

FILM AT REDCAT PRESENTS

Mon Oct 19 | 8:00 PM |

ONLINE

Jack H. Skirball Series

\$10 [members \$8]

To get tickets, visit: [CHRISTINE PANUSHKA 2020](#)

CHRISTINE PANUSHKA ***Blood of the Family Tree***

Program curated by Steve Anker

Hand-drawn and hand-colored over several years, Christine Panushka's *Blood of the Family Tree* (2020, 63 min.) poetically delves into the intimate connections created by a rare disease between generations of women. Panushka's animation films have been screened in Japan, Italy, France, Germany, Brazil, Switzerland, Holland, England, Poland, Canada and the United States. They have won numerous awards, including the Aspen Filmfest Grand Prize and a San Francisco International Film Festival Golden Gate Award. Her work explores the female psyche and uses stillness and small gestures to describe internal emotional and spiritual states. The creator of the award-winning website *Absolut Panushka*, she has curated animation programs and has been a juror for numerous international animation festivals. A graduate of the CalArts Experimental Animation Program, she became associate director of that program in the 1990s and has been a professor at USC's School of Cinematic Arts since 1997.

Musicians:

Composer: Miroslav Tadic

Yvette Holzwarth, violin, vocals, voices

Miroslav Tadic, guitars

Christopher Garcia, percussion, ocarina

Randy Gloss, percussion

April Guthrie, violoncello

Mark Reveley, didgeridoo

World premiere

In person via Zoom: Christine Panushka

"Completely original and capable of affecting both cerebral and sensual complexities. This elegiac work of masterful restraint and haunting resonance places Ms. Panushka in the front ranks of contemporary animation"

- Gene Youngblood

"Panushka's films are the epitome of personal, independent animation, the filming equivalent of poetry." – William Moritz

Blood of the Family Tree

(2020, 63 min., digital, color, sound)

"*Blood of the Family Tree* is an experimental animated film that explores questions of connections, hidden family history, disease, and our ties to the past. My objective was to create a work of animation that uses complex cinematic structures to tell a personal story, illustrating the connective tissue that binds humanity to history.

The film is a struggle to understand the past and its effect on the present. Recent research suggests that trauma is genetically passed down through generations. Issues of inheritance, physical and cultural mores and traumas sited within the body are represented by images of grandmothers, keepers, ancestors, watchers, blood cells, bones, knots, lace, trees, and roots.

Can we escape our history? Probably not, but we can recognize it and make peace with it.

Part of the experimental approach to this piece was to think of it as an artwork made by one person, completing all of the animation myself and with no assistants." – Christine Panushka

The Artist:

Christine Panushka is an internationally known award-winning artist, filmmaker/ animator and educator. Her films are regularly screened at Film Festivals in Asia, Europe, South America, and North America. They have won numerous awards, including the Grand Prize at the Aspen Film Festival for *The Sum of Them* (1983) and a Golden Gate Award at the San Francisco International Film Festival for *Nighttime Fears and Fantasies; a Bedtime Tale*

for a Young Girl (1986).

Named an "Absolut Visionary" in 1996, Panushka conceptualized, directed and curated "Absolut Panushka," the second issue in a series of content based web sites sponsored by Absolut Vodka. "Absolut Panushka" was a groundbreaking web site that supported and promoted experimental animation. "Absolut Panushka" has been honored with an "Award of Excellence" from *Communication Arts Magazine*, 1st prize for Animation on the Internet by both the World Animation Celebration in Los Angeles and the Holland International Animation Film Festival in Utrecht, Holland.

Panushka was Chair of the Animation Jury for the 16th International Hiroshima Animation Festival. She served on many other juries, including The Annie Awards and The Ann Arbor Film Festival. She has curated animation programs, and was a member of the selection committees for Glas Animation Festival, the Hiroshima Animation Festival and the Ottawa International Animation Festival.

Before joining the faculty at USC, Panushka was the Associate Director of the Experimental Animation Program at the California Institute of the Arts, where she taught for fourteen years. Panushka was Associate Dean of the School of Film/Video for three years. She also founded the animation program for the California State Summer School for the Arts, a summer program for talented high school students sponsored by the State of California and the animation program for CalArts' Community Arts Partnership at Inner City Arts and the Encino Media Center. These programs are unique in offering students in-depth experiences in all forms of animation.

Panushka received her BFA from the University of Utah and an MFA from the California Institute of the Arts.

Currently, Christine Panushka is a Full Professor in the John Hench Division of Animation and Digital Arts, School of Cinematic Arts at the University of Southern California.

This evening is dedicated to the beautiful memory of Marilyn Osoff.

Funded in part by the Ostrovsky Family Fund, with special support provided by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.