



**FEMINIST
BORDER ARTS
FILM & ZINE FEST**

June 28 - 29, 2024

NMSU University Art Museum
1308 E. University Ave.
Las Cruces, New Mexico

FBAFF 2024 is sponsored by NMSU Gender & Sexuality Studies; University Art Museum; Office of Research, Creativity, and Economic Development; College of Arts and Sciences, NMSU Global Campus, Office of Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity; Department of English; and Doña Ana Community College.

Cover image: film still from “Instante” directed by Paola Veiga

Feminist Border Arts Film and Zine Fest is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial-No Derivatives 4.0 International License. FBA, LLC.



DEVASTHALI HALL INFORMATION

1308 E. University Ave. near the intersection of University and Solano
Las Cruces, New Mexico. ph # 575-646-2545

Film and Zine Festival programming locations in Devasthali Hall:

Bleachers

Sandy Zane and Ned Bennett Study Room

Fabrication Lab (Fab Lab)

Mullenix Bridge Gallery

Devasthali Hall has an All Gender restroom on the main floor.

A nursing privacy pod (Mamava pod) is located on the main floor, to the left of the main entrance.

Free one-day campus parking e-permits are available through <https://park.nmsu.edu>. Campus permits are not required after 4:30pm or on weekends.

schedule overview

FRI June 28

9:00-10:50am

program 1: Unyielding
program 2: Fluid Realities
program 3: Legends Shorts

11:00-12:50pm

program 4: Seeds of Resistance
program 5: Transformative Struggles
program 6: Disrupting Silence

1:00-2:50pm

program 7: Queer Journeys
program 8: Blue Men
program 9: Underworlds and Animations

3:00-6:00pm

Festival Reception
program 10: *Hidden Flora*
Director Q&A

SAT June 29

9:00-10:50am

program 11: Creative Utterances
program 12: Weird Sexy Shorts

11:00-12:50pm

program 13: Sporting Spirits (All Ages)
program 14: Revolutionary Transmissions
program 15: Dialogue **Feminisms & Media Arts Practices**
program 16: Panel **Memoir Comics & Zines**

noon-5:00pm

FEMINIST BORDER ARTS ZINE FEST

1:00-2:50pm

program 17: Presentation **Borderlands Documentary Film making**
program 18: Braving the Tides
program 19: OutsmART Workshop **Paper Zoetropes!**
program 20: Panel **Media Arts Expression & Activism**

3:00-6:00pm

Festival Reception
program 21: Calls to Action Docs

FBAFF 2024 Team

Directors: M. Catherine Jonet & Laura Anh Williams

Art Museum Director, Marisa Sage
Art Museum Coordinator, Jasmine Herrera

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Ricky Araiza | Dae Romero |
| Keslee Bennett | Marisa Sage |
| Carrigen Cain | Julia Smith |
| Eva Gabrielle Flynn | Carrie Tafoya |
| Alex Fonnest | Courtney Uldrich |
| Michelle Granger | Patti Wojahn |
| Audrie McCollum | |

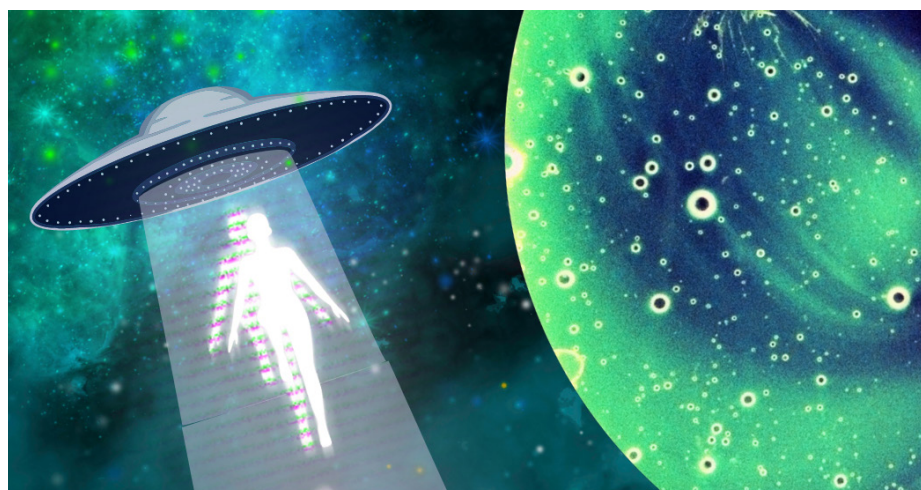
With gratitude to Lucille Casas, Kellie Cooper, and ASBC

FBAFF Advisory Board

Umme Al-Wazedi, Augustana College
Nicole Antebi, University of Arizona
Kerry Banazek, New Mexico State University
Kefaya Diab, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Carol W.N. Fadda, Syracuse University
Francisco J. Galarte, University of New Mexico
Ma. Eugenia Hernandez Sanchez, Universidad Autonomia de Ciudad Juarez
Ada Jaarsma, Mount Royal University
Ilana Lapid, New Mexico State University
Leah Milne, University of Indianapolis
David Tenorio, University of Pittsburgh
Tracey Miller-Tomlinson, New Mexico State University
Tara Pedersen, University of Wisconsin-Parkside
Marisa Sage, New Mexico State University
Julia Smith, New Mexico State University
Siobhan Somerville, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

FBAFF24: Out of this World

M. Catherine Jonet, FBAFF director



*“Without obsession, life is nothing.”
-John Waters*

Embracing Eve Sedgwick’s notion that “Obsession is the most durable form of intellectual capital,” we mark our ninth year. Against all odds and in the face of pervasive precarities on a global scale, our work in storytelling, knowledge production, and media-making continues. FBA promotes socially transformative film and media arts through curation, creation, research, education, and advocacy.

As part of our ninth year, we are excited to expand our programming to include feature-length films and our inaugural Zine Fest. The festival celebrates these creative works as political, and intellectual necessities that speak to the future, of futures, and the potential they hold, directing our attention to different places, new faces, and unexplored possibilities.

The Feminist Border Arts Film Festival and Zine Fest embody a year-long process. Coinciding with International Pride Weekend, marking the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, the festival features our Official Selections of recent independent films, zines, and media that highlight women’s voices, LGBTQ+ perspectives, and social change from the Borderlands, the US, and around the world.

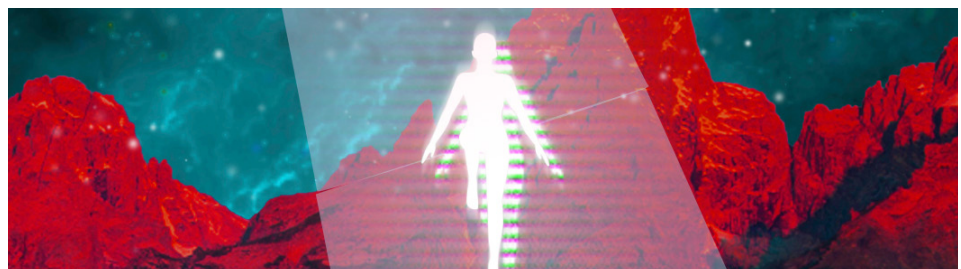
Zine culture has been an integral part of our teaching and practice in Gender and Sexuality Studies for more than 15 years. We are excited to bring FBA's digital and analog media-making and curation together.

Our theme for 2024, "Out of This World: Transmission," embodies our festival's commitment to the power of creativity and informed practices to transcend boundaries, forge connections, and change lives. This theme invites us to explore new realms of possibility, pushing the limits of conventional storytelling to envision more inclusive and just worlds.

In the words of Sara Ahmed, "Once we find each other, so much else becomes possible." This guiding principle underscores our commitment to amplifying a range of voices and fostering critical dialogue with them, near them, among them, and with each other.

This year's festival features 54 short films, 15 feature films, and 18 zine exhibitors. Highlights include the New Mexico premiere of Borderlands nonbinary Latinx filmmaker Ryan Rox's full-length feature debut *Hidden Flora*, the US premiere of *Radiant*, and the international premiere of *Kim Carnie Out Loud*, alongside numerous other New Mexico and US premieres. Among the zine exhibitors, we're excited to be joined by a zine club from Juarez, a trio of zinesters from Tucson, friends from California and Texas, NMSU students, alumni, and zinesters from across New Mexico.

As we gather at the University Art Museum, let's honor the legacy of the 1969 Stonewall Riots and celebrate Pride Month, as well as the spirit of obsession. Reflecting on Susan Sontag's insight, "Never worry about being obsessive. I like obsessive people. Obsessive people make great art." We commend the dedication of our film, zine, and media artists, scholars, and festival attendees.



Content Note

Films and other video pieces exhibited at FBAFF screenings are not evaluated or rated by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA). Viewer discretion is advised and the responsibility of the viewer.

When mature content, including nudity, sexual situations, or adult humor are portrayed in a film, we make note of it in the program. A few films and documentaries discuss sexual violence, reproductive choice and abortion. The program notes these as well. Be sure to read film descriptions.

As a general recommendation, many programs are suitable for viewers 13 years of age and above. Program 13: Sporting Spirits is for All Ages. Other programs such as *Hidden Flora* and Program 12: *Weird Sexy Shorts* are suggested for audience members 17 years of age and above, unless in the company of a guardian.

These are only suggestions. Enjoy our Official Selections.

Language Note

Films with translated English subtitles and English language captions are indicated in the program. For other films, either they do not rely on language for understanding, or the filmmaker did not provide captions.

FBAFF embraces varieties of English and other languages, striving for the widest accessibility for audiences and filmmakers alike, and appreciate your understanding.

program 1: UNYIELDING

9:00-10:50am

Tucked in the Folds of our Bodies: The Intimacies of Home and Resistance

Dr. Carol W.N. Fadda

Our bodies hold fragments of our homes: lost homes and new ones, homes that we build and rebuild, homes that we reject and reclaim, homes that we intimately know and ones that are (yet) to be discovered. These films collectively invite us to rethink binaristic notions of home pertaining to diasporic lives, notions premised on original, authentic homelands on the one hand and new, diasporic ones on the other. Projected trajectories defining these binaries are often deemed to start in the “East” and end in the “West,” with the expectation that loss (of identity, culture, community) would inevitably punctuate such journeys and shape the diasporic experience.

These films tell and show us otherwise. They map alternate feminist pathways of belonging that reject neat grammars of exile, immigration, and diasporic displacement and alienation. They remind us that “moving towards home,” following June Jordan, is a constantly evolving process, one that defies and supersedes neat geographical and national boundaries, and one that is constantly being negotiated and redrawn. The effects of such negotiations are evident in these films, extending to the material and the affective, with the specificities of national contexts highlighted in each film (Iran, Palestine, Ethiopia, Canada, and the US).

Offering us radical means for feminist knowledge production, these films also enact in crucial and evocative ways Cherríe Moraga’s “theory in the flesh.” “A theory in the flesh means one where the physical realities of our lives—our skin color, the land or concrete we grew up on, our sexual longings—all fuse to create a politic born of necessity,” writes Moraga in *This Bridge Called my Back* (14). The publics, the homes, and the politics that emerge out of these films affirm Moraga’s call. They individually and collectively address the questions: What happens when we insist on writing and rewriting our homes through and on our bodies? How do we defy binaristic notions of home and homeland and the pressures of assimilation and conformity brought about by such binaristic thinking? In taking up these questions, these films showcase radical forms of resistance, across the spheres of the intimate and the public. Whether it is through dance, movement, song, poetic chants, radical mothering, or protest, these films enact a “theory in the flesh” that is more urgent now than ever. They offer and depict crucial forms of belonging to homes and homelands that build radical feminist presents and futures, and compel us to imagine homes, and our bodies within them, differently.

Moraga, Cherríe, and Gloria. Anzaldúa. *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*. 2nd edition. New York: Kitchen Table, Women of Color Press, 1983.



Two Dreams, Two Births
USA (5:16)
English with captions

In this digital storytelling piece, Boczek reflects on her Iranian origins, her daughter’s roots in both Iran and the USA, and the dreams they share with other Iranian women, all in the name of Mahsa Amini. Amini’s death in police custody in 2022 for violating mandatory headscarf rules sparked protests throughout Iran.

