

# Chronicles of Inexistent Light: Films of Malena Szlam

Friday, April 27, 2018 at 7:30pm — Artists' Television Access

Presented in association with  
the Communications and Media Studies Department at Sonoma State University  
and  
Los Angeles Film Forum

**Malena Szlam in person**

A member of Montréal's Double Negative Collective (dedicated to the creation of "cinema of the eye, hand and heartbeat"), Chilean filmmaker Malena Szlam works at the intersection of cinema, installation and performance, creating silently sensual films fusing personal revelations of natural visual phenomena and a sensitivity to non-synchronic time with the poetics of the analog cinema apparatus. This very special in-person appearance (part of a rare west coast tour for the artist) will include works screened in 16mm, Super-8mm and digital video formats including works in progress and special sneak-preview works.

*Malena Szlam's films are meticulously assembled using a menagerie of techniques to physically alter the film elements resulting in dreamlike, collaged, flickering images leaving viewers with a sense of wonderment, displacement and an expanded sense of time. Szlam's careful construction of her works serves to ground and guide viewers on a serene journey through these brief and powerful cinematic experiences. (Los Angeles Film Forum)*

***Chronogram of Inexistent Time (Cronograma de un tiempo inexistente)*** (2008) by Malena Szlam; 35mm screened as digital video, color, silent, 6 minutes, exhibition file from the maker

*Chronogram...* is a photomontage that explores stillness, motion, and memory. Using a 35mm still camera, multiple exposures were composed and edited in-camera, creating frameless sequences of images printed on 35mm filmstrips. When projected, these images become a non-linear, non-synchronized collage. The ephemeral quality of the images—their transparency, layering, and repetition—invites us to reflect on the role memory plays in perception, the ways we mentally reconfigure fragments to construct stability and meaning in an environment of perpetual flux. (Malena Szlam)

***Rhythm Trail*** (2010-2011) by Malena Szlam; Super-8mm, color, silent, 10 minutes, from the maker

Like notes written in a diary, *Rhythm Trail* is an open-ended film composed of a series of Super-8mm sketches edited in-camera. These collected notes are traces of moments and places that reflect on the immediacy of sight. (Malena Szlam)

***Anagrams of Light (Anagramas de luz)*** (2011) by Malena Szlam; Super-8mm, color, silent, 3 minutes, from the maker

Light breaks the darkness in playful rapture—a film dedicated to my dear friend Javiera. (Malena Szlam)

***Beneath Your Skin of Deep Hollow (Bajo tu lámina de agujero profundo)*** (2010) by Malena Szlam; Super 8mm to 16mm, color, silent, 4 minutes, from the maker

*Beneath Your Skin of Deep Hollow* translates night and water into arrhythmic movements of light in a fugue of colours. Shifting impressions emerge on the surface of an agitated stillness, while darkness illuminates reflections and sight. (Malena Szlam)

***Lunar Almanac*** (2013) by Malena Szlam; 16mm, color, silent, 4 minutes, print from the maker

“*Lunar Almanac* initiates a journey through magnetic spheres with its staccato layering of single-frame, long exposures of a multiplied moon. Shot in 16mm Ektachrome and hand processed, the film’s artisanal touches are imbued with nocturnal mystery.” (Andréa Picard, TIFF Wavelengths, 2014).

*Lunar Almanac* traces the observational points of the lunar cycle in a series of visual notations. Using single-frame and long-exposure photography, the unaltered, in-camera editing accumulates over 4000 layered field views of half-moons, new moons, and full moons. These lunar inscriptions flit across the screen with a frenetic energy, illuminating nocturnal reveries that pull at the tides as much as our dreams. (Malena Szlam)

***Morfología de un sueño (Morphology of a Dream)*** (2015) by Malena Szlam; 16mm, color, silent, 6 minutes, print from the maker

*Morphology of a Dream* is a visual study of the rhythms of sleep cycles during the phase of rapid eye movement. Filmed in the forest in Colorado, *Morfología* explores an oneiric world that expresses place and memory in a fleeting succession of colors and sensations hovering between the “real” and abstract worlds. (Malena Szlam)