



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE:
HANDMADE FILMS BY JODIE MACK

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California Institute of the Arts

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LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE: HANDMADE FILMS BY JODIE MACK

JACK H. SKIRBALL SERIES

Combining formal techniques and structures of abstract/absolute animation, Jodie Mack's handmade films explore the relationship between graphic cinema and storytelling, the tension between form and meaning. Questioning decoration in daily life, Mack brings overlooked and wasted objects to vivid cinematic life. Mack will present *Dusty Stacks of Mom: The Poster Project* (2013), her most ambitious project to date, in addition to several recent films. *Dusty Stacks...* is a 40-minute stop-motion animation that pays homage to her mother's defunct poster shop and offers a whirlwind visual tour of pop music with a live, karaoke-style accompaniment that uses a popular rock album as a backdrop to her own lyrics. Vibrant and unpredictable, Mack's tactile work skirts the edges between animation, collage, autobiography and music video.

IN PERSON: JODIE MACK

"One of the most consistently engaging experimental filmmakers to have emerged on the scene in the past few years is Jodie Mack. Currently stationed at Dartmouth, where she's been given unprecedented access to impressionable minds, Mack has gotten attention for a series of herky-jerky, Constructivist (anti-)animations organized around close-ups of various swatches of material; based on underlying patterns and moving a mile a minute, these films are like crazy-quilts unfolding in time. For her latest project, she has gone off the deep end: *Dusty Stacks of Mom: The Poster Project*, a documentary featurette about her mother's defunct rock 'n' roll poster business in Florida, is Mack's most ambitious work to date. With brand new lyrics, all about the poster warehouse. Sung live, karaoke-style, by Mack herself. With a self-deprecation and a charm that is matched only by the keen precision of her art, Mack could be just what the avant-garde needs. Crisis? Turn up the music! Dead end? Bring me that trampoline." —Michael Sicinski, *Cinema Scope Online*

*Funded in part with generous support from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.
Curated by Steve Anker and Bérénice Reynaud*



PROGRAM

Undertone Overture

(10.5 min, 16mm, color, sound)

A study of tie dye swims out to the cosmos and back again.

New Fancy Foils

(12.5 min, 16mm, color, silent)

Paper sample books discarded and dumpstered by long-gone businesses undergo a series of sequential experiments in pattern, rhythm, color, and text(ure). A call and response of flickering and lingering, this catalog of catalogs remembers a tactile economy.

Dusty Stacks of Mom: the Poster Project

(41 min, 16mm, color, sound)

Interweaving the forms of personal filmmaking, abstract animation, and the rock opera, this animated musical documentary examines the rise and fall of a nearly-defunct poster and postcard wholesale business; the changing role of physical objects and virtual data in commerce; and the division (or lack of) between abstraction in fine art and psychedelic kitsch. Using alternate lyrics as voice over narration, the piece adopts the form of a popular rock album reinterpreted as a cine-performance. *Live musical accompaniment by Jodie Mack*

Glistening Thrills

(8 min, 16mm, color, sound)

A shiny otherworld of holographic reverie pairs dollar store gift bags and haunting resound in three parts.

Let Your Light Shine

(3 min, 16mm, color and b/w, sound)

The ultimate photo-kinetic stroboscopic spectacle. For prismatic glasses.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

Born 1983 in London, UK, **Jodie Mack** is an experimental animator who received her MFA in film, video, and new media from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2007 and currently teaches animation at Dartmouth College. Combining the formal techniques and structures of abstract/absolute animation with those of cinematic genres, her handmade films use collage to explore the relationship between graphic cinema and storytelling, the tension between form and meaning. Musical documentary or stroboscopic archive: her films study domestic and recycled materials to illuminate the elements shared between fine-art abstraction and mass-produced graphic design. Questioning the role of decoration in daily life, the works unleash the kinetic energy of overlooked and wasted objects.

Mack's 16mm films have screened at a variety of venues including the Images Festival, Ann Arbor Film Festival, Rotterdam Film Festival, Edinburgh International Film Festival, and Views From the Avant Garde at the New York Film Festival. She has presented solo programs of her work at venues such as the Anthology Film Archives, Los Angeles Filmforum, and the Northwest Film Forum. She has also worked as a curator and administrator with Dartmouth's EYEWASH: Experimental Films and Videos, Florida Experimental Film and Video Festival, Portland Documentary and Experimental Film Festival, Eye and Ear Clinic, Chicago Underground Film Festival, and The Nightingale. She was a featured artist at the 2011 Flaherty Seminar, and she's the 2013 recipient of the Marion McMahan Award at the Images Festival.

FILMMAKER'S NOTES

This collection of films investigates the formal principles of abstract cinema while maturing an interest in found materials, evolving modes of production, forms of labor, and the role of decoration in daily life. Prodding at hierarchies of aesthetic value and the tension between high and low, these works question the role of abstract animation in a post-psychedelic climate. Merch tables meet museum gift stores. The sublime meets Sublime the band. Rippling head shop tie dyes and dollar store gift bags form ebullient spectacles from resurrected dead capital and banal everyday objects. These stroboscopic eulogies – celebrating the spectrum of abstraction from transcendent visual experiences to science kit optical fascinations—force a proscenium collision of the arena rock show, the planetarium light performance, and the cinema.

UPCOMING FILM/VIDEO PROGRAMS AT REDCAT FALL 2013

Mon Oct 28

Jane Gillooly: *Suitcase of Love and Shame*

Sun Nov 3 & Mon Nov 4

Bruce Baillie: *Two Nights of 16mm Treasures*

Mon Nov 11

Eline Jongasma & Kel O'Neill "Live Screening" of *Empire: The Unintended Consequences of Dutch Colonialism*

Mon Nov 18

Rakhshan Banietemad: *The Hidden Cost of Violence*

Mon Nov 25

The Real and the Hyper-Real: Films and Videos by Scott Stark

Mon Dec 9

autrement, la Molussie by Nicolas Rey

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