Director: Elnaz Sarbar Boczek



in the whiteness
Canada (4:38)
English with captions

A poetic exploration of identity through the eyes of a Harari-Ethiopian woman, displaced via war, now living in Canada. She uses poetry and movement as a meditative method of reconnecting with her roots and in doing so, establishes a magical bond with her ancestors.

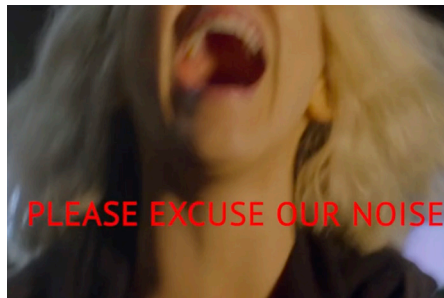
Director: Niya Abdullahi



Jamila
USA (14:36)
Arabic, English with subtitles

In this coming-of-age drama, 16-year-old Palestinian American Nour must rediscover her identity after years of repressing her heritage. Visiting Palestine for a wedding, Nour meets some family members for the first time, finding role models in her female relatives who inspire her to embrace herself and her cultural roots.

Director: Julia Freij



The Rhythms of Rage
USA (4:48)
Note: brief scenes of violence

Rage can manifest as raw, rebellious, and empowering, or become ensnared by societal norms and expectations. Focusing on over 500 clips of women in film and TV shows from around the world, this video essay traverses the diverse cadences of rage—from solitude to solidarity, from silent echoes to resounding, potent crescendos.

Director: Barbara Zecchi



Until
Iran (13:50)

A single-take video, captured by the performers with an iPhone during the 2022 protests in Tehran, in response to the state murder of Mahsa Amini, a Kurdish-Iranian woman who died in police custody for violating mandatory headscarf rules. “We walk. We run. We fall. We hug those who we love and then we run again. We walk together until the walls move.”

Director: Tanin Torabi

program 1: UNYIELDING

9:00-10:50am



La Tierra los Altares (Earth Altars)

Mexico (68 min)

Spanish with English subtitles

Note: discusses kidnapping, trauma

The artist returns to the site of her kidnapping, searching underground in darkness and silence for traces of a buried memory.

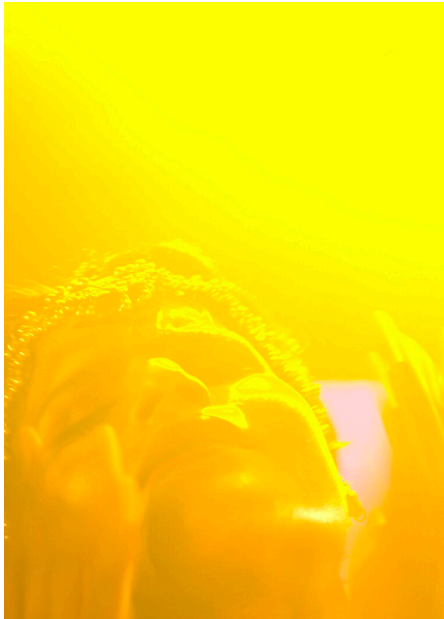
Three years ago, I was kidnapped on the outskirts of Mexico City. A month later, I returned to the site, driven by an impulse to recall that place and recover it through the camera. As I advanced, the landscape thickened into an opaque night, casting shadows along the road. At the site, flowers grew among thorns, and the earth seemed to warn of past events. Amid this abyss, the film began. I navigated nearby areas, reconstructing the space with memories of hot, dry earth and an all-encompassing silence. The film captures these sensations, using a static camera and one that navigates underground, revealing spaces of light amid the darkness.

Director: Sofía Peypoch

bleachers

program 2: FLUID REALITIES

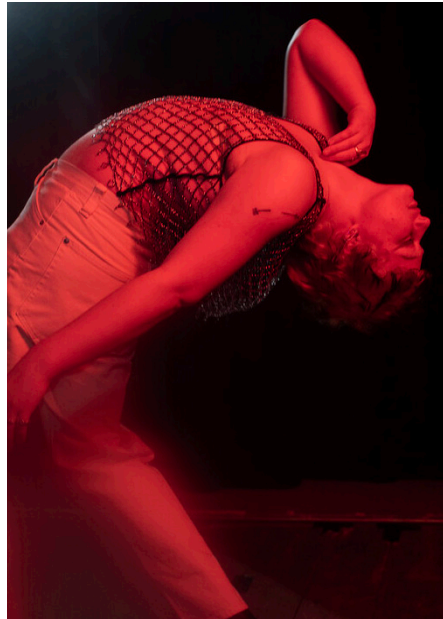
9:00-10:50am



A Pearl in the Ocean
India (13:42)
English and Hindi with subtitles

This documentary follows Tushar Roy, a confident 19-year old, gay young man who likes to belly dance.

Director: Vasundhara Jadhav



Fragments
UK (3:38)
English with captions

A portrait of trans non-binary artist Fleur Bloemsma, “Fragments” is an introspective journey into their understanding of their body and mind, the language used to communicate the body and self through the interconnectedness of physical attributes and identity, contemplating where our mind resides and how we embody the self, and exploring the invisible boundaries of identity.

Director: Mélodie Roulaud



The Floating Man
Canada (78 min)
English with captions

As anti-trans and drag queen rhetoric rages globally, Michael V. Smith’s intimate documentary explores his journey as a radical drag performer and genderqueer individual. Inspired by Agnès Varda, this DIY documentary, road trip, performance art, videopoem, and self-portrait examines a lifetime of stories about Smith’s body through his provocative art.

Director: Michael V. Smith

study room

program 3: LEGENDS SHORTS

9:00-10:50am



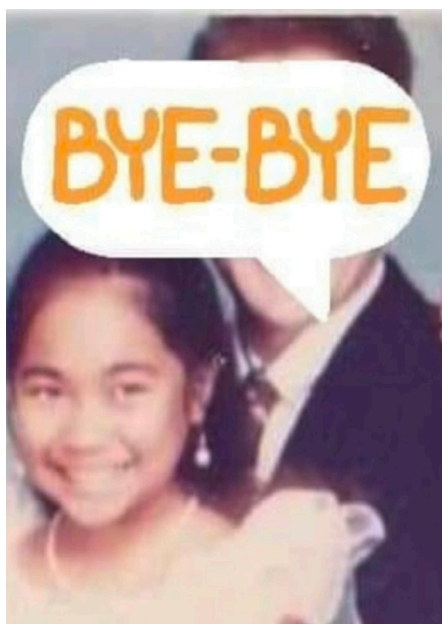
Tina

USA (14:20)

English

Tina is a heartfelt story about two people who unexpectedly reunite after many years. The film seeks to spark important conversations about trans rights and the right to live an honest, truthful life.

Director: Laura Sweeney



Legacy

USA (1:00)

English

A look at generational trauma and triumph through poetry and pictures.

Director: Giovannie Espiritu



A Flare for Music

Ireland, UK (4:00)

English

A peek into the life of musician, Emily McCormick, and the challenges she faces both in her career and everyday life living with endometriosis.

Director: John William Chambers



Echoes of the Rio

USA (8:11)

A woman living on the U.S./Mexico border invokes the voice of the Rio Grande that guides her through the history of migration and the symbiotic relationship with the indigenous people. As the river speaks, echoes follow, exposing the socio-ecological destruction caused when the river became a border and a political weapon.

Director: Jackie Barragan



Murmuration

USA (6:02)

A meditation on shared experience as generations of a family intertwine during a brief moment in time, like threads on a loom or birds in flight. “Murmuration” is a movement poem on film, blending themes of life and death with site-specific choreography, Indian classical dance, and improvised play, capturing the inner lives of an Indian-American child, mother, and grandmother.

Director: Priya Sircar



A Place at the Operating Table

USA (10:31)

English with captions

From the landscapes of Zimbabwe, “A Place at the Operating Table” offers a glimpse into the world of Dr. Thandi Munai and other remarkable female reconstructive surgeons of the PWRS program. This documentary reveals their inspiring journey to make a lasting impact in underserved communities worldwide. It’s a story of courage, determination, and a global mission for healthcare equality.

Directors: Melissa Huerga Malillos, Alicia Dyke, Brandon O’Larey



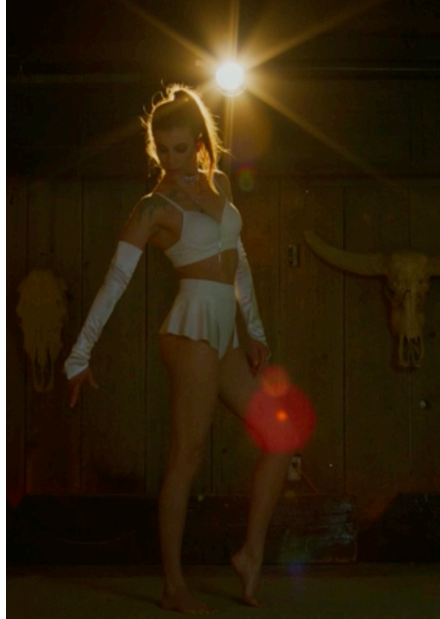
Día 1 (Day 1)

Mexico (11:08)

Spanish with English captions

Rocio, a teenage girl, gets ready for her first day of high school. The next day, she leaves home and takes the bus to school, without knowing that this trip will change her life forever.

Directors: Ana Montañó, Eduardo García



3pm Thursdays

Canada (6:23)

English

Note: stylized blood and violence

A dancer's shift in a dive bar takes an unexpected turn.

Director: Michèle Kaye



Instante (Instant)

Brazil (15:00)

Portuguese with English subs

Note: discusses abortion

There are things in life that we do because we have to. "Instant" follows Lia, a photographer who decides to end a pregnancy and copes through art, capturing her experience in a way that blurs the lines between her interior experience and the film's visual narrative.

Director: Paola Veiga

program 3: LEGENDS SHORTS

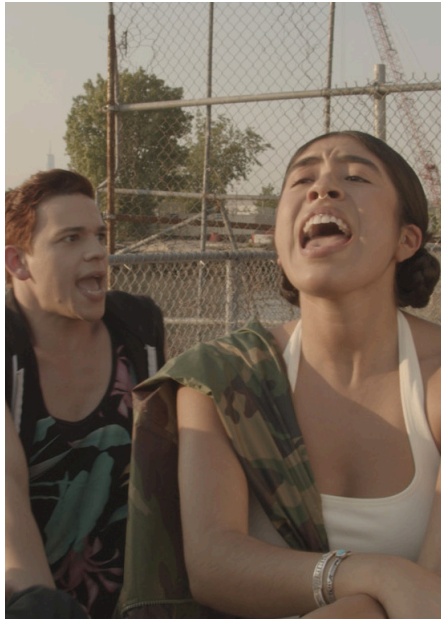
9:00-10:50am



sin-eater
USA (2:42)
English text

This video diary depicts three weeks of testosterone injections, using scans from the British Library's Archives to compare my gender transformation to the natural world. By juxtaposing human-driven transitioning efforts with natural cycles, I recontextualize my transition within the ever-changing nature of creation. The piece explores how meaning can be conveyed through abstract symbols, reflecting my journey as a queer individual seeking connection in the mundane.

Director: Sarah Blackwell



The Demon of Dumbo
USA (8:00)
English with captions
Note: adult humor

When various body parts are found in The North Woods section of Prospect Park, two hapless NYC murder detectives wind up on the case. When a snitch tries to warn the detectives there's actually a demon loose in Brooklyn, they blow her off. But wait... what's this about "bite marks" and why are there so many cut off dicks in the North Woods?

Director: Stefanie Sparks



Mama Night
USA (14:58)
English

A pregnant woman learns what she must sacrifice in order to become a real Mama Bear.

Director: Joanna Simmons

program 4: SEEDS OF RESISTANCE

11:00-12:50pm

Liminalities and Temporalities

**Dr. Amanda Cuellar & Dr. Vanessa Aguilar,
co-curators**

Cultural preservation of Indigenous knowledge is highlighted in SEEDS OF RESISTANCE. The films contend with questions about the human experience and earthly encounters. Bearing beliefs, values, customs, and methods are one way viewers are invited to consider a series of questions: Which traditions do we carry in our everyday lived experiences? How do we co-exist after colonialism? How do we engage, speak, or tend to our souls in conjunction with caring for the Earth? Lastly, do we know that we are living in a dystopian world?

