

TRACES *of resistance*

short film & video art screening

11.17.23 at 6:00 pm

annie may swift auditorium

The word “traces” is an active verb. It happens in the here and now. It means to follow a course to its root, to re-impress what has come before. But “traces” is also a noun. Traces are what we leave behind, the mark of our presence. They say, *we have been here*. In this way, traces compose a palimpsest of time, encompassing at once the past, present, and future.

Inspired by graffiti — art that is created without permission and readily available to the public — *Traces of Resistance* centers short, experimental and documentary films that question the world around us. Spanning archives, continents, and dimensions, this film program expands what it means to resist.

Traces started as a curatorial investigation for our film class with Ines Sommer. Free and open to the public, this event features work from local and international, emerging and established artists, filmmakers, scholars, and musicians. These works are centered around themes of resistance, rebellion, and revolution. They tell stories about social change and unrest today and across time. They challenge labels, language, technology, systems of power, and the ways we see and experience everyday life.

We hope these stories leave their traces on you, even after this evening is over.

Luluh Abathra, bree gant, April Li, Maeren Quirke
Curators and Producers of *Traces*

Installation Artists

Petra Kuppers
Bernard Roddy
Mark Street
Emmanuel Ramos-Barajas
Brandon Walley

Special Thanks

Ines Sommer
Minh Bui
Taylor Doyle
Siddarth Gupta
Emily Mun
RTVF Department
ATP Department

This event was produced as part of the symposium RTVF 398: Curatorial Practices taught by Ines Sommer at Northwestern University, Fall 2023.

01.

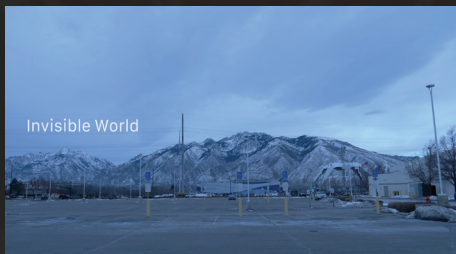


precedence over power
Christian Bumaa, 5 min.

A collage of old news reel and archival footage, “precedence over power” explores Filipino family dynamic within Western hegemony.

Christian Bumaa (they/them) is a Filipino-American artist and filmmaker based in Chicago, Illinois. Their work in new media and film toys with virtual spaces to explore the corporeal relationships we have with one another, questioning what our objective reality truly could be.

02.



Invisible World
Kym McDaniel, 2023, 5 min.

This film is a record of my introduction to healthcare in the state of Utah. My processing of the appointment and consequential aftermath as a video object serves as a reclamation and assertion for understanding disability and the physical world otherwise.

Kym McDaniel is a filmmaker and choreographer. Her films seek to queer stories of the body, disability, and dance on screen. She has an MFA from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

03. *CW: mentions of sexual assault*



Positive
Myrna Moretti, 2014, 13 min.

In this short documentary, five HIV positive millennials reject being labelled victims and reflect on stigma, stereotypes, and disclosure.

Myrna Moretti is a scholar-practitioner. She is currently a PhD candidate in the Screen Cultures program at Northwestern University.

04.



SWITCHIN'
George Ellzey Jr., 2021, 6 min.

SWITCHIN', an experimental lyrical dance film using vocal percussion to explore the mixed reality of black voices in a white world.

George Ellzey Jr. is a Chicago screenwriter, director, and producer. With an MFA from DePaul University, he is driven to explore the oft-ignored narratives of minorities, focusing on unpacking black masculinity in simple yet complex stories.

05.



thank you, thank you, thank you
Chester Toye, 2020, 7 min.

During the Black Lives Matter uprisings in summer 2020, Chester goes door to door in Silver Lake (Los Angeles) attempting to thank homeowners with a Black Lives Matter sign.

Chester is a filmmaker from South Orange, NJ. He makes films about getting unstuck.

06.



Don't Boil Your iPhone in Coca-Cola!
American Artist, 2018, 5 min.

This is a parody of a popular Youtube series where a tech reviewer submits brand new smartphones to precarious circumstances. This video explores how we might bring the dominant white interface of technology to an other 'Black' realm. Or, rather, how do we decolonize the interface?

American Artist is an artist and educator based in NY.

