

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Art Gallery of Hamilton

PHOTOPHOBIA



Contemporary Moving Image Festival | Thursday, June 23 at 9:30 p.m.

Screening includes short films from McMaster Film Board of the late 1960s

HAMILTON – June 15, 2016 – The Art Gallery of Hamilton is pleased to announce the return of **Photophobia**, an outdoor screening showcase of short-format contemporary media, film, video and moving image on Thursday, June 23 at 9:30 p.m. in the AGH Irving Zucker Sculpture Garden, 123 King Street West in downtown Hamilton.

Admission is free. Donations are welcome. Cash bar available.

Generously supported by the incite Foundation for the Arts.

Presented in partnership with the Hamilton Artists Inc., Photophobia highlights contemporary practitioners who test the boundaries of the medium without restrictions or themes. Special to this outdoor screening is the presentation of student films created by members of the McMaster Film Board, a student filmmaker society of the late 1960s.

Photophobia screening schedule:

Lee Skinner (Hamilton, ON) , *Primordial Radiance*, 2011. (4:50)

Shot, edited, and scored by Lee Skinner, *Primordial Radiance* provides a glimpse into the abyss of pre-matter nothingness. In this primitive void, lone sentient motes of luminance drift along, but for the first time they collide. The curious flecks slowly inspect one another, as more of them join in. As they connect, flares of blinding light burst forth. Innocent flirting escalates into a wild dance, revealing new shapes with ever-growing complexity.

Julia Huynh (Hamilton, ON), *The Múa Lân Are Coming*. 2016. (2:01)

“This was unintentionally captured on my phone through my pajama pocket while in rural Bến Tre, Việt Nam while waiting for the Múa Lân (lion dancers). It was the first time experiencing Tết celebrations in my parents’ home country with them. The video, though unplanned, illustrates the limits of memories,

even those newly formed, as fragmented and blurred. It is childlike, and I am childlike with excitement as my family and I anticipate the performance. The video ends abruptly when I take out my phone and realize it had been recording, and the viewer never sees the Múa Lân dance.”

Hamilton Babylon

Founded as a student filmmaker society at McMaster University in 1966, the McMaster Film Board and the City of Hamilton soon became a symbolic battleground for the future (and the soul) of the Canadian film industry. Screening in conjunction with the launch of Stephen Broomer's new book *Hamilton Babylon: A History of the McMaster Film Board* (University of Toronto Press), this program of short films spotlights a pivotal moment in our local and national film history.

John Hofsess (Hamilton, ON), *Palace of Pleasure*, 1967. (38:17)

Featuring poetry by a then unknown Leonard Cohen, the music of the Velvet Underground and an appearance by a young David Cronenberg, *Palace of Pleasure* is a haunting film in which light, colour and form are healing forces against the pains and fractures of modern life – a séance of the sense, and an illustration of the possibilities for cinema to pierce and settle in us.

Peter Rowe (Hamilton, ON), *Buffalo Airport Visions*, 1967 (19:31)

With a title inspired by his trip to the Buffalo airport to pick up Nico prior to The Velvet Underground's 1966 performance at McMaster University, the political and avant-garde stream is on ample display in Rowe's *Buffalo Airport Visions*. The wilder and woollier forms of *cinéma vérité* of Toronto in 1967 are mixed with staged scenes, a collage soundtrack and an insider's study of youth culture done with a brilliant, sardonic sense of humour.

Robert Arlington (Hamilton, ON), *...and Dionysius died*, 1968. (8:07)

With debts to dying and reviving gods, this is a film of fairy tales, nightmares, and luminous, hand-painted colour.

Eugene Levy (Hamilton, ON), *Garbage*, 1969. (5:05)

Garbage, Eugene Levy's first short film, is a comic fantasy. Oscillating between campus satire and countercultural critique, it is a sensitive response to the prison of education, a wistful comparison between course readings and bags of garbage.

EVENT DETAILS

Photophobia

When: Thursday, June 23 at 9:30 p.m.

Cost: FREE (Donations accepted)

Where: Art Gallery of Hamilton, Irving Zucker Sculpture Garden, 123 King St. West, Hamilton, L8P 4S8.

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