Itu Ninu encompasses elements of sci-fi to provoke cognitive dissonance, an element of disruption of our everyday understanding of living in the world. This disruption allows us to comprehend that many Indigenous communities live in a constant dystopic and apocalyptic world in which Indigenous communities withhold knowledge to preserve the natural world. The film underscores the sacredness of human connection and the potential for forming deep relationships through shared language.

“Naguala,” a performance piece, situates the body as an offering to filter a symbiotic relationship with the Earth. The film invokes curanderismo, known as healing, as a tool for spiritual and cosmological transformation. This meditative piece demonstrates that curanderismo is vital in the restorative process.

“Monolith: A Counter-Archive,” part video essay, video poem, and experimental film, conjures Indigenous knowledge through images of Mayan and Aztec deities and juxtaposes cultural preservation and ruin. The film is broken into three parts: the interrogation of colonial methods of preservation, a digital disruption, and a conjuring of Indigenous knowledge through innate and immaterial items.

The films in this category present time in distinct and unique ways, challenging us to (re)consider our perceptions of time. These films encourage us to meditate on the liminality between past, present, and future; between indigeneity and colonialism; and between humanism and artifice.



ITU NINU (Where the Corn Fields Are)

Mexico (72 min)

English and Mixtec with subtitles

In 2084, Ángel is a climate migrant trapped in a smart city under constant surveillance. He cultivates plants, preserving the wisdom of seeds. He meets Sofia, another climate migrant working at a recycling facility, and they discover a shared connection through the Mixtec language. Seeking human connection and hope, Ángel reaches out to Sofia through pen and paper to avoid digital monitoring. Their secret correspondence fosters an intimate bond and a mutual desire for liberation from their oppressive environment.

Director: Itandehui Jansen

bleachers

program 4: SEEDS OF RESISTANCE

11:00-12:50pm



Naguala

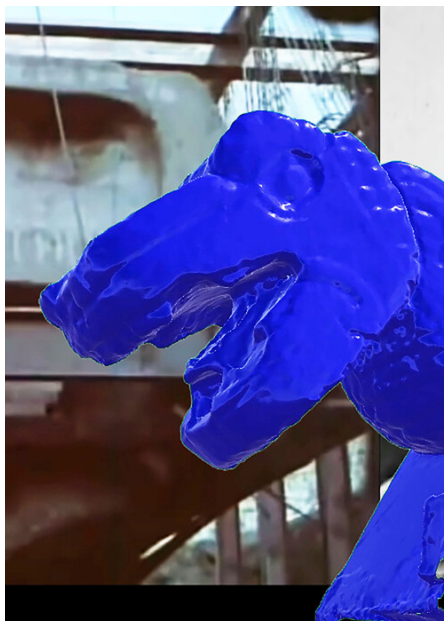
Canada (15:00)

English, Spanish, Nahuatl

An immersive media installation that delves deep into the rich Mexican traditions of nagualismo, loosely translated as shapeshifting. This three-channel video project explores the mystical realm of the naguala, where the boundaries between, animals, plants, earth, cosmos, reality and the supernatural dissolve and are reconfigured. The Naguala guide invites you to consider yourself beyond the human, forever transforming, continually being woven into the fabric of life and death.

Director: Claudia Minerva Medina

bleachers



Monolith

USA (13:45)

Spanish with English subtitles

Part essay film, part video-poem, *Monolith* braids found footage, documentary, experimental, 3D animation and narrative filmmaking devices to explore notions of collectivity, dissent, indigenous knowledge and time as a series of folds, splits, ruptures, loops, clusters, drifts, ascents, descents, vortexes, pulses, rhythms, linkages, aberrations, burials, and unearthings. This shape-shifting film addresses ongoing legacies of nationalist archives, archeology, and coloniality.

Director: Teri Carson



Cocoon

China (11:18)

English with captions

This narrative-led experimental documentary blends video recordings from pre-pandemic and pandemic-era state control, spanning five years. It features a performance piece that responds to the filmmaker's traumatic memories, expressing fear and non-cooperation toward the state. Denied decision-making power and mobility, the filmmaker metaphorically and physically anchors their existence in a cocoon, embodying political depression.

Director: Holli Xue

program 5: TRANSFORMATIVE STRUGGLES

11:00-12:50pm



Loud Enough

USA (62 min)

English with captions

Note: discusses sexual assault

Marking the fifth anniversary of #MeToo, *Loud Enough* follows Madison Smith, a sexual assault survivor from Lindsborg, Kansas, as she and her family fight for justice. Despite strong evidence, the local prosecutor declined to press charges. The film showcases their relentless battle against a biased criminal justice system, highlighting their alliance with former SVU detective Justin Boardman and attorney Julie Germann.

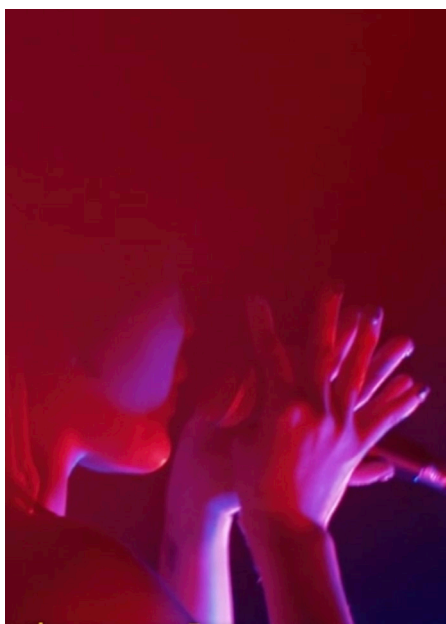
Through their four-year journey, they navigate numerous obstacles, eventually invoking an 1880s law allowing citizens to convene a grand jury. *Loud Enough* is an empowering testament to continuing against obstacles and the need for systemic change, illustrating the power of love, tenacity, and community in pursuing justice and accountability.

Director: Hilary Klotz Steinman

study room

program 5: TRANSFORMATIVE STRUGGLES

11:00-12:50pm



Confluence

USA (15:00)

English with captions

A meditation on ancestry and identity through the lens of Asian Pacific Islander Desi American (APIDA) and queer artists. This mix of hypnotic images and heartfelt testimonies explores the turmoil of being othered, while enduring creatively and shattering community and perceptual barriers. The reductive myths unjustly stuck on the Asian American diaspora are directly questioned by those who'd rather choose their own labels — or simply do away with them altogether.

Directors: ETA, Shanhuan Manton

study room



Negative/Positive

Canada (14:00)

Note: stylized nudity

Hand-made, camera-less collage film composed of layers of erotic 16mm films from the 1920s, 1940s, and 1970s, mixed with nature documentaries and organic materials. The film abstracts female bodies from their original erotic context, removing their male co-protagonists. As the male figures disappear, the female bodies merge with insects and flowers. Using organic material melted with gelatine emulsion, the film creates a crystallized visual allegory of interspecies feminine bodies, offering a unique exploration of identity and transformation.

Director: Federica Foglia



Touching Time: Minnahanonck/Roosevelt Island

USA (10:50)

English with captions

A diverse group of disability artists in Lenapehoking (New York City) perform site-specific movement sketches on Roosevelt Island, a site with a history of hospitals, asylums, and prisons. These artists move among the island's past, reclaiming narratives of abuse and dysfunction. Collaborating with nature, sculptures, and water, they acknowledge the land's history and envision inclusive futures.

Commissioned for the Disability History Handbook by the National Park Service, this film will be part of the Handbook's digital edition.

Director: Petra Koppers

program 6: DISRUPTING SILENCE

11:00-12:50pm



Miss Nalgas USA 2022: The Audition

USA (5:26)

English

Audition clips of women vying for the honor of being Miss Nalgas USA 2022, the faux beauty competition is a performance piece that interrogates mainstream commodifications of the Latina versus Latina “authenticity” in contemporary mass media. This satirical work poses questions about stereotypical notions of beauty, preferred figurative traits of Latinas, socio-cultural issues of ethnic identity, and aging.

Director: Rosemary Meza-DesPlas



Kim Carnie Out Loud

UK (88 min)

English

Scottish singer Kim Carnie was in a secret same-sex relationship from ages 16 to 22. Now 30, she reflects on the impact of those years of secrecy. Kim meets others who have hidden their sexuality and LGBTQ+ activists, sharing and hearing their stories. Using songwriting as a source of dealing with her feelings and as therapy, she draws inspiration from these encounters to write songs based on their experiences and her own.

Director: Maureen Macleod

INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE

program 7: QUEER JOURNEYS

1:00-2:50pm

LGBTQ+ Cinema: Human Rights & Social Justice

Dr. Hector Iglesias Pascual

Family as a social construct. Family as a support network. Family as the cornerstone of a nation. For centuries, cultural values, religion, and law have influenced the definition of family. What does family actually entail? What happens to the family when someone strays away from the norm? What consequences will that person face for standing up for themselves? The entries in QUEER JOURNEYS approach this topic from diverse perspective and cultural backgrounds and show us how to deconstruct traditional notions of family through joy, authenticity, compassion, and activism.

“Shahab from Toronto” and *Family Pride, Queer Aside* portray compelling personal stories that show how powerful documentary films can be as a means of change in attitudes towards non-heteronormative subjects. “Shahab from Toronto” illustrates what ‘sexile’ means for those who are forced to flee their countries because of their sexual orientation and gender identity. Shahab recounts his journey from Iran to Canada, leaving his unaccepting family behind with the hopes of being able to be himself and finding his chosen family. Filmed during the pandemic in Caracas, Venezuela, *Family Pride, Queer Aside* tells the story of Isaac, a pharmacist by day, drag performer by night, whose dreams of becoming a dad are stronger than the laws of his country.

The Feminist Border Arts Film Festival provides a perfect opportunity to showcase the struggles LGBTQ+ people face and the strength and determination they have to overcome them. These documentaries appeal directly to their audiences while asking them to engage at an emotional level. So when you watch Isaac and Shahab, ask yourself what your family is like and what family means to you. All answers are valid.



Shahab from Toronto

Iran (30 min)

Persian with English subtitles

Shahab Shiri is a gay man forced to leave his homeland Iran due to the dangers he faced because of his sexuality. He continues his advocacy, sharing cultural connections in his new home in Canada in this digital storytelling piece.

Director: Abbas Mohammadi Gilvaei



Family Pride, Queer Aside

Venezuela (78 min)

Spanish with English subtitles

Documentary following activist, singer, and actor Aisak Ovalles in Caracas, Venezuela, as he balances pharmacy work, drag performances, and his dream of adopting children.

Director: Maria Millan

program 8: BLUE MEN

1:00-2:50pm



The Large Blue

Netherlands (15:00)
English

Two-screen video following a cop's audition to become an undercover agent, incorporating a new identity and being trained to lie convincingly. The video draws a parallel to parasitic mimicry, such as the caterpillar that, to get enough food, mimics the pheromones of ants. Once taken into the nest, the large caterpillar can eat ant larvae undisturbed, slowly but surely depleting the colony of its future. This species of caterpillar then pupates into a large blue butterfly.