07. *Flashing image warning*



An Infinite Loop for Resistance
M Woods, 2018, 6 min.

An avant-garde is a front line. This is a work for the regeneration of the avant-garde. This is a media-fashioned attack aimed at the disturbing omnipotence of hyperrealism and fascist banality — best symbolized by Donald Trump's burning latex effigy. This is a violent collage — shreds of simulacral tumult, a riot in media waste. Meant to be projected anywhere — as a call to arms, a way to incite, an attempt at shaking the normalization of bigotry and authoritarianism. This is a call to #Revolt more than #Resist. This is not for photo ops. Rather than bathe in the aesthetics of nothingness, it is time to wake up and fight the active evil that radiates from the seat of "power" and alters the real through mediated nihilism.

M Woods (he/him/they/them) is a Latino media drug designer, manufacturer, and cartographer of Nothingness. They work for Disassociative Productions, proliferating the Numb Spiral through the extensible, analog/digital circulatory systems of the Digital Sickness. M is concerned with hyperreal contagion and how its malignant nihilism metastasizes modes of communication.

08.



Cause Without A Rebel
Peter Kuttner, 1965, 8 min.

Film essay about white college student apathy to the 1960s Civil Rights Movement.

Peter Kuttner has worked in alternative and mainstream media for 60 years. *Cause Without a Rebel* [1965] is his favorite film.

09.



Austerity Measures

Ben Russell & Guillaume Cailleau,
2011, 8 min.

***Live sound accompaniment performed
by Haotian Wang***

A color-separation portrait of the Exarchia neighborhood of Athens, Greece, made during the Anti-Austerity protests in late 2011. In a place thick with stray cats and scooters, cops and Molotovs, ancient myths and new ruins; where fists are raised like so many columns in the Parthenon, this is a film of surfaces — of graffiti'd marble streets and wheat-pasted city walls — hand-processed in red, green, and blue.

Ben Russell (1976) is an American artist, filmmaker and curator whose work lies at the borders of ethnography and psychedelia.

Guillaume Cailleau lives and works as an artist in Berlin at the intersection of film installation, performance and sound art, which he combines in expansive installations.

Musician Bio

Haotian Wang (he/him) is a multidisciplinary artist and composer working with sound, field recordings, performance, and poetry. With travel experiences across different continents, he uses music to navigate the world's landscape from both a temporal and spatial perspective. As a Hani ethnic minority from Yunnan, China, he aims to blend contemporary sounds and reframe often-ignored traditions and narratives. His debut album, *The Bridge in The Mountain's Hands* (A Travelog), envelops travelog out of Chinese folk music, ambient, and spoken-word poetry.

10.

Artist Talkback

Filmmakers Christian Bumaa (*precedence over power*), Myrna Moretti (*Positive*), M Woods (*An Infinite Loop for Resistance*), Peter Kuttner (*Cause Without A Rebel*); dancer Deja Hood (*SWITCHIN'*); and musician Haotian Wang will join us onstage for a conversation and Q&A. We welcome you to ask any questions about their work and the festival.

The Northwestern campus sits on the traditional homelands of the people of the Council of Three Fires—the Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and Odawa—as well as the Menominee, Miami, and Ho-Chunk nations. It was also a site of trade, travel, gathering and healing for more than a dozen other Native tribes. Despite the forced removal and displacement of original inhabitants of this land, Chicago/Evanston is still home to over 100,000 tribal members in the state of Illinois. Acknowledging the land is Indigenous protocol, and to recognize it is an expression of gratitude to honor the Indigenous people who have been living here from time immemorial.

This land acknowledgment was written by reference to the Mitchell Museum, the Laurier Students' Public Interest Research Group, and Northwestern's land acknowledgment.

However, for those of us who are settlers on this land we must also remember that land acknowledgements cannot come without a commitment to land back. As students at Northwestern, not only do we live and work on Indigenous homelands but we are part of an institution whose founder, John Evans, was responsible for the Sand Creek Massacre. Our program today is centered around the theme of resistance; this must mean resistance not just symbolically or representationally, but also resistance materially against America's continuing colonial project, both here and globally. We invite you to engage with the resources, celebrations, and action items linked at this QR code:



tinyurl.com/tracesfilmfest