

ALEX DROSEN

MFA SOUND

Generation Sense, 2016

electronic music (digital audio recording)

sound, color

7:06

Generation Sense begins with two discreet sound sources set in combination. A recording of Drosen's grandfather's hearing aid feedback is multiplied into a shrill, shifting sonority. A candid recording of Drosen's grandmother playing the piano, slowed and fragmented, appears softly and repeats. The composition leaves this initial sonic relationship suddenly, opening up to progressing fields of varied activity. The sound of the piano returns, incomplete, later, some place else.

KRISTEN SHEA

POST-BACCALAUREATE FILM, VIDEO, NEW MEDIA, AND ANIMATION

Still Haunted, 2015

digital video

silent, color

3:18

Still Haunted is a series of videos created for Claudia Hart's Virtual Installation class, which culminated in a custom augmented-reality application designed in dialog with the 18th- and 19th-century paintings for the Art Institute's European Painting and Sculpture Wings. By adding animated and performative elements to images from these eras, these videos attempt to draw out some of the resonances between Europe and Japan during this time period. In the course of exploring this relationship, these videos recall the Shintoist theme of inanimate spirituality. The original scenes are haunted by the spirits of dormant objects and impressions of activities in past and future moments. Enchanted objects transcend their state of suspense and dynamic action breathes life into stillness.

LAURA CALLIER

MFA SOUND

Selfie, 2016

digital

sound, color

2:27

As the saying goes, if you can't love yourself, how can you love anyone else? *Selfie* investigates the relationships we create with ourselves and others through cellular devices and digital media.

ANDREW THOMAS THRASH

MFA FILM, VIDEO, NEW MEDIA, AND ANIMATION

CAT STATE, 2016

digital video

sound, color

7:00

What is it like to not know the exact condition or fate of beings absent from our present situation? "CAT STATE" presents a reflection on superposition, uncertainty, entropy—a kind of memento mori or maranasati inspired by Schrödinger's cat.

FILM, VIDEO,
NEW MEDIA,
ANIMATION, AND
SOUND FESTIVAL

GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER
164 NORTH STATE STREET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

May 12
Program 7

8:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Rodrigo Gratacós Brum

Alex Drosen

Laura Callier

Yiji Ma

Kristen Shea

Andrew Thomas Thrash



Welcome to the 2016 BFA and MFA Media Arts Festival and screenings! Here you will encounter the next generation of film, video, new media, animation, and sound artists as SAIC students present their thesis projects. In this festival, you will experience innovative live-action shorts, all kinds of animation, feature-length narrative and nonfiction works, video essays, and experimental digital and audio pieces that will provoke, pleasure, instigate, and surprise you.

In FVNMA and at SAIC, we embrace radicalities of different shapes, sizes and forms in our experimental Media Arts. We encourage and are committed to a fluidity of ideas, theories, and practices. FVNMA students move far beyond traditional approaches, often working in interdisciplinary ways. The works here cross and intermix technologies, genres, and approaches, manifesting new and hybrid forms of expression.

We salute all these graduating students in celebrating the work that they will now share with us. We appreciate your time, labor, love, and the community that you have built together with us these last few years as you worked hard to compose, write, shoot, record, re-enact, direct, perform, edit, sample, digitize, experiment, generate, render, draw, model, design, photograph, chroma-key, interact, loop, re-mix, re-author, re-form, collaborate, improvise, craft, and hone your materials, ideas, sounds, and visions.

We congratulate you all, and wish you the best in your continuing lives as artists!

Mary Patten
chair, FVNMA
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
May, 2016

Presented by the Department of Exhibitions and Exhibition Studies in collaboration with the Film, Video, New Media, and Animation Department, and the Gene Siskel Film Center.

Special thanks to Chris Sullivan, Daniel Eisenberg, Eric Fleischauer, and Claudia Hart for their work programming the 2016 Festival. And an extra-special shout-out to Brandon Doherty of the Gene Siskel Film Center, and to Mickey Mahoney, Emily Kuehn, Andrew Zoleta, and Dan Holmes in FVNMA for technical support.

RODRIGO GRATACÓS BRUM

MFA FILM, VIDEO, NEW MEDIA, AND ANIMATION

Cinema Secreto, work-in-progress

digital video
sound, color
30:00

During the winter, a gardner decides to do a movie while his girlfriend is moving away.

ALEX DROSEN

MFA SOUND

Just As, 2016

electronic music (digital audio recording)
sound, color
4:50

Just As is a piece of electronic music whose generative medium is audio recording. The captured sounds of voices, instruments, and the artist's urban environment were starting points in a recursive process of composition, performance, recording, and playback. Melodic patterns are invoked at different speeds and degrees of fidelity. An animal squeals in fall frost against emulative human vocalizations.

LAURA CALLIER

MFA SOUND

Computer Love, 2015

digital video
sound, color
3:56

Computer Love seeks to explore the intimate relationships we develop with our computers. Maybe you've seen "Her" by Spike Jonze, which delves into the emotional relationship that can develop with technology. But what about a technological relationship based on more carnal desires?

YIYI MA

MFA FILM, VIDEO, NEW MEDIA, AND ANIMATION

Beyond Fields of Paper, 2016

digital video
sound, color
7:08

The story is about a woman who is in her middle age; after her child has grown up, after she has dedicated half of her life to holding the family, she tries to pursue some space for herself—create some art works about her life experience, about her imagining of death. In order to express her confused feelings on life.... It is short and where will it go?