Director: Jan Adriaans



Blue ID

Turkey (84 min)
Turkish with English subtitles

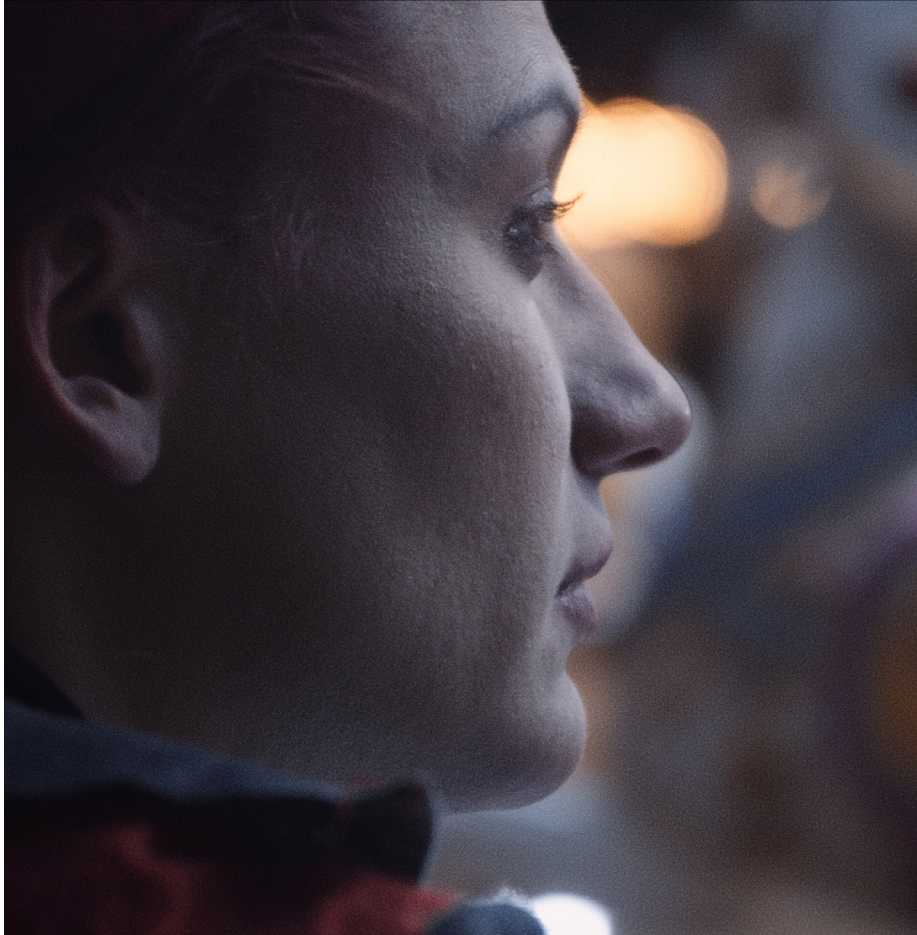
Formerly famous working actor Rüzgar Erkoçlar navigates self-realization and acceptance as a trans man in Turkey under media scrutiny. The documentary, created by his friends, initially aimed to provide a resource for trans Turkish people but shifted focus after Rüzgar was outed to the press. The film explores issues of privacy, media pressure, and the journey to change his ID in Turkey from pink to blue.

Directors: Burcu Melekoglu,
Vuslat Karan

study room

program 9: UNDERWORLDS & ANIMATIONS

1:00-2:50pm



Radiant

Poland (60 min)

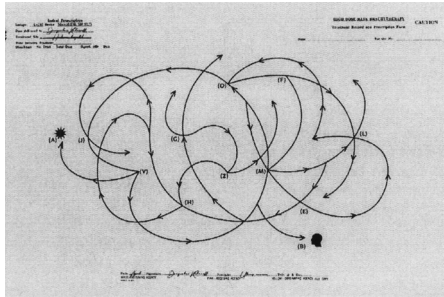
Polish with English subtitles

Sylwia, recently released from prison, is determined to return to the world and win back her first love, Aneta. However, both Aneta's and Sylwia's circumstances make it difficult for the women to be together again.

Director: Konrad Kultys

U.S. PREMIERE

fab lab



Diary of an Illness

No Country Specified (3:57)
Hebrew with English subtitles

Following the writings of novelist, essayist, and journalist, Jacqueline Kahanoff, as she confronts uterine cancer in her later years, capturing her fears of treatment, the isolation of being a patient, and the peculiar beauty amidst agony. Kahanoff, a Jewish Arab from Cairo, believed in coexistence. In the 1960s, she said, “Our best chance for peace and survival may be to transform the Zionist revolution into a Levantine one.” In the 1970s, she argued, “Our legitimacy will be recognized on condition that we accept the reciprocal recognition of the legitimacy of the Palestinians. It is the price to pay for accommodation and eventually, hopefully, reconciliation.”

Director: Mika Ruskin



Monstruosa, Me Prefiero

Mexico (2:19)
Spanish with English subs

Me prefiero así, monstruosa.

Director: Mariana Azcárate



Choices and Changes

Italy (8:22)

Three short animated films, telling brief but important stories about issues of gender equality.

Director: Miriam Muraca



Feeder

USA (2:08)

English

A girl comes home to her cat.

Director: Laura Iancu

program 9: UNDERWORLDS & ANIMATIONS

1:00-2:50pm



Maurice's Bar

France (15:00)

French with English subtitles

In 1942, on a train to nowhere, a former drag queen remembers a night from her past in one of Paris' first queer bars. Remnants of customer gossip recall this mythic bar and its mysterious Jewish-Algerian owner.

Directors: Tzor Edery and Tom Prezman



Dancing Amid Fire, Rising Above Ruins

Norway (6:00)

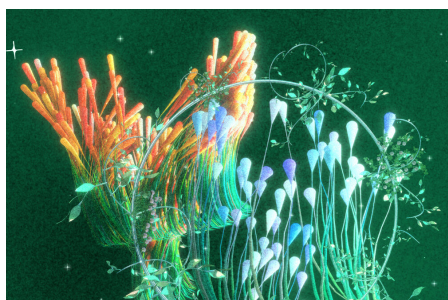
Kurdish with English subtitles

Tara receives a cherished gift for the New Year, red shoes she adores. The next morning, bombs and conflict intensify, and Tara loses her shoes as her family seeks refuge. Forty-two years later, Tara, now living in Norway with her daughter, participates in a protest supporting the Iranian women's movement sparked after the death of Mahsa Amini, the 22-year-old Kurdish-Iranian woman who died in police custody in Iran in 2022. Afterward, her daughter picks out the same red shoes Tara lost decades ago.

Director: Essmat Sophie

program 9: UNDERWORLDS & ANIMATIONS

1:00-2:50pm

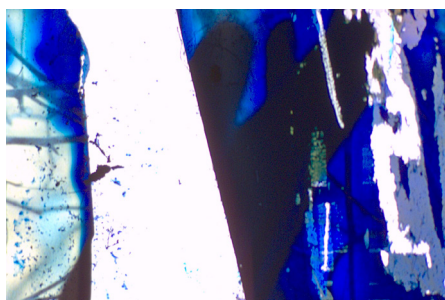


The Surrogate Vista

Australia (4:12)

Traversing various surreal worlds, blending organic, sci-fi, and bizarre environments, this magical realism journey features synthetic anthropomorphic objects within a dreamlike cosmos. Offering an escape, it immerses viewers in familiar surroundings with fantastical transformations. Everyday objects and scenarios, like dogs and plants, are reimagined in island settings, becoming grand, humorous cartoon-like figures through animation.

Director: Helena Papageorgiou



Trace on My Body

China (3:10)

English

Note: brief nudity

A film about the female gaze and self-acceptance. In spring 2023, a physical illness forced me to re-examine my relationship with my body. Scars, spots, skin, hair, even my unflattering voice, everything belongs to my body. Shot with direct animation on 16mm film.

Director: Yue Hua



Ether Or

USA (8:30 min)

English

Ether, an anxious nonbinary person navigates the surreal world of the grocery store; they can't cope with the societal expectations and have a panic attack as they leave the store to cool down in the park.

Director: Zander Constien

program 10: *HIDDEN FLORA*

3:00-6:00pm



3:00 Festival Reception

Join us in celebrating the NM premiere of *Hidden Flora* with director Ryan Rox (they/she), cast and crew, and the other attending filmmakers, media artists, scholars, and other contributors to FBAFF 2024.

4:00 Welcome & Introduction: *HIDDEN FLORA*

Carrigen Cain
Dae Romero

5:30 Director Q & A with Ryan Rox

Carrigen Cain
Dae Romero
moderated by Ricky Araiza

bleachers

program 10: *HIDDEN FLORA*

3:00-6:00pm

Vulnerability & Beauty in *Hidden Flora* Juan “Ricky” Araiza

Part drama, part comedy, and all heart, Ryan Rox’s debut feature film, *Hidden Flora*, is the raw, moving, queer-as-hell coming-of-age story you didn’t know you wanted but some part of you always knew you needed, following a queer hopeless romantic as they navigate self-discovery and the harrowing journey towards self-love.

With wit, humor, and honesty *Hidden Flora* creates a colorful cinematic language, introducing viewers to the loveable Roxii who blossoms through, with, and despite intimate connections, both casual, romantic, and at times violent. Pop culture references, animation, and sketch comedy underscore the narration of Roxii’s story, highlighting their own complexity and humanity as well as the ensemble of characters that populates their narrative. When they’re not breaking your heart in the way that only someone just barely learning to love knows how, Roxii interjects and breaks the fourth wall at every opportunity to remind you of the person underneath all the mess. In these vulnerable moments of direct address to the audience, the film is at its most powerful in establishing its protagonist, less of an “anti-hero” to begrudgingly root for, more of a close friend sharing a deeply personal tale in an attempt to be seen, understood, and loved once the kaleidoscopic tale she narrates is done.

Hidden Flora, much like its protagonist, is a charming chameleon showing you all their colors as they switch from genre to genre and love lesson to love lesson. In one moment they are the roses B. Parker’s opening epigraph calls for; in another they are the lipstick tucked away behind the potted orchids in the bathroom; yet another, the almost-kisses with a friend at the heaven that is White Sands National Park and the hell that Las Cruces, New Mexico can be. Throughout it all, Ryan Rox’s stirring, electric debut remains one thing above all else: a stark reflection on the queer truths that can be found in anyone brave enough to look inside and keep on looking.

he loves me. he loves me not.



Hidden Flora

USA (93 min)

English

Note: Nudity, sexual situations

Inventive, devastating, and whimsical, *Hidden Flora* explores the coming of age of Roxii, a nonbinary hopeless romantic reflecting on past relationships and the impact of the circumstances of their sexual formation on their life, body, and journey of self-identification. This film marks Rox's full-length feature debut.

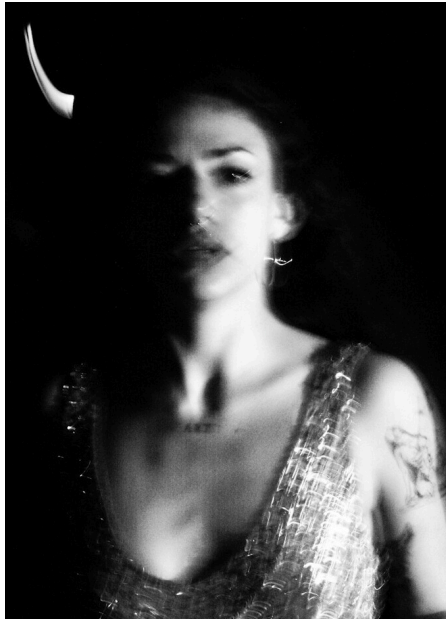
Director: Ryan Rox

NEW MEXICO PREMIERE

bleachers

program 11: CREATIVE UTTERANCES

9:00-10:50am



Five Short Breaths

USA (5:50)

A woman cocooned in irritability emerges to discover sustenance. “Five Short Breaths” is an assemblage of improvised free-form movements and images that create portraits of anxious dreaming and the cyclical nature of becoming in femininity and womanhood.

Director: Frost Martin



Sew to Say

UK (69 min)

English

Thalia Campbell, artist and banner maker, joined a women-only peace camp in the early 80s to protest nuclear weapons through nonviolent action. In the summer of 1981, 36 women marched from Cardiff to Greenham Common to oppose the deployment of American Cruise missiles in the UK. Fearing nuclear war, they established a peace camp that became a women-organized space, drawing hundreds of thousands over two decades. Thalia, one of the original founders, shares the untold story of this historic feminist protest, reflecting on how collective action at Greenham Common changed lives and inspired generations. *Sew to Say* reveals the powerful legacy of the longest feminist protest in British history.

Director: Raket Aguirre

study room

program 12: WEIRD & SEXY SHORTS

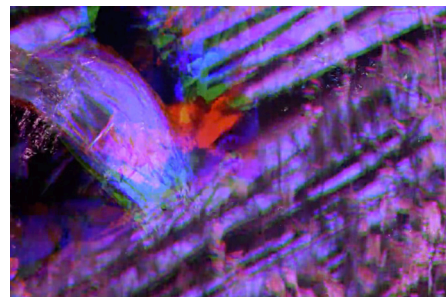
9:00-10:50am

Forest

USA (4:04)

In this experimental dance-for-camera film, two beings, Goat and Hare, are forced to make a new life after everything changes.

Directors: Lyn Goeringer, Rosely Conz



Sanaa, Seductress of Strangers

Germany (3:00)

German with English subtitles

For years, Sanaa has been working as a tour guide in Berlin. But work alone doesn't satisfy her. Stubborn, looking for a date, and trans, Sanaa's keeps the men in the neighborhood on their toes.

