-controlled apartment amidst an affordable housing crisis.

A Hail Mary

Faisal Karadsheh
 2023, 10 min, Jordan/Canada, HD Video

A Hail Mary is an exploration of the process of processing. On April 23, 2018, Toronto witnessed one of Canada's deadliest mass murder attacks. The widely reported incident is now famously known as the Toronto Van Attack. The perpetrator's aim was to be notorious; internationally visible. Sadly, my grandfather, who was visiting my newly immigrated mother, became one of the victims who lost their lives that day, inadvertently caught in this web of (in)visibility.

No Door, One Window, Only Light

Chris Zhongtian Yuan
 2023, 12 min, China/UK, 16mm film to HD Video

Following the recent death of L, an artist friend from home, who allegedly suffered from schizophrenia for more than 15 years, the artist talks to L through an imagined letter exchange, where they confront each other on notions of home, vulnerability, resistance, memory, and fraught relations.

I Am Also Part of the Three Turns

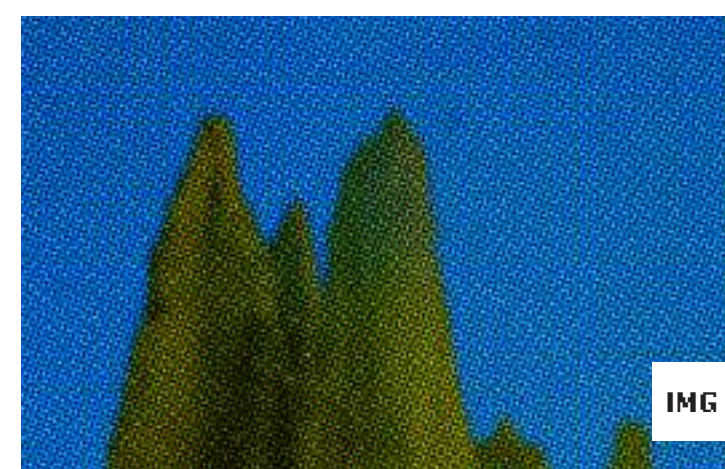
Monica Maria Moraru
 2024, 15 min, Romania/Canada, HD Video

Relying on oral and fragmentary histories, I Am Also Part of the Three Turns traces the effects of a destructive earthquake in Bucharest and a concurrent flood it caused in a small town in Buzau. Employing allegory as narrator, the film sketches a series of political congruences throughout a patchwork of intertwined landscapes, teasing out a temporally irresolute past that defies the linear cause-and-effect of both environmental disaster and authoritarian political repression.

avant seriana (before seriana)

Samy Benammar
 2024, 19 min, Algeria/Canada, Super 8 to HD Video

avant seriana is an essay film shot on Super 8mm film in the Aurès region of Algeria. Observing the landscapes of my native land, I realize that they are divided into several images and times. Two different countries are formed: the Algeria of the mountains and an imaginary one born of the tales read in colonial archives. My gaze no longer belongs to the places where I was hoping to return to my roots. -S.B.



IMG 2

Friday 09 August 2024 ▶ 6 PM
Bachir / Yerex Screening Room

452-401 Richmond St W. Tkaronto
 Total runtime: 70 min

DIFFUSION 2: LIKE GRIEVING AN EGG

"There was a profound sadness that felt so familiar, like grieving an egg that was cracked abruptly open, lost." -T.W.Y

The four films in this program posit personal reflections of grief, taking us from innervisions to outer worlds of our ultimately ephemeral existences.

eggshells

Teo Wey Yinn
 2023, 8 min, Malaysia, HD Video

eggshells is an audiovisual diary pieced by phone videos taken out of my obsession with the window view in my newly rented apartment, woven together with analog photos documenting the moments of my parents moving out of our old rented house after I left home. The work mirrors the ruins of nature and the ruins of my family home, exploring the duality and coexistence of living and decay. -T.W.Y

What Humans See as Blood, Jaguars See as Chicha

Luciana Decker Orozco
 2023, 29 min, Bolivia, 16mm film to HD Video

Water-like crystals, spirited ruminants, and haunted lakes. A meal is prepared, animals graze, wind moves through potato flowers. Land, lore and history conflate, confuse and constellate. Meanwhile: musicians are in the street, ancient objects are unearthed, and small plans are made.

