



REDCAT

Denise Ferreira da Silva and Arjuna Neuman

- Soot Breath / Corpus Infinitum

Film/Video

JAN 20, 2024

8:30 PM

REDCAT
Roy and Edna Disney
CalArts Theater

CaLARTS
California Institute of the Arts

We gratefully acknowledge that we operate on the traditional lands of the Tongva, Tataviam, and Chumash peoples—including the Gabrieleño, Fernandefío, and Ventureño; members of the Takic and Chumashan language families; and other Indigenous peoples who made their homes in and around the area we now call Los Angeles. We honor their ancestors past, present, and future, and recognize their continued existence and contributions to our society.

Denise Ferreira da Silva and Arjuna Neuman

● Soot Breath / Corpus Infinitum

Soot Breath / Corpus Infinitum—a film dedicated to tenderness—is the third collaboration between renowned writer and artist Denise Ferreira da Silva and filmmaker Arjuna Neuman. Interrogating empathy and violence, the film traces the transformations enacted on the natural world in the modern period, wherein living and non-living things have been treated as a standing reserve from which to extract resources. The element of earth is central as the camera moves from significant places in the biographies of the artists from Brazil to Indonesia, to major infrastructure that disintegrates in particles of soot. The film asks the questions Can tenderness dissolve total violence? Can tears displace total extraction? Reimagining the human and its subject-formation away from predatory desire and lethal abstraction, away from the mind and eyes and noble senses, away from total extraction and its articulations as ethnography, border regimes, slavery, sexual abuse, trade, and mining. Instead, the film turns toward skin, resonance, and tenderness as the raw material of a reimagined earthy sensibility—remembering that to be tender is to soften like supple grass, and to attend to is to care for, to serve.

The program includes a post-screening talk with Arjuna Neuman and Denise Ferreira da Silva (CalArts' MA Aesthetics and Politics Theorist in Residence), moderated by Janet Sarbanes.

Runtime: Approx. 40 minutes

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Denise Ferreira da Silva is the Samuel Rudin Professor in the Humanities at New York University's Department of Spanish and Portuguese Languages and Literatures. Her artistic and academic work reflects and speculates on questions crucial to contemporary philosophy, political theory, black thought, feminist thought, and historical materialism. She is the author of *Unpayable Debt* (2022), *Divida Impagável* (2019), and *Toward a Global Idea of Race* (2007). Her articles have been published in journals such as: *Social Text*; *Theory, Culture & Society*; *philoSOPHIA*; *Griffith Law Review*; *Theory & Event*; and *The Black Scholar*, among others. Her artworks include the films: *Serpent Rain* (2016); *4 Waters: Deep Implicancy* (2018); *Soot Breath /Corpus Infinitum* (2020) and *Ancestral Claims/Ancestral Clouds* (2023) with Arjuna Neuman; and *Poethical Readings and Sensing Salon* with Valentina Desideri. She is currently the Theorist in Residence for the CalArts MA Aesthetics and Politics.

Arjuna Neuman was born on an airplane. He is a filmmaker, artist, and writer. He has exhibited at Kunsthalle Wien, the Museum of Contemporary Art of Barcelona, Centre for Contemporary Arts Glasgow, and the Showroom London, among other venues. His videos and films have been widely shown, notably at Berlinale's Forum Expanded, Doclisboa, and Images Festival, and are distributed by LUX London. Neuman is co-founder of Archiveofbelonging.org, a database for migrants and refugees. He lives and works in Berlin, and is currently an artist in residence in Los Angeles at the Villa Aurora.

The MA Aesthetics and Politics at CalArts is a one-year full-time/one-year low-residency degree program in critical theory that engages students in intensive critique of the relations between culture, politics, and society in a global context. In the context of CalArts' unique interdisciplinary arts environment, the program offers a core series of rich and dynamic courses that explore political and aesthetic theory, technology and media, contemporary black thought and gender and urban studies, and the relation between art and politics. Over two years, students work towards an independent thesis that marks the culmination of their degree and are provided a mentor to support the development of their work. MA Aesthetics and Politics graduates have gone on to curatorial positions, positions in arts administration, arts careers, and Ph.D programs in visual culture and cinema and media studies. For more information, please visit: criticalstudies.calarts.edu/programs/aesthetics-and-politics

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UPCOMING AT REDCAT

Miko Revereza: *Nowhere Near*

January 22

Through the lenses of Miko Revereza—an undocumented Filipino immigrant in the US—this poetic essay film features their experience and disillusionment of their future in the country and the decision to return to an estranged homeland. Moving into fragmented streams of consciousness, *Nowhere Near* tracks down the origin of a family curse, retracing the generational harm of the post-9/11 era, the US occupation of the Philippines, and the spiritual conquest of the Spanish Empire.

Aya Ogawa: *The Nosebleed*

February 1 - 3

Are we doomed to repeat the mistakes of our parents? Through a series of absurd, autobiographical vignettes, innovative playwright, performer, translator, and director Aya Ogawa's hit 2022 Obie Award-winning show irreverently and boldly delves into what it takes to forgive. A trip to Ogawa's home country of Japan, a child's nosebleed, and the reality TV show *The Bachelor* come together in this darkly comical and psychologically insightful theatrical tribute to Ogawa's father. Part theatrical memorial performed by an ensemble of five, part healing ritual for the audience, this darkly humorous, tender, and inventive play considers how we inherit and bequeath failure, and what it takes to forgive.

Sans Soleil with William Parker and Lesley Mok: *Bandung*

February 17

Sans Soleil is a multi-genre ritual duo focused on deepening Black and Asian American solidarity, created and led by Chris Williams and Patrick Shiroishi. The duo's REDCAT premiere, *Bandung*, is an evening-length composition weaving field recordings, pan-Indigenous instrumentation, and free jazz expression, in collaboration with expanded ensemble members William Parker and Lesley Mok.



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