Director: Jan Eilhardt



Mother of Whores

USA (10:09)

Inspired by ancient Babylonian harvest festivals, this 3-channel video documents a ritual at the Ishtar Gate in the Pergamon Museum. The performance engages with the movement to "rematriate" stolen cultural objects held in Western museums. Although the gate itself remains in Berlin, the intention is to symbolically return Ishtar to the gate. The performance delves into the historical repression of Ishtar as a powerful feminine figure and the marginalization of her queer and sex worker consorts.

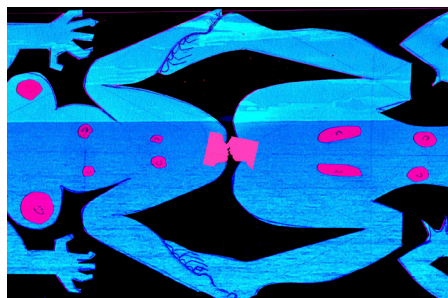
The ritual features a procession through museum halls, offerings of music and dance, and the planting of the succulent "Mother of Thousands." Known for its prolific reproductive method, the plant produces tiny plantlets along the edges of its leaves that easily drop off and root themselves. By reanimating the Ishtar Gate, the video installation addresses Ishtar's role as a tutelary deity to sex workers and rejects Western civilization's claim over ancient Mesopotamian history.

Directors: Lena Chen, Juliana Fadil-Luchkiw



program 12: WEIRD & SEXY SHORTS

9:00-10:50am



What is Sex?

USA (9:00)

English with captions

A multimedia sex-ed video in a world where humans have corkscrew penises and corkscrew vaginas.

Director: Luca Silver



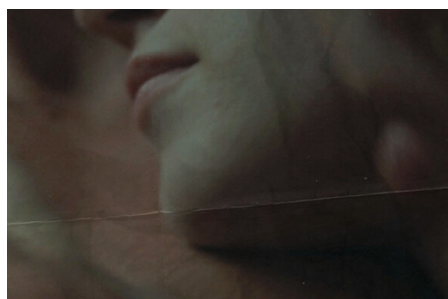
Half-Life

Romania (4:00)

English text

Different worlds at different time scales. A video essay.

Director: Laura Iancu



Half-Light

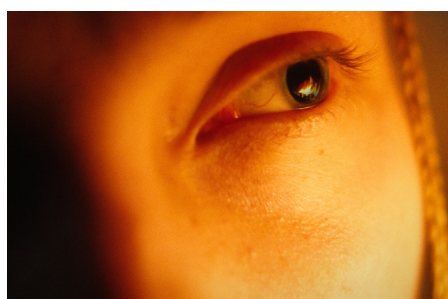
USA (13:25)

English with captions

Note: Sexual situation

A couple debates having unprotected car sex late at night.

Director: Lauren Jevnikar



Heimish

Switzerland (7:30)

Swiss German with English subtitles

In an empty tent camp, three campers are startled awake by barking dogs, strange voices, and the sudden blaze of a tent on fire. Investigating the commotion, they discover a group of hooded men illuminated by the flames. Although they call the police, the three women find themselves on their own, without comfort, facing dangers and uncertainty in the night.

Director: Zoë Bayer



Shaved Ice

USA (9:23)

English with captions

A meditation on experiences that shape an academic life and gendered existence, and transform a winter landscape of ice sculptures.

Director: Anne Ciecko



Wet Girls

USA (7:45)

English

Within the confines of an all-girl Catholic high school, two friends navigate the delicate balance between friendship and love as they find solace within their emerging identities.

Director: Jia Lin



SLUGFEST

Austria (5:00)

English with captions

Exploring “inner feminist struggles” through martial arts.

Director: Jasmin Hagendorfer

Post-Screening Q & A with “What is Sex?” director Luca Silver and other participating filmmakers

program 13: SPORTING SPIRITS

11:00-12:50pm



My Grandma is my Champion

USA (3:14)

English, Spanish with subtitles

When a wheelchair-bound Mexican grandmother longs to return to her championship boxing career, her spunky granddaughter shows her that her champion dreams can continue digitally.

Director: Isa Moreno



Ultimate Citizens

USA (52 min)

English

Jamshid, an Iranian who came to study in 1970s America and never returned due to the Revolution, works as a guidance counselor in Seattle Public Schools. His best work happens outside the building, on the playing field with the children of refugees and immigrants. While their parents struggle to build a life in a new land, Mr. Jamshid, charismatic and fiery with a Frisbee in hand, shows that “love wins.” Whether on the field, at home with family, or forging a new community, Jamshid proves that kindness and connection can transform lives, one child at a time.

Director: Francine Strickwerda

study room

program 14: REVOLUTIONARY TRANSMISSIONS

11:00-12:50pm



HADAYA: 2033
USA (5:58)
English

Major General Hadaya leads the Black and Indigenous Liberation Army (BILA) in a future uprising against an oppressive regime. Set in 2033, the film blends encrypted broadcasts, surveillance, and psychic extractions to depict the rebellion. The Liberation Army battles colonial domination, using undetectable transmissions to keep a disconnected community united, risking everything to stay ahead of detection

Director: Alika Mteuzi



Analogue Revolution: How Feminist Media Changed the World
Canada (90 min)
English

This documentary traces the rise and fall of analogue feminist communications before the MeToo era. From Halifax to Vancouver, feminist storytellers of the 1970s to 90s used media technology to document issues from violence against women to reproductive health. Featuring icons like Studio D's Bonnie Sherr Klein and Sylvia D. Hamilton, the film showcases feminist print collectives and rare archival footage, concluding with the resurgence of younger BIPOC feminists creating new digital networks.

Director: Marusya Bociurkiw

PANELS, PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS

program 15: Feminism & Media Arts

11:00am

Join celebrated media artists **Allyson Mitchell** and **Perrin Ireland** for an engaging conversation about their groundbreaking work. Mitchell, renowned for her queer feminist and activist installations, and Ireland, known for her creative feminist approaches to science studies through visual storytelling and comics essays, will delve into their creative processes, thematic inspirations, and the role of art in provoking thought and driving social change. Moderated by scholar-artist **Dr. Julia Smith**, this dialogue promises insights into the intersection of art, activism, and storytelling.

program 16: Comics Zines & Graphic Memoir

12:00pm

Join D.I.Y. comics artists **Jillian Sandell**, **Jaimie Lee Peterson**, **Juan “Ricky” Araiza**, and **Laura Anh Williams** for an insightful discussion on the art of memoir comics and comics zines. Hear how personal stories are transformed into visual narratives, the creative processes involved, and the impact these mediums—comics and zines—have on both creators and audiences.

program 17: Borderlands Documentary Filmmaking

1:00pm

Outlaws, Apaches, and Brujas: OH MY! Revisionist Archetypes of the Old West in *The Devil’s Mistress*, **Dr. Julia Smith**

The cult classic *The Devil’s Mistress*, a vampire “acid western” shot in the 1960s by NMSU professor Orville Wanzer, was filmed on a low budget in the southern New Mexico desert and is now a rediscovered favorite of the genre. It is the first feature made in Las Cruces, NM.

Researching her own documentary about the film, genre, Las Cruces, and Wanzer, Smith reads the film as a revisionist anti-western that subverts traditional western narratives. The film’s four robbers encounter the Devil and his mistress in an isolated cabin. After committing heinous acts, they face retribution through the mistress’s occult schemes and sexual manipulation, restoring the Devil’s domain in a tale of sexual sadism, colonial racism, and the perverse reimagining of white masculinity.

bleachers

program 18: BRAVING THE TIDES

1:00-2:50pm

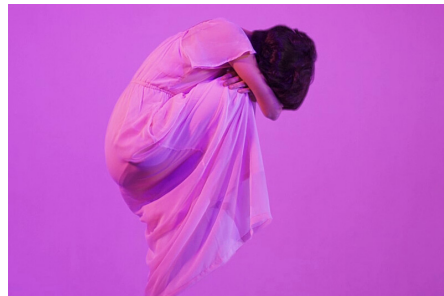


Soul Tie USA (14:50) *English*

Trying not to let the pandemic get a “brave bitch” down, “Soul Tie” reflects on the Covid lockdown and the racist opportunism of the pandemic, while presenting a non-Hollywood romantic ending.

Meet Melrisa, a single, middle-aged, dark-skinned, plus-size, childfree, Afro Latina American with an Afro, because she needs to be SEEN.

Director: Maegan La Trese Philmore



La Trayectoria de la Melancolía (The Trajectory of Melancholia) Mexico (8:16) *Spanish with English subtitles*

This conceptual audiovisual piece is divided into five acts, each one representing the five stages of grief: denial, anger, sadness, negotiation and acceptance. A dreamlike dimension where fantasy and memories interweave to create a poetic story about the survival of domestic violence, forgiveness and the rebuilding of the soul.

Director: Andrea Erre

Holding Back the Tide USA (81 min) *English with captions*

This impressionist hybrid documentary traces the oyster through its many life cycles in New York, once the world’s oyster capital. Now, queer characters embody ancient myth, uncovering the overlooked history and biology of the bivalve that built the city. As environmentalists restore them to the harbor, the film views the oyster as a queer icon, entangled with nature, teaching us about survival.

Made with intersectional queer values and LGBTQIA+ collaborators, the film celebrates the oyster’s environmental heroism from a queer perspective. It blurs the boundaries between documentary and fiction, ecology and economy, individual and community, and past, present, and future.

Director: Emily Packer

PANELS, PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS

program 19: OutsmART Workshop for Kids

1:00pm

PAPER ZOETROPES

Eva Gabrielle Flynn

In collaboration with the 2024 Feminist Border Film Festival, the UAM invites you to make your own moving picture. During the workshop, participants will learn about the history of early film-making and make a zoetrope. First invented in 1867, zoetropes are spinning cylinders used to create animations that are still used in films and storytelling today. Participants will follow a template guiding them to construct their own off-screen animation with paper, cardboard, and rubber bands.

study room

program 20: Media Arts Expression & Activism

2:00pm

A panel discussion on the intersection of media arts expression and activism. Learn how these creators use their art to challenge norms, share powerful narratives, and advocate for social change.

Priya Sircar, Artist, Arts and Culture Officer with the City of Charlotte, NC, former Director of Arts at the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and participating FBA 2024 Filmmaker
Brylee Middleton, NMSU G&SS major, creator of “Beyond Binary”

Alex Fonest, NMSU G&SS graduate, creator of “Memory”
Lisa Y. Mendez (Uno Foto Art), NMSU Art & G&SS Alum, Zine Maker, Photographer, Collagist, and Public Artist

Giovannie Espiritu, Actor, Digital Storyteller, Author, and Participating FBA 2024 Filmmaker

bleachers

program 21: CALLS TO ACTION DOCS

3:00-6:00pm

3:00 bleachers **Festival Reception**

Join us in celebrating our speakers, zine makers, filmmakers, and more who are contributing to FBA's 2024 festival.

4:00 fab lab



No One Asked You

USA (104 min)

English

Comedian, disruptor-extraordinaire Lizz Winstead (co-creator of *The Daily Show*) and her team Abortion Access Front crisscross the U.S. to support abortion clinic staff and bust stigma. Pop culture icons and next-gen comics fuel this six-year road film activating small-town folks to rebuild vandalized clinics, exposing wrongdoer politicians, domestic terrorists, and media neglect as the race to the bottom ensues. A bold call to action reminds us that **when the patriarchy burns down, joy will prevail.**

Director: Ruth Leitman

4:00 study room



Missing From Fire Trail Road

USA (101 min)

English

A riveting documentary detailing the case of Mary Ellen Johnson-Davis, a Native American woman who disappeared in 2020. Her story exposes how hundreds of indigenous women continue to go missing in the USA, perpetuating trans-generational trauma on Indian reservations.

In November 2020, Johnson-Davis was walking along Fire Trail Road on the north end of the Tulalip Reservation when she texted a friend she was “almost to the church.” She’s been missing ever since.