How to Run a Tropline

Carl Elsaesser
 2024, 18 min, USA, 16mm film and HD Video

What falls to men, what falls from men.

Despite the didactic promise of its title, Carl Elsaesser's new film will not teach you how to complete this obscure action. The phrase itself, at once ridiculous and noble, is pleasure enough. Another pleasure: it isn't about anything, though it's of quite a lot. Of fathers (who might teach one how to run a tropline, or sit on a porch, or disappear); of other films (particularly a pair of adopted fathers Michael Snow and William E. Jones); of at least two kinds of cruising; of the winter in Maine and the streets in New York and the many kinds of light to be found in and around both. --Phil Coldiron

Flash, Track

Yuqian Li
 2024, 15 min, Cambodia, HD Video

The film is a record of the artist's experience in Cambodia, ruminating on the relationship between language, images, and the collective process of rebuilding memory.



IMG 3

Friday, August 09, 2024 ▶ 9PM
401 Richmond Courtyard

401 Richmond St W. Tkaronto
 Total runtime: 83 min

DIFFUSION 3: CHE APPLEWHITE PRESENTS: INTERFERENCE

This program evidences essay filmmaking as a home for world-building relationships to personal and collective realities. Interference concentrates on works that rescript and expand documentary art's communicative conventions. The formal strategies in these works are material conversations between layered structures of feeling across time. I am enlivened by these citations, where linearly is lost and lineages are honoured to remix and revalue sites of being. Interference is dedicated to the movements of my families in and out of Canada; my grandfather's time studying in early sixties Ottawa and my cousins' present passage. -C.A.

** Read more in the program insert.

AFTERMATH @ FEMINE DESTRUCTION FIRST FRIDAY 6/6/14 PART 4

Ballroom Throwbacks TV (2014, 7 min)
 2014, 7 min, USA, HD Video

Ballroom Throwbacks is the official gateway to underground ballroom culture. Ballroom Throwbacks brings you closer to the pulsating beats, the fierce competitions, and the flamboyant displays. Join us to experience the real magic of the ballroom and understand why it continues to inspire and innovate across various art forms. Featuring Kelly Mizrahi and "MC Debra" Mizrahi.

A New England Document

Che Applewhite
 2020, 15 min, UK, HD Video

Using found footage with selected images and text from The Marshall Collection at Harvard University's Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, A New England Document reconstructs the genocidal impulses of two ethnographers' photographic encounters in the Kalahari Desert, Namibia, from the perspective of its suppressed stories. The filmmaker, a Black international student at Harvard, and their daughter, New-York-Times- bestselling writer Elizabeth Marshall Thomas, give voice in fragmentary counterpoint upon sounds of archival ghosts.

ED/HF

Renée Green
 2017, 33 min, USA, HD Video

ED/HF - Extraterritorial Durations/Harun Farocki in full - can be read as a combined portrait of Green herself and of Harun Farocki. The artist pays homage to the experimental filmmaker in a video edited to highlight matching imagery and visual echoes in the 'territories' explored in their respective lives and artistic endeavours. The film explores how personal experiences of migration, shifts, and negotiations between languages and places all affect ways of thinking and creating.

I AM THE WORLD

Che Applewhite
 2022, 9 min, UK, HD Video

I AM THE WORLD is a speculative documentary that explores how an archive of networked moving images, featuring famed ballroom hosts Selvin "MC Debra" Mizrahi and Kelly Gorgeous Gucci, enables worldly ways of seeing.

After...After... (Access)

Jordan Lord
 2018, 16 minutes, USA, HD Video

The film follows me, as I prepare for an open-heart surgery: watching medical imaging of my body with friends, revisiting a former lover, preparing for my mom to come to New York, documenting my family's arrival, and ultimately being admitted to the hospital. Alongside this footage, the film's narration considers the relationship between showing and telling; various dimensions of access; and how access is frequently considered only after the threat of liability, in the context of both filmmaking and disability. -J.L.

let me breathe

Che Applewhite
 2021, 3 min, UK, HD Video

let me breathe narrates the experiential archives of a Black mother whose father and son breathe once more through the young athletes she coaches at Normandy High School in St. Louis, Missouri.



