



WEDNESDAY AUG 15, 7 pm

Oskar's Legacy: Films Influenced by Fischinger

Over many decades, dozens of filmmakers have acknowledged Fischinger's influence on their work. We present a few of their films in our program tonight.

Mary Ellen Bute, *Color Rhapsodie*, 1948, US, 6 minutes. Originally 35mm.
Premiered at Radio City Music Hall, New York in 1951.

Mary Ellen Bute, *Polka Graph*, 1947, US, 4:25. Originally 35mm.
Began as an actual chart of Shostakovich's Polka from "The Age of Gold." Award winner at Venice Film Festival.

Len Lye, *Colour Box*, 1935, UK, 3 min. Originally 35mm, Dufaycolor.
Courtesy of the Len Lye Foundation and the British Postal Museum and Archive. Digital version from Eastmancolor restoration by the BFI National Archive, made available by Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision.

Jordan Belson, *Mandala*, 1953, US, 3 min. Originally 16mm.
Belson painted imagery on long scrolls, which he then filmed. *Mandala* is his first film to use mandala imagery, and an early expression of his interest in eastern philosophies (CVM).

Chris Casady, *Pencil Dance*, 1988, US, 3 min. Originally 35mm.
Hollywood effects animator Chris Casady took time off during the writers' strike of 1987 to complete a project he'd started in college, illustrating a favorite recording of The Ventures. Like Oskar's early studies, Chris fashioned a ballet of simplicity by eliminating color and texture to focus on pure movement. Drawn on "ones" for added smoothness he brings true animus to his abstract forms with an anthropomorphic life, and graceful élan that imbues his shapes with an almost comedic feel. It was both inspired by and meant to be a tribute to Oskar Fischinger and is dedicated to his widow Elfriede (Casady)

Bärbel Neubauer, *Algorithmen*, 1994, Germany, 3:30. Originally 35mm.
Metamorphoses of color and form which are painted, drawn and stamped on film directly and which correspond to the rhythm and music.

(continued)

Michel Gagné, *Sensology*, 2010, Canada/US, 6 min

Sensology is a short animated film by Michel Gagné that visualizes in abstract form, an improvised musical session by two leaders of the avant-garde jazz movement, Paul Plimley (piano) and Barry Guy (bass). (Gagné).

Jules Engel, *Play-Pen*, 1986, US, 5 mins. Originally 16mm. Restored by CVM.

Jeff Scher, *Fly by Night*, 2008, US, 1:30

[Influenced by Fischinger's Studies]. The spectacle of flying insects drawn to lights has been a nocturnal magic show since the day our prehistoric ancestors discovered fire. Fly By Night was animated by drawing in black charcoal on white sheets of paper which were then photographed in negative. I like working in charcoal because it's such a happily tactile medium (Scher).

Oerd van Cuijlenborg, *Jazzimation 2*, 2017, France, 5 min

Eric Leiser, *Land*, 2012/2016, US, 2:30

Shot in New York, Thimble Islands, Connecticut; Hastings, England and locations around Sonoma county: Armstrong Redwoods, Ragle Ranch Park, Sebastopol and the Russian River. *Land* is a fluid series of formal land animation experiments based upon the imprint of landscapes in various locations and intuitive interpretations of those movements (Leiser).

Barry Spinello, *Soundtrack*, 1969, US, 10 mins. Originally 16mm.

We see two parallel lines of dots. One line moves off the screen and we hear the sound - that line is MAKING that sound. What we hear is what we see (Spinello).

This program is co-sponsored by Creative Tech Week (NY). Curated by Cindy Keefer. Program is approx. 55 mins

CVM thanks all the artists, estates and archives for the films in these programs. Bute, Belson and Engel films are from the collection of CVM. Thanks to Film Studies at SSU, David Magness, Kit Basquin, Timothy Finn, Chris Harvey, Marco Ferraro, Mark Rowan-Hull, James Middleton, Anonymous, Jackson Family Wines, Oliver's Market, Creative Sonoma, and Sonoma Film Institute. CVM gratefully thanks its Members and its Founders Circle for their continuing support. Some of the films in this program were restored by CVM with support from the National Film Preservation Foundation.

To learn more about Oskar Fischinger, please visit www.centerforvisualmusic.org/Fischinger

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