Director: Sabrina Van Tassel

Zine Exhibitors



Juan "Ricky" Araiza *Las Cruces, NM*
Rachael Buffett *Albuquerque, NM*
Ann Drew *Tucson, AZ*
Esperanza *Las Cruces, NM*
Jesse Hinson *Tucson, AZ*

Katrina Laine *Las Cruces, NM*
Mojada Inc *Las Vegas, NV*
Pan(*)cha Zine
Jaimie Lee Peterson *Hunt, TX*

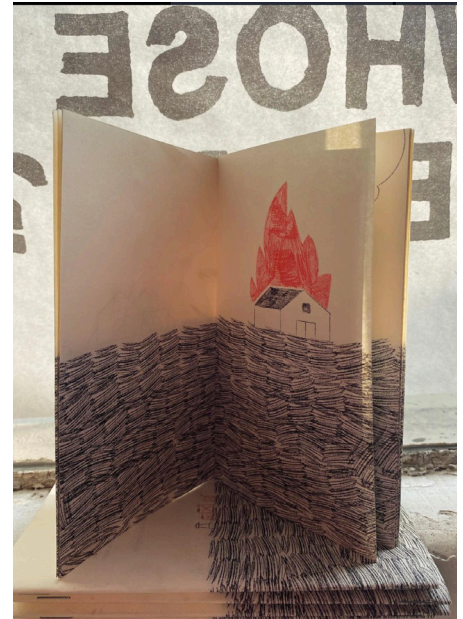




Perritos Independientes Cd. Juárez, MX
Pitzilein Books Mexico City, MX
Brooke Reiche Santa Fe, NM
Jillian Sandell Joshua Tree, CA
Yvette Serrano Santa Fe, NM



Silver Pick Studios El Paso, TX
Tahnee Udero Albuquerque, NM
Troctopus Press Tucson, AZ
Uno Foto Art San Diego, CA



FBAFF FILMMAKERS & CONTRIBUTORS

Niya Abdullahi is a filmmaker, technologist, and founder of @Habasooda, a collective sharing the richness of the Muslim experience through short films and data-based graphics. Her work focuses on themes of identity, liberation, and resistance. Niya's films have been showcased at prestigious festivals, including TIFF Next Wave, Black Film Festival Zurich, Nuit Blanche Saskatoon, Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival, Third Watch, and Breakthroughs Film Festival.

Jan Adriaans works in video, sound, performance, and installation. He completed his Master's at the Dutch Art Institute and is finishing a course in Posthumanism, Alien Bodies, Cyborgs, and Artificial Intelligence in American Literature at Leiden University. His work has been exhibited at Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin, BB15 in Linz, the National Darwin Museum in Moscow, The Nunnery in London, TAAK in Amsterdam, and the Museum of Yugoslav History in Belgrade. Adriaans has participated in residencies at the Seoul Museum of Art, Künstlerhaus Bethaniën in Berlin, and Townhouse in Cairo.

Dr. Vanessa J. Aguilar and **Dr. Amanda Cuellar** are featured scholars bringing a wealth of knowledge to this year's festival. Dr. Aguilar specializes in speculative fiction, Bruja/Conjure Feminisms, and Chicana/Latinx knowledge production. Her interdisciplinary background informs her research on South American, anti-colonial, and indigenous creative expressions. Dr. Cuellar, a film scholar at Doña Ana Community College, complements this with her expertise in film studies and intersecting discourses that bring lived experiences and historical realities together through the moving image.

Rakel Aguirre is a journalist and independent filmmaker passionate about documenting untold stories from the margins. She graduated in Journalism from the University of the Basque Country and holds a diploma in Documentary Filmmaking from EICTV in Cuba. Rakel directed her first documentary short in 2011 and co-directed "The Lady of Percussion" in 2014. She is currently working on her first feature documentary film, "Sew to Say."

Juan "Ricky" Araiza (he/him) is an artist and educator from Las Cruces, NM, and has been a member of the New Mexico State University community since 2014. His artistic work raises questions about identity, the body, and borders, both material and metaphorical. As a teacher, his courses—ranging from film studies to masculinities to comics as literature—help students develop critical awareness of issues related to women, gender, and sexuality studies. He uses interdisciplinary pedagogical practices that combine the personal, the political, and the creative.

Mariana Azcárate is a filmmaker born in Mexico City with early professional experiences in singing, music, and theatre. In 2017, she won the Nespresso Talents competition with her short film “Bicho,” which screened at the Cannes Film Festival and Morelia International Festival, and won an award at Brand Film Fest in London. Her short film “Primary Needs” premiered at Imagine This Women’s International Film Festival in 2019 and was in the 2020 official selection of the Maine International Film Festival. Her documentary “Dreams in the Jungle” was recently part of multiple international film festivals. She is currently in post-production on her next project.

Jackie Barragan is a documentary filmmaker from the U.S./Mexico Border. She graduated from UTEP with a Bachelor’s in Anthropology and a Minor in Dance, focusing on indigenous cultures and grassroots social movements. In 2021, her documentary short film “JOSIE” won First Place and Audience Choice Awards at the Plaza Classic Film Festival. Jackie directed and produced “Ome Tlaloc: Ceremonial Tattoos” through the REEL South PBS program and continues to create films. She is the Co-Director of Femme Frontera Filmmaker’s collective.

Zoë Bayer discovered film as the ideal medium to blend her interests in photography and writing. Her thesis, featuring a screenplay and storyboard, received an award for excellence. After a preliminary course in design, she completed a directing internship at the Basel Theatre. In 2017, Zoë gained experience in the camera department of Lieblingsfilm GmbH in Hamburg. She has balanced her studies with work in the film industry since 2018, studying screenwriting at Zurich University of the Arts.

Keslee Bennett is an Exhibition Coordinator at the NMSU University Art Museum as well as an instructor and artist.

Sarah Blackwell (he/she) is a multidisciplinary artist specializing in digital media, primarily videos and digital illustration. His work draws inspiration from his religious upbringing, historical narratives, and queer identity. Sarah explores reflections of his identity in historical contexts, addressing overlooked queer stories. Currently, Sarah is pursuing a BFA in Digital Art from Indiana University.

Marusya Bociurkiw began her media career with 80’s feminist video collectives like Women’s Media Alliance and Emma Productions. She has directed or co-directed 10 films and authored 7 books. Her documentary “This Is Gay Propaganda: LGBT Rights & the War in Ukraine” screened in 12 countries. Marusya’s books have won awards, including CBC Writes and the Independent Publisher Award. She is a Professor of Media Theory and Founding Director of The Studio for Media Activism & Critical Thought at Ryerson University.

Elnaz Sarbar Boczek is an Iranian-American women’s rights activist. Formerly a program manager at tech companies in the Bay Area, Elnaz now focuses on raising her daughter and amplifying Iranian women’s voices. She contributes to the *Voice of America* comic journalism series, “Confronting Morality,” recounting her experience of learning English and discovering the world through VHS videos.

Carrigen Cain (they/them) is a queer, nonbinary femme currently living in New Mexico. Carrigen is a creative enthusiast with interests in painting and creative writing. They are a licensed Mental Health Counselor and skilled trauma therapist specializing in working with queer individuals and relationships. As a passionate mental health advocate, Carrigen also has experience in facilitation and teaching. They are set to begin the Ph.D. program in Counseling Psychology at NMSU in Fall 2024.

Teresita Carson is an artist and educator working across disciplines, including moving image, new media, sound, sculpture, photography, print media, fiber, and installation. Her feminist approach explores world and counter-archive building, weaving Indigenous histories with science fiction as a decolonial strategy. Teresita's films have been shown at venues like the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Mana Contemporary, and Hyde Park Art Center.

Lena Chen is an artist and Ph.D. student at UC Berkeley in the Department of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies. She has received grants from the Mozilla Foundation, Sundance Institute, and the Center for Cultural Power. Lena won "Best Emerging Talent" at the 2019 B3 Biennial of the Moving Image and the Grand Prize at the 2024 Carnegie Mellon University International Film Festival. **Juliana Fadil-Luchkiw** is an artist, performer, and Ph.D. student in Performance Studies. Their work explores dreams and fantasy in sociocultural life, focusing on South-South exchanges and the relationship between dance, sex, and labor. Juliana has performed and presented work throughout the U.S. and internationally.

Anne Ciecko is a maker, writer, and educator based in Amherst, Massachusetts, USA. She is an Associate Professor of Film in the Communication Department at UMass Amherst. Her poetry, films, and short experimental works have been officially selected at festivals in Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Cyprus, England, France, Greece, India, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, the United States, and Wales.

Zander Constien is an experimental filmmaker based in Fort Collins, Colorado. Their mixed media art explores queer otherness, placing characters in absurd conundrums within uncanny hellscapes. These worlds blend absurd pastiches where terror and overwhelming goofiness coexist. An animation enthusiast since childhood, Zander's recent film, inspired while working at Kroger, reflects a capitalist hellscape not engulfed in flames, but drowning in color and status quo, aiming to offer viewers a new perspective on everyday fears.

Tzor Ederly is a queer artist and **Tom Perzman** is a visual artist and filmmaker. Tzor's background in dance, music, textile, geology, and archaeology informs their storytelling. Focusing on West Asia and North Africa, they seek to blend pan-Mediterranean aesthetic and cultural elements into the contemporary visual world. Tom's work explores the fluidity and meaning of time, unfolding his family history and promoting queer storytelling in contemporary society.

Jan Eilhardt studied film and performance art in Hamburg, Germany. Their features and short films have been shown at international film festivals, cinemas, museums, and galleries. Jan's film career began in Berlin with several short films screened in European film festivals and galleries. Their works incorporate experimental and arthouse elements, exploring queer themes. Jan's autobiographical feature 'Janine Moves to the Country' will be released this year.

Andrea Erre is a Mexican visual artist with a degree in Visual Arts from the Universidad de Ciencias y Artes de Chiapas, specializing in video art. Her research in arts and audiovisual media has been recognized by the Center for Research, Innovation and Development of the Arts and the National Council for Science and Technology and Humanities. She has worked in film post-production and art direction for advertising. Her videopoetic piece, "La Sonrisa de Júpiter," has been showcased in multimedia arts and experimental cinema exhibitions across Mexico. Her work experiments with video art, film, and animation.

Giovannie Espiritu is a bisexual, once-undocumented immigrant Filipina mom who spent her teenage years in a Biblical doomsday cult. Her first short film, "Ultra-Feminist," received an Honorable Mention at Outfest: Fusion, and her second film, "ALLY 3000," won over 12 awards. Her work targets dismantling the patriarchy, healing generational trauma, and exposing bias with humor. Giovannie stars in the Amazon series "Dyke Central" and is a member of the Alliance of Women Directors and the Producers Guild of America.

ETA is a nonbinary, first-gen Vietnamese-American filmmaker raised in Tustin, CA, by refugees of the American War in Vietnam. Their work amplifies marginalized voices, addresses colorism in onscreen representation, and tackles racial and social equity issues. ETA is in preproduction for "Menstrual," a sci-fi road trip film. Their film "White Gaze" won numerous awards, including "Best Director" at Arthouse Film Fest. **Shanhuan Manton** is a genderqueer Chinese-American filmmaker focused on transforming cinematic storytelling into regenerative rituals and creating speculative worlds. Together, they collaborate on genre-fluid films that explore diaspora representation, undo colonial trauma, and queer narrative structures.

Dr. Carol W.N. Fadda is an Associate Professor in English and Women's and Gender Studies at Syracuse University. Her research focuses on Arab and Muslim American Studies, American Studies, critical race and ethnic studies, and transnational studies. Fadda employs feminist, anti-assimilationist, and transnational approaches to explore Arab American and Muslim American belonging, challenging the boundaries of the US nation-state and transforming dominant forms of national membership and citizenship. Her work highlights the complexities of Arab and Arab-Muslim transnational experiences.

Eva Gabriella Flynn is visual artist who works as the Education and Outreach Coordinator at the University Art Museum (UAM) at New Mexico State University. Eva coordinates and leads the OutsmART Workshop for Kids - Paper Zoetropes in collaboration with the 2024 Feminist Border Arts Film Festival. Eva's conceptual photography project on flags, nation, and geography is featured as the cover image of the FBA publication, *SJZ: Social Justice Zine* Vol. 6, in 2021.

Federica Foglia is a transnational visual artist and writer, currently a Ph.D. student in Cinema and Media Studies at York University whose work focuses on migration, citizenship, identity, displacement, and women of the diaspora. Federica's tactile filmmaking practice involves recycled cinema, amateur filmmaking, archives, ecofeminism, and materialist cinema. Her films have been exhibited at numerous festivals, including TIFF, Ann Arbor Film Festival, and International Kurzfilmtage Oberhausen.

