

**Gravitational Lensing: Feminist Film Dialogues**  
**Program 3: Self-Constructions**  
**Shapeshifters Cinema, October 4, 2024**

***Back Inside Herself* by S. Pearl Sharp, 1984, 16mm film shown on DV, 4.5 mins.**

A visual poem on identity crafted from a poem written by Sharp encouraging women to reject imposed beauty standards and invent their own identity. Featuring actress Barbara-O.

***5 Things For Sure* by Sydney Canty, 2020, DV, 3.5 mins.**

Exploring ways in which the body can squeeze juice out of a lemon without the use of hands, the artist recounts seemingly mundane events in their life that ultimately shaped the person they are today in this time-based self portrait. *5 Things For Sure* is a meditation on what is remembered, and what is not as a form of self protection.

***A Shapeshifter with a Heavenly Secret* by Denisse Griselda Reyes, 2021, VHS/Beta shown on DV, 14 mins.**

The voice in *A Shapeshifter with a Heavenly Secret* emerged alongside the artist's alter-ego as an authentic narrator that explores their lived experience through archival footage. The two-channel video incorporates narrated home videos that encounter autobiographical events; their uncle dying from COVID, their brother abandoning the family, and their father crossing the border.

***Chronicles of a Lying Spirit* by Kelly Gabron by Cauleen Smith, 1992, 16mm film, 6 mins.**

In this short, Smith employs her alter ego Kelly Gabron and a collage of images, text, and voices in order to fabricate a history in which the presence of Black women is reinserted into histories that often render them invisible.

***leafmold* by Benja Thompson, 2023, DV, 7.5 mins**

An essay film / experimental documentary about gender decay.

***Girl Power* by Sadie Benning, 1992, Pixelvision shown on DV, 15 mins.**

*Girl Power* is a raucous vision of what it means to be a radical girl in the 1990s. Benning relates their personal rebellion against school, family, and female stereotypes as a story of personal freedom. Informed by the underground "riot grrrl" movement, this personal diary video transforms the image politics of female youth, rejecting traditional passivity and polite compliance in favor of radical independence and a self-determined sexual identity.

\*\*\* INTERMISSION \*\*\*

**JOY by Julieta Tetelbaum, 2023, DV, 11 mins.**

*JOY* is a journey through the mind of a 65-year-old working-class lesbian who's addicted to sugar and can't stop thinking about her ex-girlfriend from youth. She lives with her partner—a mannequin that she's built to look exactly like her ex. The tragicomic piece delves deep into moments of intimacy, loneliness, sexuality, joy and the desperate longing to be loved.

**Mi Coro by Moréna Espiritual, 2022, DV, 13 mins.**

Set in a surreal, hyperbolic reality, *Mi Coro* features interviews with a variety of BIPOC Latin American voguers. They detail their failed attempts at communication with a new alien species known as the cis-heterosexuals, and the different ways this has resulted in ostracization and violence for them. With the help of a dear friend and anthropologist, they come to the conclusion that voguing has been the tool they needed to communicate with this alien species all along. The communication with the alien species has some unexpected shifts, and the dancers themselves transform in the process.

**Linda/Les and Annie by Annie Sprinkle, Johnny Armstrong and Albert Jaccoma, 1989, SV shown on DV, 30 mins. (File provided by PinkLabel.TV)**

A fun, unique, sexy and informative video docudrama about Les Nichols, a man who self-identifies as a surgically-made hermaphrodite. It includes an intimate view of the night he and Annie Sprinkle tried out his new, surgically-constructed penis for the first time. His dual genitalia and all of their graphic functions are shown in detail. This seminal film from 1989 was the first of its kind.

Director's Disclaimer— "These films were made between the years 1985 and 1998. Much of the language and cultural understanding that is now commonplace did not exist or was not widely known at the time. As such, some of these films incorporate terms or images that are culturally appropriative and/or outdated. We have chosen to present these films, preserved in their original form, as an historical document of the times in which they were made." - Annie Sprinkle

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**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

**Advisory Board:** Erina C Alejo, Bill Basquin, Miriam Campos-Quinn, Adrienne Finelli, Kristy Guevara-Flanagan, Irene Lusztig, Rocio Olivares, Elena Pardo, Rosario Sotelo, Anjali Sundaram, Ellie Vanderlip, Patricia Ledesma Villon, Leila Weefur

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