IMG 4

Saturday, August 10, 2024 ▶ 6 PM
Bachir / Yerex Screening Room

452-401 Richmond St W. Tkaronto
 Total runtime: 113 min

* Guest curated by Kaleem Hawa

DIFFUSION 4: JOCELYNE SAAB + BASMA AL-SHARIF

Jocelyne Saab's challenging and complicated late film *Once Upon a Time in Beirut* (1995), attempts to make sense of Arab image-making after the formal conclusion of the Lebanese civil war. The screening is preceded by the Basma al-Sharif short *O, Persecuted* (2014), which is a recovery and adaptation of Kassem Hawal's *Our Small Houses* (1974), a resistance film that had been presumed to be lost. A discussion will follow, focused on both the strengths and limitations of Saab's film, critiques of its politics, and an assessment of its intervention into questions of spectacle and the image in Lebanon.

** Read the full essay in the program insert.

O, Persecuted

Basma al-Sharif
 2014, 12 minutes, Palestinian Territories/UK, HD Video

كان يا مكان بيروت (Il était une fois Beyrouth, histoire d'une star) (Once Upon A Time: Beirut, the History of a Star)

Jocelyne Saab
 1994, 101 minutes, Lebanon, 16mm film on HD Video

About the curator

Kaleem Hawa is a Palestinian writer and organizer. He has curated film programs with Anthology Film Archives (New York, NY), Light Industry (Brooklyn, NY) and Maysles Documentary Center (Harlem, NY).

This event is supported and co-presented by York University's Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies with funding support through a SSHRC Connection Grant.



IMG 5

Saturday, August 10, 2024 ▶ 9PM
401 Richmond Courtyard

401 Richmond St W. Tkaronto
 Total runtime: 56 min

DIFFUSION 5: WELCOME HOME

A series of hauntings and open invitations. The four films in the program guide us through the enmeshment of ghostly figures and absent histories that defy fact and fiction, into lingering presences and whispers that manifest themselves on the skin of bodies, places and the screen.

Seja Bem-Vindo ao Lar (Welcome Home)

Leonardo Pironi
 2023, 4 minutes, USA, 16mm film to HD Video

This film is an invitation for a new kind of horror film. It looks into a familiar haunted house, or, rather, a constructed environment haunted by its creator's ability to remain omnipresent. Designed with dubious goals, this room, or startup screen, is constructed to welcome you to the new frontier of the digital era.

Confessional

Marlow Magdalene
 2024, 7 minutes, USA, 16mm film to HD Video

In Confessional, a haunting emerges from the cellar of an old church on 1100 California St.

Vampires, It's Nothing to Laugh at

Kinga Michalska
 2023, 36 minutes, Canada, HD Video

In the 1960s, an anthropologist thinks he has discovered the existence of a vampire woman in a Kashub community in Wilno, Ontario. Kinga Michalska returns to the village still recovering from the trauma of this coverage, using a skillful blend of archival footage and performance to question the relationship between lived reality and scientific "truth."

Concrete Resources (Thank you for being a company of images)

Emir West

2024, 9 minutes, US/Mexico/Portugal, 16mm film to HD Video

Inseparable from its legacy as 'the land of lakes and volcanoes' is Nicaragua's legacy as 'country of poets,' rendering a resistance that is encountered in all physical senses. Through visual and sonic collage, the film examines the enmeshment of poetry and violence within Nicaragua's national identity and the mirrors of this tension in the space of my memory of it as both a home and a destination.



IMG 6

Sunday, August 11, 2024 ▶ 6 PM
Bachir / Yerex Screening Room

452-401 Richmond St W. Tkaronto
 Total runtime: 64 min

DIFFUSION 6: WAVES OF NOISE

The sounds of home filtered through reflections and refractions. Unsparring colonial domination through sound, vision and myth. Allyship of the senses and re/actions. These five films each hover in and through windows on current resistance to apartheid, colonialism and ongoing relations to power and imperialism.

