

FILM AT REDCAT PRESENTS

Mon April 29 | 8:30 pm |

Jack H. Skirball Screening Series

\$10 [students \$8, CalArts \$5]

Cabinets of Wonder: Films and Performance by Charlotte Pryce

World premieres

Charlotte Pryce's exquisitely detailed and evocatively structured short films suggest an alert daydreaming in which the documented and the imagined are juxtaposed. Her films offer fleeting illuminations that hover on the periphery of vision, calling into question the "mechanical eye" of the lens and the chemical composition of the celluloid. The films use 16mm "chrome" stocks—now-extinct reversal color—which are hand-processed and optically reprinted. "Like the items in a Cabinet of Wonder, my subjects are specimens of philosophical musing: rootless plants, mysterious insects and curious glasses," says Pryce. The program includes ***Concerning Flight: Five Illuminations in Miniature, Discoveries on the Forest Floor, The Parable of the Tulip Painter and the Fly, Curious Light, Looking Glass Insects, A Study in Natural Magic***, and a live magic lantern show.

In person: Charlotte Pryce

"Charlotte Pryce's body of work offers the beautiful possibilities of film as miniature, wherein brief filmic glimpses offer depths of suggestion and inquiry." —Chris Kennedy/Vanessa O'Neill

Films

A Study in Natural Magic

16mm, 3min, color, hand processed, 2013

World premiere

Witness an alchemist's spell: the transmutation of light into substance: a glimpse of gold.

Looking Glass Insects

4 minutes, 16mm, monochrome, 2012

Looking Glass Insects takes its title from chapter three of *Through the Looking Glass* and its classic original illustrations by John Tenniel. Delighting in the act and play of observation the film finds a visual metaphor for the cinematic process in the antics of the original story; making use of magnifying glasses as an optical pun, pointing to the instruments used by both entomologists and filmmakers alike. Yet the insects of the story fade away, just as the observations that appear in the film's magnifying glass dissolve into darkness when tilted to reflect the "natural" world beyond the book.

Curious Light

4 minutes, 16mm, hand processed, silent, 2011

A manuscript illuminated: illustrations retreat into the fiber of the page; a fleeting light dissolves into the emulsion of the film; an elusive story is revisited.

The Parable of the Tulip Painter and the Fly

4 minutes, 16mm, hand processed, silent, 2008

An intoxicating flower; a metaphorical insect; a longing reach across the centuries. The film is a philosophical search drenched in luminous colors and sparkling light. Having grown the beautiful tulip I fell deeply under its spell – an affliction shared by an artist from another time and place. In such luxurious and temporary beauty we crossed paths, sharing fear (a reminder – a fly) of the transience of life.

Discoveries on the Forest Floor

4 minutes, 16mm, hand-processed, silent, 2007

Three Miniature, Illuminated, Heliographic studies of plants, observed and imagined. The individual titles of the films are:

Burnt Umber/pale ochre/Burnt Umber

The Talk of Lichen on a Lonely Day

Those whose Attachment to the Earth is but Tentative

Concerning Flight: Five Illuminations in Miniature

8 minutes, 16mm, sound, 2004

A kinematographic film comprised of five brief fictions in which is explored the mystery of insect flight. Interpretations of a

mythological and fantastical nature are illuminated in motion and time.
In order of screening:

Thin Breath - Quivering
Landscape with the Fall of Icarus
Departure from the Garden
Conjuring Forth the Firefly
Keepers of the Labyrinth

Performance

W. H. Hudson's Remarkable Argentine Ornithology

World premiere

A live performance utilizing authentic refurbished Magic Lanterns with hand made lantern slides. The piece appears to relate the tale of famed naturalist W.H. Hudson's spell-binding recollection of birds seen as a child, from the pampas of his native Argentina, yet hidden with in the exotic views and extraordinary plumage are speculations of a less flighty nature.

Charlotte Pryce has been making films and optical objects since 1986. Born in London, she graduated with a BFA from the Slade School of Art, University College London and completed an MFA in Fine Art/ Film at the Art Institute of Chicago.

She has taught experimental film at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, the San Francisco Art Institute, the Academy of Art (San Francisco), Kent Institute of Design (Canterbury, England), and is currently a faculty member at the California Institute of the Arts (Los Angeles).

Her films have screened in numerous festivals including Rotterdam, Oberhausen, Toronto, San Francisco, New York, Hong Kong and London.

Charlotte Pryce explores proto-cinematic structures of reverie: juxtaposing the real and the imagined to create deeply saturated, fleeting illuminations that hover on the periphery of vision. Her work is infused with an optical and photochemical consciousness that delights in catoptric playfulness and paradox.

Curated by Steve Anker and Bérénice Reynaud

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