

## **FILM AT REDCAT PRESENTS**

**Mon Oct. 6 | 8:30|**

Jack H. Skirball Series

\$11.00 [members \$8.00]

## **Counterpoints of Poetry and Film: Leslie Scalapino and Konrad Steiner's way**

### ***way***

(68 min., 2012, 35mm [from 16mm, PAL NTSC video, Internet clips and CGI graphics])

The late Oakland poet Leslie Scalapino published her epic poem *way* in 1988. Renowned for her experiments in narrative and language, she was also keenly interested in writing for experimental theater and in collaborating with visual artists, sculptors and choreographers. San Francisco filmmaker Konrad Steiner, whose experimental work has been dealing with possible interfaces between media since the 1980s, proposed that they create a film using Scalapino's reading of the book set to his montage. The cycle of six films – one for each section of the poem - took 13 years to complete, and will be shown in 35mm. It mixes many sources of material, shifting style with each section of the poem.

"Through counterpoint, phrasing, tempo and rhythm, the visual and verbal gestures are braided in time to form a duet, or on another level, a conversation." (K.S.)

**In person: Konrad Steiner**

### **ADDITIONAL PERFORMRANCE**

**Konrad Steiner will also be presenting a "neo-benshi" performance with the Los Angeles Filmforum.**

In a longer term project since 2003 Konrad Steiner has worked with dozens of writers from San Francisco and Los Angeles to Portland, Chicago, Detroit, Buffalo and New York to produce shows dedicated to the renewed interest in adapting the tradition of live movie narration, dubbed "neo-benshi" (an homage to the "benshi," the Japanese term for film narrator), an art which was brought to its apex in Japan, Korea and other East Asian nations during the silent film era.

**Sunday October 5th | 7:30 PM |  
Los Angeles Filmforum**

At the Velaslavasay Panorama  
1122 West 24th Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90007

For more event information: [www.lafilmforum.org](http://www.lafilmforum.org), or 323-377-7238

Tickets: \$10 general, \$6 students/seniors; free for Filmforum members. Tickets at the door or available by credit card in advance at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/605977>

**Konrad Steiner** has made short non-narrative films in the American experimental tradition of unipersonal production, winning awards and screening in festivals worldwide. His primary interest is to use the moving image as a medium for compositions and performances using language, sound and cinematography.

From 1981-2 he attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, studying film with P Adams Sitney, Peter Kubelka and Fred Camper. While taking his degree at Stanford University in Linguistics (B.A. 1984) he curated and ran the Stanford Cinematheque, showing experimental films. Through the 1980s and 90s he worked as a volunteer at San Francisco Cinematheque, ultimately serving on the curatorial committee of SF Cinematheque from 2003-2006 and from 2007-2009 co-founded (with Irina Leimbacher) and produced the screening and performance series *kino21*.

In the last five years his work has increasingly involved cinema collaborations with musicians (SF Bay Area composers Jon Raskin of ROVA Saxophone Quartet, Matt Ingalls of SFSound new music ensemble, and band-leaders Graham Connah and Lisa Mezzacappa) and poets (Leslie Scalapino, Steve Benson, Brent Cunningham, Carla Harryman and Jen Hofer). The feature-length poetry film "way" is one result of these collaborative efforts.

#### Additional Filmography

- 2001 *Bum Series*
- 1998 *19 Scenes Relating to a Trip to Japan*
- 1998 *Floating By Eagle Rock / She is Asleep*
- 1990 *Remains*
- 1989 *5 Movements*
- 1988 *End Over End*
- 1988 *LIMN I-III*
- 1988 *LIMN IV*
- 1985 *Lyric Auger*
- 1983 *Fireside*

**Leslie Scalapino** (July 25, 1944 – May 28, 2010) was born in Santa Barbara, California and raised in Berkeley. She traveled throughout her youth and adulthood to Asia, Africa and Europe — including Tibet, Bhutan, Japan, India, Mongolia, Yemen, Libya, and elsewhere — and her writing was intensely influenced by these experiences. She published her first book, *O and Other Poems*, in 1976. In 1986, she founded O Books, dedicated to publishing innovative works by young and emerging poets, as well as prominent and established writers. She also taught writing for nearly 25 years at various institutions, including Bard College (16 years in the MFA program), Mills College, the San Francisco Art Institute, and the California College of Arts in San Francisco. She lived with Tom White, her husband and friend of 35 years, in Oakland, CA until her death in 2010.

*Presented as part of the Jack H. Skirball Series. Curated by Steve Anker and Bérénice Reynaud.*