Daluyong ng Ingay (Waves of Noise)

Demie Dangla
 2024, 6 min, the Philippines, HD Video

An experimental film that immerses the audience to the tragedy that is unfolding in Gaza. Making use of noises made for Palestine and images of water from the Philippines, the filmmaker poetically draws a connection between both countries as we bear witness to a reality that is not too unfamiliar to us.

Pipit Dalam Badai (The Sparrow in the Storm)

Van Luber Parensen
 2023, 22 min, Indonesia, HD Video

A series of sounds from letters from Miriam de la Croix surrounds the life of a botanist and her three children. The contents of the letters include de la Croix's compassion for the fate of the Dutch East Indies under European colonial rule, especially the Dutch. The letters become background sound in the activities of a botanist carrying out modern work and science with his three children, where modernity and science in the Indies actually arrived at the same time as European colonialism.

After Cargo and Malaria

Rizki Lazuardi
 2021, 8 min, Indonesia / the Netherlands, 16mm on HD Video

Gershon is a former medical worker and of the diaspora of a non-existing country living in the Netherlands. He is fond of the myth of Manamakeri, a West Papuan cargo worker. The archival footage appropriated is a Dutch propaganda film about a health care program in West Papua that Gershon took part in.

All the things you leave behind

Chanasorn Chaikitiporn
 2022, 18 min, Thailand, HD Video

Thailand's strategic position and political orientation made it the ideal ally for the United States during the Vietnam war. Through an astonishing mix of contemporary and archival images, All the Things You Leave Behind deploys precise criticism to analyze a little-known page of modern history, emblematic of contemporary power games and warfare. -Visions du Réel 2022

churning of the ocean

Husna Farooqui
 2024, 10 min, Canada, HD Video

The monk that speaks from the fire. The words that slip away. What's in a mirror? We would like to see the difference between missiles and fireworks. Other refractions. Volcano goes, breaths echo, and the ocean churns away. Churning of the Ocean was first developed as a projection installation consisting of sound and visuals, including found footage and site-specific text, and was exhibited at UKRI Projects.



IMG 7

Sunday 11 August 2024 ▶ 9 PM
401 Richmond Courtyard

401 Richmond Street West, Tkaronto
 Total runtime: 62 min

DIFFUSION 7: THE RETREAT + A STONE'S THROW

Co-presented with wave~form~projects

The two films in this program carve out a place for displacement and exile as political possibilities. Thinking through the creation of transna-

tional solidarities, each film trespasses borders of thought, labour, and geography to form new spaces of resistance and conversation across landscapes and generations.

The Retreat

Gelareh Khoshgozaran
 2023, 22 minutes, France/UK/USA, 16mm film to HD Video

Exile as a space for transnational solidarity is explored through a discursive, community-oriented process of production centred around a retreat in the south of France. An international group of participants with distinct but shared experiences of displacement come together to find common language. Fragments of conversation are laced together with dream-like sequences reflecting on the connections between exile, mental health, and modes of antifascist praxis.

علي رمي حجر (A Stone's Throw)

Razan AlSalah
 2024, 22 minutes, Canada/Lebanon/Palestine, HD Video

Amine, a Palestinian elder, is exiled twice from land and labour. He is displaced from his birthplace Haifa seeking refuge in Beirut, and again to Zirku Island, for work on an offshore oil platform and work camp in the Arab Gulf. A Stone's Throw trespasses borders to reveal an emotional and material proximity between the extraction of oil and labour in the region and the Zionist colonization of Palestine. The film rehearses a history of the Palestinian resistance when, in 1936, the oil labourers of Haifa blew up a BP pipeline.

IMAGE CAPTIONS

IMG 1: A Hail Mary, Faisal Karadsheh (2023), Video still.

IMG 2: What Humans See as Blood, Jaguars See as Chicha, Luciana Decker Orozco (2023), Film still.

IMG 3: A New England Document, Che Applewhite (2020), Video still.

IMG 4: Once Upon a Time in Beirut, the History of a Star, Jocelyne Saab (1994), Film still.

IMG 5: Seja Bem-Vindo ao Lar, Leonardo Pironi (2023), Film still.

IMG 6: After Cargo and Malaria, Rizki Lazuardi (2021), Video still.

IMG 7: The Retreat, Gelareh Khoshgozaran (2023), Film still.