

FILM AT REDCAT PRESENTS

Mon Jan 20 | 8:30|

Jack H. Skirball Series

\$10.00 [members \$8.00]

Living in Chinatown, N.Y.: Lynne Sachs's *Your Day Is My Night*

Screening organized in collaboration with Los Angeles Filmforum

In Mandarin, English and Spanish with English subtitles

64 minutes, 2013, digital video

Music by Stephen Vitiello. Cinematography and editing by Sean Hanley

Los Angeles Premiere

Winner Best Documentary Feature, San Diego Asian Film Festival

Listed as One of the Year's Best Films by Sight & Sound

Shot in kitchens, bedrooms, weddings halls and mahjong parlors of New York's Chinatown, *Your Day is My Night* (2013, 64 min., cinematography by Sean Hanley) is a deeply layered film that reveals stories of a "shift-bed" apartment through dreams, movement, and song. A shift-bed is a domestic space shared by people neither in the same family nor in a relationship who live together by economic necessity brought on by modern urban existence. *Your Day...* transforms these beds into a stage, illuminating a collective history of Chinese immigration through conversations, autobiographical monologues, and theatrical improvisation. Lynne Sachs's films explore the relationship between personal observation and collective historical experience. Since 1994 her work has taken her to Vietnam, Bosnia, Israel and Germany — sites affected by international war—where she works in the spaces between collective memory and her own subjective perceptions.

In Person: Lynne Sachs and Sean Hanley

"In January 2011, Sachs began working with middle-aged and elderly residents of shift-bed apartments in New York's Chinatown; immigrants are jammed into closetlike shared rooms, and the beds are in use around the clock. Sachs gained the confidence of these people, heard their stories, assisted as they worked up monologues about their

pasts and helped shape the results into a film, which features performances by several of the subjects themselves. Made with collaborators including cinematographer Sean Hanley and composer Stephen Vitiello, it's a strikingly handsome, meditative work: a mixture of reportage, dreams, memories and playacting, which immerses you in an entire world that you might unknowingly pass on the corner of Hester Street, unable to guess what's behind the fifth-floor windows."
- Stuart Klawans, *The Nation*

"*Your Day is My Night* is a fascinating and innovative portrait of Chinese immigrant life... Invents a style of filmmaking in which the storytelling skills of the subjects are tapped to make them into effective collaborators in a sophisticated film which creates a vivid sense of the inner lives of immigrants in New York."
—David Finkelstein, *Film Threat*

A different screening of Lynne Sachs's films will be held at
Los Angeles Filmforum
Sunday January 19th at 7:30 pm

Los Angeles premieres

The Last Happy Day (2009, 37 min.) and
Wind in Our Hair (2010, 40 min.).

See www.lafilmforum.org for information

Lynne Sachs makes films, videos, installations and web projects that explore the intricate relationship between personal observations and broader historical experiences by weaving together poetry, collage, painting, politics and layered sound design. Since 1994, her five essay films have taken her to Vietnam, Bosnia, Israel and Germany — sites affected by international war—where she tries to work in the space between a community's collective memory and her own subjective perceptions. Strongly committed to a dialogue between cinematic theory and practice, Sachs searches for a rigorous play between image and sound, pushing the visual and aural textures in her work with each and every new project. Since 2006, she has collaborated with her partner Mark Street in a series of playful, mixed-media performance collaborations they call The XY Chromosome Project. In addition to her work with the moving image, Sachs co-edited the *Millennium Film Journal* issue on "Experiments in Documentary".

Supported by fellowships from the Rockefeller and Jerome Foundations and the New York State Council on the Arts, her films

have screened at the New York Film Festival, the Sundance Film Festival and Toronto's Images Festival as well as a five-film survey at the Buenos Aires Film Festival. The San Francisco Cinematheque recently published a monograph with four original essays in conjunction with a full retrospective of her work. In 2012, Sachs began a series of live film performances of *Your Day is My Night* which she then screened as a hour-long hybrid documentary at Documentary Fortnight at the Museum of Modern Art, the Vancouver Film Fest, Union Docs, the New Orleans Film Fest and other venues in Mexico and Argentina.

Lynne Sachs teaches experimental film and video at New York University and The New School and lives in Brooklyn.

For more info, please visit: www.lynnesachs.com

Recent articles and interviews:

Brooklyn Rail: <http://www.brooklynrail.org/2013/09/film/lynne-sachs-with-karen-rester>

San Diego Asian Film Fest: <http://www.yourdayismynight.com/review-san-diego-asian-film-festival/>

Film Threat: <http://www.filmthreat.com/reviews/66608/>

Asian Cine Vision: <http://www.asiancinevision.org/cinema-spotlight-your-day-is-my-night/>

Curated by Steve Anker and Bérénice Reynaud