

# Light Moves Like Sound Waves Lynne Sachs and Stephen Vitiello

Program 1

## *Tip of My Tongue*

Friday, November 3, 2017 at 7:30 pm — Yerba Buena Center for the Arts.  
Lynne Sachs, Stephen Vitiello and Amanda Katz in person

**Light Moves Like Sound Waves** is a two-part screening series documenting the five-year collaborative relationship between filmmaker Lynne Sachs and sound artist Stephen Vitiello. “In collaborating on the soundtracks for my films, Stephen somehow recognizes the interior sounds of objects and releases them for us to hear. Together his music and his sound designs push audiences toward a new way of experiencing cinema.” (Lynne Sachs)

In three decades of filmmaking, Lynne Sachs has created an amazingly sensitive and expansive body of work which ranges from personal film lyricism to complex and considered essay films on family legacies, engaged acts of political resistance and cross-cultural communication. In her work, individual experiences and mindful reflection sit in graceful relation to global events and the magnitude of world histories. Created on the occasion of her fiftieth birthday, **Tip of My Tongue** opens space for intimate reflection as it convenes a coterie of the filmmaker’s peers for intimate personal musings on aging, growth and life on earth during the last five decades. Through a gentle collage of sounds, voices, lushly rendered cinematography and evocative archival footage, *Tip of My Tongue* forms a dreamscape of conversation and confession as it models interpersonal connection and listening warmth as bolster against the ever darkening days.

**Tip of My Tongue** (2017) by Lynne Sachs; digital video, color, sound, 80 minutes, exhibition file from the maker

“To celebrate her 50th birthday, filmmaker Lynne Sachs gathers together other people, men and women who have lived through precisely the same years but come from places like Iran or Cuba or Australia or the Lower East Side, not Memphis, Tennessee where Sachs grew up. She invites 12 fellow New Yorkers—born across several continents in the 1960s—to spend a weekend with her making a movie. Together they discuss some of the most salient, strange, and revealing moments of their lives in a brash, self-reflexive examination of the way in which uncontrollable events outside our own domestic universe impact who we are. As director and participant, Sachs, who wrote her own series of 50 poems for every year of her life, guides her collaborators across the landscape of their memories. They move from the Vietnam War protests to the Anita Hill hearings to the Columbine Shootings to Occupy Wall Street. Using the backdrop of the horizon as it meets the water in each of NYC’s five boroughs as well as abstracted archival material, *Tip of My Tongue* becomes an activator in the resurrection of complex, sometimes paradoxical reflections.” (Anthology Film Archives)

“A mesmerizing ride through time, a dreamscape full of reflection, filled with inspired use of archival footage, poetry, beautiful cinematography and music. Raises the question of how deeply events affect us, while granting us enough room to crash into our own thoughts, or float on by, rejoicing in the company of our newfound friends. [...] Sachs’ brilliant body of work has often focused on the curious dance between histories, the personal and global, so it is no surprise that her latest film moves across a myriad of topics with skill and grace.” (Sonya Redi: *Tip of My Tongue*. Screen Slate: [www.screenslate.com/features/366](http://www.screenslate.com/features/366))

“Much of the film highlights the effort of remembering, and the shots are more often of listeners than of speakers. Most of the participants seem unused to examining their own history in such detail. The effort engages them, but they seem even more engaged by listening to each other, prompting each other to fill in the details.” (David Finkelstein)

“By avoiding pronouncements and analysis, the film provides a crucial service: it portrays real, lived experience, revealing the complex and diverse ways that public events enter our consciousness.” (David Finkelstein: *Film Scratches: Public Stories, Private Memories* – *Tip of My Tongue*. *Film International*. [www.filmint.nu/?p=20232](http://www.filmint.nu/?p=20232))

please join us for

**Light Moves Like Sound Waves: Lynn Sachs and Stephen Vitiello , program 2—Sound Cues From Wings**

Saturday, November 4 at Center for New Music

55 Taylor Street in San Francisco

[www.sfcinematheque.org](http://www.sfcinematheque.org)

