

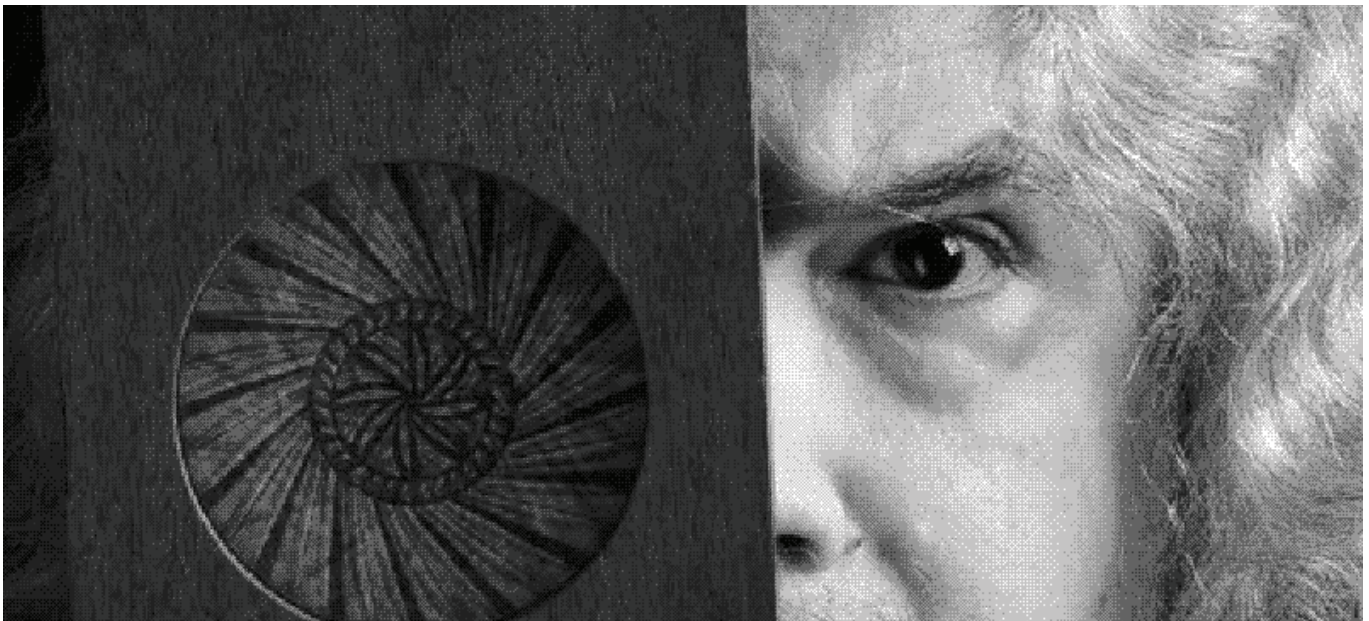
**Salon**

**Fall**

**2023**

**TOM GUNNING  
PRESENTS**

**"PERFECT  
FILMS"**



*Co-sponsored by OnFilm*

**9.21.23**

Visual Studies Workshop • 31 Prince Street Rochester, NY • Suggested: \$10

## **TOM GUNNING PRESENTS -PERFECT FILMS-**

Join us for a film screening and lecture by internationally renowned film scholar Tom Gunning, Professor Emeritus of Art History, Cinema and Media Studies, and the College Cinema and Media Studies at the University of Chicago. Gunning has chosen an eclectic program of 16mm films from the VSW and University of Rochester collections, and will provide historical and critical contexts for the program in his lecture. The program, titled Perfect Films, includes works by Bruce Baille, Stan Brakhage, Bruce Conner and Ernst Lubitsch. The screening will be followed by a lecture given by Tom, and, time permitting, Q&A. This event is co-sponsored by OnFilm, a student-run screening project at the University of Rochester.

Tom Gunning is Professor Emeritus of Art History, Cinema and Media Studies, and the College Cinema and Media Studies at the University of Chicago. He received his PhD from New York University in 1986 and received the Society for Cinema Studies best dissertation prize. In 2009 he was the recipient of the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation in recognition of his major contribution to the fields of film history and theory, and in 2010 was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

For this program, Gunning has curated an eclectic selection of 16mm films from the Film and Media Studies Film Collection at the University of Rochester, to be followed by a lecture and Q&A. The program, titled Perfect Films, includes three avant garde short films by Bruce Connor, Bruce Baillie, Stan Brakhage and a Hollywood feature-length film by Ernst Lubitsch. This event has been organized by OnFilm, a graduate-student run screening project founded in 2009 at the University of Rochester dedicated to screening rare and important films.

This event has been generously co-sponsored by the Film & Media Studies Program; the Graduate Program of Visual & Cultural Studies; the School of Arts, Sciences, & Engineering; and the departments of Art & Art History and English at the University of Rochester.

### **PROGRAM**

#### **VALSE TRISTE**

**Bruce Conner, 1977, 5m, 16mm, sepia, sound**

A collage film of landscapes, women, childhood chores, and trains is framed as the dreams of a 1940s Kansas boyhood and set to Jean Sibelius's piece by the same name.

#### **ALL MY LIFE**

**Bruce Baillie, 1966, 3m, 16mm, color, sound**

A single shot begins with a pan left of an old wooden picket fence, blue sky, and summer grass along a Mendocino, California road. The camera's movement is paced to the soundtrack of Ella Fitzgerald singing "All My Life" with pianist Teddy Wilson and his orchestra.