Alex Fonnest is a first-time filmmaker who received her B.A. in Gender & Sexuality Studies (along with an Outstanding Senior Award) from New Mexico State University in Spring 2024. She created a digital storytelling piece about her mother and the effects of loss from suicide on family members, especially a young child, in a Spring 2023 course on FBA & film festival studies, digital storytelling, and women's, gender, & sexuality studies. **Parker Campbell** edited the piece.

FRANK (Melissa Huerga Malillos, Alicia Dyke, Brandon O'Larey) is a collective of artists and friends based in Seattle and New York. We are the archivists of modern aestheticism and curators of counter culture, tracking singularities that demand permanent record and presenting evidence of their memory.

Julia Freij is a Palestinian American Director from Salt Lake City, Utah. She has written and directed short films and a music video. Julia is a second-year directing fellow at the American Film Institute Conservatory. Her work channels her bi-cultural experience to give voice to the often unheard and elicit empathy for hidden humanity. Her stories place women at the forefront, focusing on the trials and tribulations of owning one's femininity.

Lyn Goeringer is a sound artist, filmmaker, and performer who creates instruments and multimedia installations focused on the unusual and everyday within sound, video, and electronics. She teaches Composition at Michigan State University and earned her Ph.D. from Brown University in 2011. **Rosely Conz** (MA, MFA) is a Brazilian dancer, choreographer, and scholar. Her work explores immigration and identity through film and choreography. Her screendance, "Uprooted," has been showcased at over 10 festivals and won the Emerging Voices category at the 2020 Mosaic Film Festival. She is an Assistant Professor of Dance at Alma College.

Michelle Granger is a College Assistant Professor in the Department of English specializing in Rhetoric & Composition, Writing in the Humanities, Technical and Professional Communication, and Children's Literature. She is dedicated to creating an equitable and safe classroom environment for her students. Currently she is interested in the impact AI has on students' writing, research, and learning. Michelle was born and raised in Las Cruces, New Mexico and cares deeply about the community. She recently presented a short lecture on *The Wizard of Oz* for a screening of the movie at the Fountain Theater.

Jasmin Hagendorfer is based in Vienna, she is an acclaimed contemporary artist, filmmaker, and curator. Through diverse mediums, she delves into socio-political themes and gender identity, showcasing her works internationally. As co-founder and director of the Porn Film Festival Vienna, she intertwines feminist and queer theories with art and erotica.

Jasmine Herrera is the Art Museum Coordinator at the University Art Museum and has been a steadfast mentor for the directors of Feminist Border Arts. Jasmine's invaluable contributions range from coordinating logistics to helping guide FBA in writing grant applications. Her dedication and expertise make her an incredible asset to the UAM and NMSU, and a vital support to FBA.

Laura Iancu (she/her) is a visual artist specializing in virtual reality, non-fiction and experimental video forms, and immersive 3D animation. Her expanded practice includes installation, photography, and graphic design. She currently teaches film production classes at Virginia Tech. Laura's work addresses ecology, civic and political resistance, aspirational normative femininity, and humor as subversion. Her art pieces combine elements of sound art, critical theory, poetry, magic realism, pop culture, dance, gardening, and contemporary technology, creating a complex intertextual narrative that challenges prescriptive discourses and representations.

Perrin Ireland is a media artist and video storyteller who elucidates science through art. She brings complex scientific concepts to life through research, comics, and digital storytelling. Ireland's diverse portfolio includes illustrating marine biology research at Brown University and creating impactful watercolor animations for the Natural Resources Defense Council. Her work bridges the gap between science studies and popular culture, offers new insights at the nexus of art, science, gender and sexuality studies, and environmental advocacy.

Vasundhara Jadhav is a director and screenwriter. She is a graduate of the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute in Kolkata, West Bengal, India.

Itandehui Jansen was born in Oaxaca, Mexico and studied film directing at the Netherlands Film Academy in Amsterdam. She participated in different international training programs, such as Berlinale Talents, The Binger Film Lab, and Torino Film Lab. Her films have screened at international festivals IDFA, FICM, Washington D.C. Shorts, ZINEBI, London Short Film Festival, and SLAMDANCE. Her feature drama film *In Times of Rain* received the award for Best Emerging Feature Film at Oaxaca Film Fest.

Lauren Jevnikar is a film director and editor currently residing in Los Angeles. As a filmmaker, Lauren is interested in exploring intimacy, vulnerability, and relationship dynamics. Their films have screened internationally; most recently, their proof of concept short “Half-Light” played at the 2023 Oscar-qualifying HollyShorts, and won a Special Achievement Award for “Best Directing” at NFFTY 2023.

M. Catherine Jonet and **Laura Anh Williams** are associate professors of Gender and Sexuality Studies at NMSU. They are the co-founders and co-directors of the Feminist Border Arts Film Festival. They employ critical and practice-based methods to translate research knowledge into creative works, including festival curation, original digital media, comics, zines, and short films. Learn more about their work at fba.nmsu.edu.

Michèle Kaye is an actor, director, producer, and musician based in Toronto. In much of her work as a director, Michèle has explored denial, gender, trauma, and desire through an anti-capitalist, anti-patriarchal lens. Michèle has two feature films currently in development. As a musician, Michèle has released two EPs under the name Mischa Kaye. Her debut album was nominated for a Toronto Independent Music Award in 2007.

Hilary Klotz Steinman is an Emmy Award-winning documentary film producer with over 20 years of experience producing vérité, historical and investigative documentary films. Her work has been featured on PBS, NBC, MSNBC, CNBC, and Al Jazeera. Her recent projects include “The Codebreaker” for the PBS series American Experience, “Death by Design,” and “Children of the Inquisition.”

Konrad Kultys is a Film Directing Department student and Cinematography Department graduate at Łódź Filmschool, and a PhD candidate at the Academy of Fine Arts in Łódź, Poland. His films have been showcased internationally, including in the USA, Great Britain, Mexico, Brazil, and Greece. His short film Stagnant was the most awarded Polish short film at international festivals in 2022. His indie feature debut Radiant premiered in the main feature section at the 2024 Ibiza Cinefest Festival Internacional de Cine Independiente de Ibiza.

Petra Koppers (she/her) is a disability culture activist and a community performance artist. Petra grounds herself in disability culture methods, and uses somatics, performance, and speculative writing to engage audiences toward more socially just and enjoyable futures. In 2022, she was named a Dance/USA Fellow, and in 2023, she received a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Ruth Leitman is an award-winning director, writer, and producer known for her social justice documentaries. Over 25 years, her work has garnered support from the Rockefeller Foundation, Tribeca Film Institute, and others. She was named in Sight and Sound Magazine’s “The Female Gaze: 100 Overlooked Films Directed by Women” (2016). Her notable films include *Lipstick & Dynamite* (2005), *Tony & Janina’s American Wedding* (2010), and *Alma* (1998). She directed for Kartemquin Films’ *Hard Earned*, winning an Alfred I. duPont Columbia University Journalism Award. Ruth is currently developing *The Pin-Down Girl*, a fiction feature based on *Lipstick & Dynamite*.

Jia Lin is an emerging queer student filmmaker studying at Loyola Marymount University. Through her work, she explores the intimate complexities of identity and human connection. Rooted in the nuance of her experiences, Jia's films pursue both an observance and a celebration of love beyond the binary.

Maureen Macleod is a director and producer from the U. K. In addition to directing, "Kim Carnie Out Loud," she produced the 2023 documentary "The Fairy's Song" and the TV special "Ceòl na Loidhne" in 2020.

Frost Martin is a nonfiction and docufiction director, writer, and producer living in Brooklyn, New York. She is currently obtaining her film BFA at Pratt Institute as a presidential scholar with honors and simultaneously pursuing her film career. Her work addresses themes and topics of identity, the LGBTQ+ community, healthcare inequities, climate and social justice, female friendships, and familial trauma.

Audrie McCollum is a student at the Santa Fe campus of St. John's University, a rigorous liberal arts college with campuses in Annapolis, Maryland, and Santa Fe, New Mexico. She was recently awarded the Bassan Scholarship for a paper she wrote on The Bacchae.

Lisa Y. Méndez (they/them) is a photographer, collagist, zinester, and independent public artist. An alum of NMSU's Art and Gender & Sexuality Studies (then Women's Studies), Lisa donated over 40 zines to the FBA zine collection in February 2022 on behalf of their Uno Foto Mobile Zine Library. Lisa describes their art as "a creative force that makes no apologies for what they have created in the past or what they will create in the future." To learn more, check out @uno.foto.art on Instagram.

Rosemary Meza-DesPlas is a multidisciplinary Latina artist who incorporates fiber art, drawing, painting, performance art, and video into her practice. Her work amplifies women's voices and reflects the female experience within a patriarchal society, exploring socio-cultural issues, gender-based burdens, political agency, and ethnic stereotypes. In 2022, she received a Latinx Artist Fellowship and a Fulcrum Fund grant for her performance artwork "Miss Nalgas USA 2022." Her work has been exhibited at the Museum of Sonoma County, 516 ARTS, and the New Mexico Museum of Art. Meza-DesPlas holds a BFA and an MFA.

Claudia Minerva Medina is the proud daughter of a Nahua/Mexican mother and Italian father who settled on the Sunshine Coast of Canada in Tla'Amin territory (Powell River/qathet). Since 1998, she has been involved in film and video production, founding her production company, EnMedia. Claudia's notable installations include "Future Forests" (2018), "Clam Basket" (2022), and "Naguala" (2023). She holds a master's degree in Visual Culture from the University of Barcelona.

MÉLO (Mélodie Roulaud) is a nonbinary, London-based French film director and photographer with a background in film production, documentary, and advertising. Their moving image and photography practice spans genres such as global TV commercial campaigns, documentaries, fashion films, and portraits.

Burcu Melekoğlu is a filmmaker based in Istanbul, specializing in directing and editing. She discovered her passion for filmmaking while earning a bachelor's degree in Systems Engineering and a film minor at the University of Pennsylvania. Back in Istanbul, Burcu founded MOXIE, an independent production company. Her debut feature-length documentary, "Blue ID," premiered in the Luminous section of IDFA 2022 and won the NPO IDFA Audience Award.

Brylee Middleton is a Gender & Sexuality Studies major from Alamogordo, New Mexico. They work at their local emergency department as a PRN patient registration interviewer. Outside of class, Brylee performs in musicals and plays, crochets, and spends time outdoors with family. Brylee's first digital storytelling project, "Beyond Binary," explores themes of identity, belonging, and the performative nature of gender expression from the perspective of a feminine-presenting nonbinary person.

Maria Millan is a Venezuelan director and writer based in London. An alumna of the Hessen Lab, she showcased her screenplay "The Hollow Women" at the B3 Biennale in Frankfurt, Germany, in 2022. Her screenplay was a semi-finalist for the Stowe Lab Screenwriting Fellowship 2024 and received an honorable mention from PrimeTime Network, UK. Her films have screened at The Women's Film Festival in Seattle and L'Etrange Film Festival in Paris.

Allyson Mitchell is a Toronto-based maximalist artist heavily influenced by Riot Grrrl zines and bands. Engaging with the "uncanny" world of queer feminist media and craft, her work includes "Ladies Sasquatch" and the immersive "Kill Joy's Kastle." Mitchell approaches pop culture and her own autobiography through a queer and feminist lens, working predominantly in sculpture, installation, and film. An advocate for using art as a form of social critique, her installations invite viewers into conversations on gender, sexuality, and identity, challenging social norms.

Ana Montaña and Eduardo García are an emerging Mexican filmmaking duo. Ana, a colorist, director of photography, and director, studied Design and Visual Communication at UNAM. With over nine years of experience as a colorist in the film industry, she is now presenting her first work as a screenwriter and director. Eduardo, an editor, and director, studied Communication at Anáhuac University Mexico Norte.

Isa Moreno is a Los Angeles-based queer and trans Mexican-American multimedia artist from Watsonville, CA. Currently a graduate student at the UCLA Animation Workshop, Isa is producing their Master's thesis in 2D animation with a focus on music video production. Their films often explore themes of family, intergenerational love, and social justice.

