

**Philosophical Research Society and Los Angeles Filmforum present
Suburbs of Eden: The Films of Cecelia Condit
Wednesday November 20, 2024, 7:00 pm
At the Philosophical Research Society**

The Philosophical Research Society a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit arts and events organization, founded in 1934 as a repository of multicultural wisdom sources and a center of arts and learning. Its mission is to provide a public arts venue and research library for as wide a range of creative and intellectual pursuits as possible, for as diverse and inclusive an audience as possible.

Los Angeles Filmforum is the city's longest running organization dedicated to weekly screenings of experimental film, documentaries, video art, and experimental animation. 2024 is our 49th year. www.lafilmforum.org

Filmmaker Jennifer Juniper Stratford in person in a Zoom Q&A with Cecelia Condit

The first LA retrospective of the works of video artist Cecelia Condit – co-presented by Los Angeles Filmforum and co-hosted by JJ Stratford

The Philosophical Research Society, in collaboration with Los Angeles Filmforum, is very proud to present the first Los Angeles retrospective of the works of one of the most distinctive American video artists of the past four decades – the inimitable Cecelia Condit!

This very special program features seven of Condit's singular films, including her first five shot-on-video shorts spanning 1981 to 1996, as well as two more recent works, and will be co-hosted by LA based video artist Jennifer Juniper (JJ) Stratford – a huge fan of Condit's who will join the filmmaker (beaming in via Zoom) in conversation for a post-screening Q&A!

Perhaps best known for her delectably dark and askew 1983 horror musical *Possibly in Michigan* (which has had a pleasantly surprising viral moment recently), Condit's videos have – since 1981 – "created heroines whose lives swing between beauty and the grotesque, innocence and cruelty, youth and fragility. Her work puts a subversive spin on the traditional mythology of women in film and the psychology of sexuality and violence. Exploring the dark side of female subjectivity, her "feminist fairy tales" focus on friendships, age, and the natural world."

Artist Statement: I consider myself a storyteller working within the psychological landscape of contemporary fairy tales, dreams and poetry. I explore archetypal themes where my characters are often shaped by violence, basic cold-heartedness and trauma. The last few years, I find myself leaning towards creating works that consider the frailty of an environmentally vulnerable world and our place in it. This world might be located in a small county park, a home, a rock or deserted housing project."

ABOUT CECELIA CONDIT

Since 1981, Condit's videos have created heroines whose lives swing between beauty and the grotesque, innocence and cruelty, youth and fragility. Her work puts a subversive spin on the traditional mythology of women in film and the psychology of sexuality and violence. Exploring the dark side of female subjectivity, her "feminist fairy tales" focus on friendships, age, and the natural world. She has shown internationally in festivals, museums and alternative spaces, and is represented in collections including the Museum of Modern Art in NYC, the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota and Centre Georges Pompidou Musee National d'Art Moderne, Paris, France. She has received numerous film festival awards, and grants from the Guggenheim Foundation, American Film Institute, National Endowment for the Arts, and the Mary L. Nohl Foundation. She's a professor emerita in the Department of Film, Video, Animation & New Genres at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where she was the director of the graduate program in film for 30-years.

Jennifer Juniper Stratford is a director and video artist from Hollywood, California. Inspired by a love of video art, outsider cinema, and experimental animation, her work feels like something you might catch on late night cable or on an obscure video cassette.

Her work has been exhibited, broadcast, and screened internationally and includes MoCA, Palais De Tokyo Paris, Whitney Museum, The Hammer Museum, LACMA, The Getty, Cinemarfa, CPH:DOX, Museum of the Moving Image New York, New Beverly Cinema, BAM Cinémathèque and is a Mike Kelley Foundation for the Arts awardee. Special thanks to the filmmaker, Adam Hyman of Los Angeles Filmforum, Astral Eyez, and Jennifer Juniper Stratford.

Screening:

All films directed by Cecelia Condit, 1981-2021, digital, color, sound. Program runtime 90 mins,

Beneath the Skin (1981) 10:00

A true story about a woman's unknowing involvement in the murder of her boyfriend's other girlfriend

Possibly in Michigan (1983) 11:45. Music performed by Karen Skladany. The song Animal/Cannibal was written and performed by Karen Skladany.

Possibly in Michigan is a musical about two women who are stalked by a masked man named Arthur, who follows them home. There the victims become the aggressors.

Not A Jealous Bone (1987) 10:24. Music by Stephen Vogel

An old woman finds a magic bone that she believes will let her live forever. She shoes looking for her mother, hoping to share it with her.

Suburbs of Eden (1996) 15:00. Music by Stephen Vogel

Suburbs of Eden is a portrait of a woman who cannot see her way out of a relationship that devastates her.

Oh, Rapunzel [with Dick Blau] (1996/2008) 17:00. Music by Stephen Vogel

Set in a decaying estate in Philadelphia, Oh Rapunzel recasts the life of the artist's mother, Annie Lloyd Condit, through the beloved fairy tale.

Pulling Up Roots (2015) 7:30. Music by Renato Umali

Filmed in an abandoned housing project in Western Ireland, a woman confronts the lies that have "taken root" in her. In the end, she moves through the ruin of her life into an unknown landscape that holds the possibility of laughter and happiness.

AI and I (2021) 7 min.. Music by Kirsten Stuck

Forming a relationship with her AI device, Alexa, a woman ponders the nature of consciousness, as she walks through the woods, dragging electrical cords behind her like breadcrumbs.

This program is supported by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and the Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles. We also depend on our members, ticket buyers, and individual donors.

Coming soon:

Nov 22 – Philosophical Research Society and Filmforum co-presenting A Year in a Field, by Christopher Morris, at the Philosophical Research Society