#### **MOTHLIGHT**

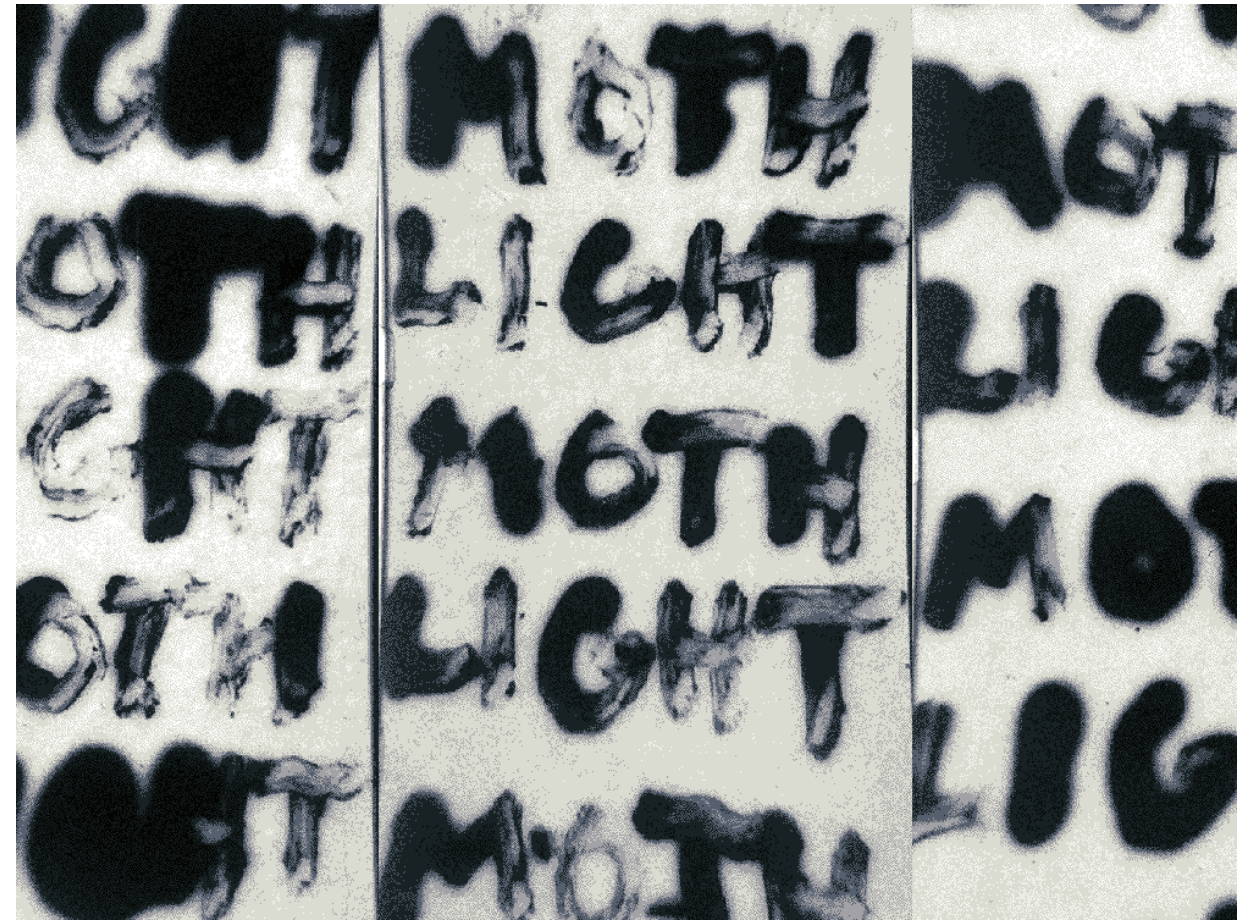
**Stan Brakhage, 1963, 3m, 16mm, color, silent**

Cameraless cinema made from collaged moth wings, flower petals, and blades of grass, assembled between strips of 16mm splicing tape and finally contact printed. A direct animation of dead flora and fauna.

#### **TROUBLE IN PARADISE**

**Ernst Lubitsch, 1932, 83m, 16mm, B/W, sound**

Urbane thieves Gaston (Herbert Marshall) and Lily (Miriam Hopkins) scheme to rob the beautiful perfumer, Madame Colet (Kay Francis), until romantic entanglements jeopardize the ruse. This Hollywood pre-code production helped to establish the romantic comedy genre and is considered German-born Ernst Lubitsch's US masterpiece.



16mm film strips from *Mothlight* (1963) by Stan Brakhage

Visual Studies Workshop nurtures experimental and expansive approaches to photography and media arts,

and builds community among artists and the public through exhibitions, publications and residencies.

The VSW Salon is a bi-monthly engagement in the VSW microcinema featuring film screenings, artist talks, Community Curator events, performances, photo presentations and conversations. VSW Salon showcases the work of local and national artists, and invites them to present their work in an intimate “microcinema” equipped to show 16mm, Super 8, digital photography and video on state of the art equipment.



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The VSW Salon is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts and by the ArtWorks program of the National Endowment for the Arts.

VSW envisions a society that values the human need to create and share ideas.

LONG LIVE EXPERIMENTAL CINEMA