Alika Mteuzi (Black, Caddo, Cheyenne & Arapaho) is an Albuquerque-based writer and director who earned her BFA in Digital Arts from the Institute of American Indian Arts in 2023. Her work as an Afro-Indigenous artist is shaped by the resilience of revolutionaries like Assata Shakur and Haunani-Kay Trask. Her film “Hadaya:2033” reflects the strength and enduring spirit of Black and Indigenous women against Americanism. It challenges the status quo, offering a vision where the marginalized are creators of their destiny. This project is a journey of reclamation, liberating voices and stories often silenced.

Miriam Muraca was born in Bolzano, Italy in 1994 to a German mother and Italian father. A graduate from the University of Bologna, she wrote her thesis on Japanese animation. During the lockdown, she focused on illustration and co-founded a webzine. Miriam works as an illustrator and actress, continuing to develop her passion for animation. Her first animated short film, “Phonetrip,” was selected by over 30 festivals worldwide.

Emily Packer (she/they) is an experimental filmmaker and editor with an interest in geography and hybrid formats. Their directorial work has screened at numerous film festivals, including Anthology Film Archives, BlackStar, and DOCNYC. Emily co-directed “By Way of Canarsie” with Lesley Steele, which is streaming on the Criterion Channel and featured in POV Shorts Season 6.

Helena Papageorgiou is an animator, art director, motion designer, and projection artist. She creates music videos, live visuals, and narrative experiences, incorporating various stylistic mediums such as film, collage, motion design, and 2D and 3D animation to convey a sense of visual immersion.

Héctor Iglesias Pascual is an assistant professor of Spanish at NMSU specializing in Transnational LGBTQ+ Film and Media. His research interests include contemporary Latin American literatures and cultures, Latin American film, queer and sexualities studies, and social media studies. As a co-curator, he focuses on transnational LGBTQ+ migration and experiences in film and media, with particular expertise in documentary filmmaking. His work adds a critical dimension to the festival, featuring Venezuelan filmmaker Maria Millan and her documentary on global queer parenting.

Jaimie Lee Peterson is a featured media artist in graphic memoir. Based in Hunt, TX, she is an art therapist, educator, artist, and graphic memoirist. Peterson holds a BFA in Painting from the Art Institute of Kansas City and an MA in Art Therapy from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her work integrates her life experiences and insights on anti-oppressive practices in clinical art therapy, connecting these to her memoir comics.

Sofía Peypoch is a visual artist who combines film, photography, poetry, and found objects. Her practice resides at the interstice between personal memory and collective thought, imagining memory as a navigable space. Sofía’s work explores the experience of the present as a continuous fabric of events in constant transformation.

Maegan La Trese Philmore is a director, producer, and activist based in Inglewood, California. Her shorts have been featured at OutFest Fusion, Bentonville, DisOrient Asian, Imagine This, and Frameline. Her production company, Hudson Philmore, specializes in womanist, queer, BIPOC, all abilities & sizes unscripted and scripted content. Hudson Philmore aims to challenge Hollywood's exclusionary practices. Maegan's notable films include "DOMestication," "Agents of Change: Project Polymer," and "Soul Tie." Formerly, she oversaw productions for Comedy Central, VH1, and MTV. An alumna of Mount Holyoke College, she is also a devoted "Titi" to Tre and Kota.

Dae Romero (they/them/elle) is a College Assistant Professor in the Communication Studies Department at NMSU whose area of interest in communication studies is identity and intersectionality. As an educator, they advocate for the use of intersectional communication to understand the complexities of the human experience. As Basic Course Director, they strive to educate through a critical lens to promote curiosity, unlearning, and empathy, emphasizing the importance of diverse voices and experiences.

Ryan Rox (she/they) is a queer, Latine Director, Writer, Actor, and Co-Director of Femme Frontera, living and working in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Rox has showcased her work at TRANSLations, the San Francisco Transgender Film Festival, and many more. Her work has been supported by Femme Frontera's Filmmaker Grant, Film Fatales' Fatales Forward: Trans Stories Fellowship, and Daniella's Guestbook. Her primary focus is uplifting queer voices and narratives, creating inclusive spaces for LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC communities, and fostering empathy and awareness.

Mika Ruskin is a young motion and graphic designer with a passion for storytelling and an eye for detail. A 2023 graduate of the Visual Communication department at Shenkar School of Design and Engineering, Mika lists her country as unspecified and condemns the actions of the Israeli government regarding Gaza and Palestinians.

Marisa Sage is the Director and Head Curator of the New Mexico State University Art Museum in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Sage is a curator with a passion for emerging contemporary art and artists. Throughout her 15+ year career, she has planned and executed over 100 international exhibitions, featuring more than 200 individual artists globally. Sage is a central figure in supporting FBA from its early days. Her dedication to inclusion and fostering diverse creative expressions has been invaluable to our growth and success.

Jillian Sandell is a featured media artist in graphic memoir. Inspired by Lynda Barry's daily journal activity, she began drawing during cancer treatment in 2016 to process her experiences. Before becoming an artist, Jillian taught Gender Studies for two decades, and her work is shaped by a feminist sensibility. Her art focuses on the politics of everyday life, including the aftermath of cancer treatment, living in the desert, environmental and food justice, grief, and love.

Luca Silver is a nonbinary writer, director, and editor based in Albuquerque (ABQ). Their latest film is a two-year labor of love, created entirely from their bedroom, online, and over text. It began with questions posed to family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers: “What was your sex education growing up? What would you want to tell your younger self now?” This project evolved into a collage of images and sounds, featuring perspectives from 15 collaborators across three countries. Together, they celebrate the joy, embarrassment, divinity, and absurdity of sex.

Joanna Simmons is a writer, director, and performer based in Brooklyn, NY. She has directed theater for many years, and “Mama Night” is her short film directorial debut. Recently, she directed “Mark Pleases You” at Edinburgh Fringe 2023, which won Best of the Fest at San Diego Fringe 2023.

Priya Sircar is an artist and arts advocate. A dancer-choreographer, actor, and former musician, Priya seeks to enrich through arts and culture. Since 2021, she has served as Charlotte, North Carolina’s first Arts and Culture Officer. Her directorial debut, “Murmuration,” was a family collaboration during the COVID-19 lockdown. “Murmuration” was inspired by the song “Valley” by Ben Violet’s band, Pelvis Wrestling.

Julia Smith is a Visiting Professor at New Mexico State University in English and Gender & Sexuality Studies. She received her Ph.D. from Purdue University in Critical Theory and Cultural Studies with an emphasis in Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies. Julia is currently working on a documentary film titled Birth of the Acid Western, which explores the artistic output of Las Cruces filmmaker and NMSU professor Orville Wanzer.

Michael V. Smith’s films have been showcased at prestigious festivals like the Vancouver International Film Festival, New York Video Festival, and British Film Institute, among others. His short films have won numerous awards globally, including “I Dream a Queer Allegory” and “Girl on Girl.” As a performer, Smith has appeared at events like Toronto’s VideoFag and the Vancouver Fringe Festival. An accomplished author, his works include the novel “Cumberland” and the memoir “My Body Is Yours.” Smith is a Professor at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan, teaching Creative Writing

Essmat Sophie is a director and author of several critically acclaimed books. Born and raised in the Kurdish region of Iran, she now resides in Norway after several years in the United States. Her latest books include “In the Eye of the Storm” (2013) and “The Last Day of Autumn” (2021).

Stefanie Kay Sparks is a writer, director, and actor based in NYC. Growing up on a farm in Western Iowa, she moved to Seattle and then NYC, where she earned an MA in Media and Film from the New School. Stefanie's working-class background heavily influences her filmmaking. She has directed three no-budget feature films.

Francine Strickwerda is an award-winning independent filmmaker whose feature documentaries, including "Oil & Water" and "Busting Out," have screened on Showtime, PBS, Netflix, Amazon, and internationally. Her films, funded by the MacArthur Foundation, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and Chicken & Egg Pictures, explore power, trauma, and healing.

Laura Sweeney is a screenwriter, director, and actress. Her scripts have been official selections at Vail Film Festival, Nantucket Film Festival, HollyShorts, Screencraft Script Fund, Filmmatic, Toronto International Women's Film Festival, and Cascadia International Women's Film Festival.

Carrie Tafoya grew up in rural New Mexico and started at NMSU as an undergraduate in 2004. She received her MFA in creative writing and has worked in the English department for over a decade. Now a College Assistant Professor, Carrie is invested in the invaluable work the G&SS faculty does in the classroom and beyond. She incorporates much of what she has learned from their courses into her own teaching. Carrie believes in creating safe, accessible, and inclusive classrooms for students at NMSU.

Tanin Torabi is an award-winning and independent Iranian dance artist who works in performance, choreography, and film. With a background in Sociology and an MA in Contemporary Dance Performance from the University of Limerick, her works have been honored by renowned festivals and academies worldwide. She has received awards including the Creative Vision Award, Jury Prize, Best Artist Film, and Best Experimental Film.

Courtney Uldrich is the Collections Curator at the University Art Museum (UAM) at New Mexico State University. She received her MFA in Art History from NMSU in 2022 and her BFA in Photography from Shawnee State University. Uldrich has curated four exhibitions at the UAM and is the 2021 recipient of the Judy Chicago Art Education Award. She manages and curates exhibitions from the NMSU Permanent Art Collection, oversees research requests, and teaches museum studies students.

Sabrina Van Tassel is a French-American director and journalist based in France. Since 2004, she has directed over 40 documentary films as an investigative reporter for French TV, focusing on social issues like underage sex trafficking, children in the white nationalist movement, and school bullying. Her feature documentaries include *Married for Worse* (2004), *Shalom India: Tsahal's Lost Soldiers* (2008), and *Rivka's Tribe* (2010). Her critically acclaimed documentary *The Silenced Walls* (2015) explores the history of the Drancy camp, a key internment site for French Jews during World War II.

Paola Veiga is a film director and screenwriter. She wrote and directed “*Instante*” (2023) and “*Adendo*” (2014), which won Best Film by the Popular Jury at the French Festival “*Très Court*.” Her web series “*Mulheres Virais*” (2016) was nominated for Best Series and Best Actress for Regiana Antonini.

Patti Wojahn is an emeritus professor of rhetoric and professional communication, involved in Gender and Sexuality Studies and social justice issues since arriving at NMSU in 1999. She helped move Women's Studies from a certificate program to a disciplinary major and occasionally taught in the program. She retired as department head of Interdisciplinary Studies, home to Gender and Sexuality Studies, from 2015-2021. Wojahn has been pivotal in making FBA possible, providing unwavering support since its early days. Her contributions have been crucial to the initiative's success and growth.

Holli Xue (they/them) is a visual storyteller who weaves subtle sentiments into lived reality, collecting evidence for the record of the uncelebrated. Formerly a video journalist and documentary maker, they blend the factual and the imagined, the seen and the unexpressed, examining the construction of narratives from within.

Yue Hua is a multimedia artist, filmmaker, and educator based in Boston, focusing on visual storytelling and multimedia artwork.

Barbara Zecchi is a feminist film scholar, critic, video-essayist, and film festival curator. She is a Professor of Film Studies and Director of the Film Studies Program at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Specializing in feminist film theory, adaptation theory, and digital humanities, Zecchi holds degrees from Ca' Foscari University of Venice, UC San Diego, and UCLA.

Social Realities Are Media Modalities



NM STATE
GENDER & SEXUALITY STUDIES
genders.nmsu.edu

**MACS:
Media Arts &
Cultural Studies
Concentration**

The Media Arts and Cultural Studies (MACS) course concentration and methodology in Gender & Sexuality Studies embodies the social practice of creative expression.

MACS courses are available to G&SS majors, minors, graduate minors, and all interested NMSU students. This curriculum invites students from various disciplines to explore the intersections of media arts (both digital and material), cultural studies, and women's, gender, and sexuality studies. Developed by G&SS faculty and Feminist Border Arts co-founders, Dr. Jonet and Dr. Williams, MACS offers a socially transformative interdisciplinary approach to understanding and creating film & media arts, theorizing, performance studies, and texts.

To learn more about Gender & Sexuality Studies at NMSU, including Feminist Border Arts; MACS; majoring, minoring, graduate minoring; our courses, approaches, and learning opportunities, visit **genders.nmsu.edu** or contact Dr. Williams (lawill@nmsu.edu) or Dr. Jonet (mjonet@nmsu.edu).



NMSU ART MUSEUM 

FBA
feminist border arts

