

**Gravitational Lensing: Feminist Film Dialogues**  
**Program 8: Parenthood**  
**Shapeshifters Cinema, June 6, 2025**

***Contraction/Expansion* by Mars Saude, 2021, 16mm shown on DV, 14:30**

*Contraction/ Expansion* is a record of gestation and its aftermath. Assembled from fragments of texts and necessarily domestic images, the film sets utopian desires for a more radical and comradely approach to birth, infant care, and gender against a background of familial isolation in pandemic times.

***All That Digging* by Eileen Roscina, 2022, DV, 9:16**

Resurfacing her own family home movies, Roscina made this work during the transition to new motherhood and its content traverses across time from her childhood to the early weeks with her own son. *All that Digging*, a sort of visual lullaby, touches on the less frequently discussed melancholy of motherhood, and the grief that can come from relinquishing parts of pre-parenthood life. Roscina explores the tension between being enclosed by the nest of domesticity, the fleetingness of this volatile yet precious time, and what can be gained through the act of letting go.

***Joyce at 34* by Joyce Chopra and Claudia Weill, 1972, 16mm shown on DV, 28:00**

Feminist filmmaker Joyce Chopra turns the camera on herself to examine the demands of juggling a baby and a professional career.

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

***Madar (Mother is With You)* by Weronika Marianna, 2023, DV, 1:40**

Madar (mother in Persian) was created to honor the Iranian women and their fight for freedom and independence. The animation includes Persian symbols of freedom, such as lions and rainbow.

***Ceaseless Translation* by Alejandra Saldivar, 2023, DV, 4:32**

A mix of personal home videos, stock footage and mixed media animation, *Ceaseless Translation* tells the story of a mother's experience of caring for a child with autism.

***The Single Parent: Images in Black* by M. Stormé (Bright) Sweet, 1977, SV shown on DV, 21:00**

In wide ranging interviews, Black parents discuss the challenges of being a single parent, how they deal with the assumptions of others, and how they continue living a “normal” life despite their new responsibilities.

***at seven* by Miriam Campos-Quinn, 2023, 16mm shown on DV, 5:34**

*at seven* is part of an ongoing series of portrait films made by Miriam Campos-Quinn of her daughter, Ruby. Each film exists as crystalline shards in time, refracting moments of their mother-daughter relationship, Ruby's individuality slowly separating her from Miriam, their movement through grief. *at seven* seizes all the glitter and sweetness of turning seven, but also the undercurrents of recent loss.

***Suspended Time, On Caring* by The MATERNAL FANTASIES Collective, 2020, DV, 12:15**

In *Suspended Time, On Caring* the feminist art collective MATERNAL FANTASIES combines colorful tableaux vivantes – re-stagings of art historical references – with chimerically orchestrated scenes, and playful and improvised performances in a low-tech, DIY-style surrealist setting. Through interactions between bodies, objects, and spaces, mothers\* and children re-re-re-assemble and turn maternal fantasies into playful experiences, personal narratives into social questions, and body dimensions into fields of interaction. The experimental film proposes new vocabularies and visual performative translations of the maternal experience with the goal of integrating intergenerational knowledge, and stretches tensions between social invisibility and fantastical visibility.

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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 Luszti, Rocio Olivares, Elena Pardo, Rosario Sotelo, Anjali Sundaram, Ellie Vanderlip, Patricia Ledesma Villon, Leila Weefur

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<https://shapeshifterscinema.com/gravlens/>