

# FRAMES PER SECOND

Selected films from the Social Documentation Master of Fine Arts Program

The Mary Porter Sesnon Art Galleries are pleased to announce *Frames Per Second*, a rotating exhibition of exemplary films from the Social Documentation MFA Cohorts 2021 and 2022: Ruth Anne Beutler, Ernie A. Calderón, Jordan Freeman, Chisato Hughes, Lara Saab, Hoda Sobhani, and Oana Tenter.

From its inception in 2005, a deep commitment to filmmaking as a force of social change has been the ethos at the core of UC Santa Cruz's SocDoc program. The works in *Frames Per Second*, films which document communities, cultures, issues, and individuals who are marginalized in the current landscape of representation, reveal how our documentarians are working for social transformation.

We also invite you to the annual SocDoc Film screening event at the Del Mar Theater on November 9, 2022 to view works by the full 2021 cohort. Details forthcoming.

## **September 20-October 1**

*A Chilling Effect* (2022) is an experimental documentary detailing the San Francisco Police Department's illegitimate deployment of a private network of community cameras to surveil protestors of the George Floyd murder, while deliberately circumventing a recently enacted San Francisco ordinance banning their use of surveillance video technology. This short film investigates the subsequent lawsuit filed by three community activists, state sponsored surveillance, and its panoptic leanings towards "chilling" individuals from exercising their First and Fourth Amendment Rights. Runtime 20m. Directed by Ernie A. Calderón.

## **October 4-15**

*Futility Season* (2021) is an attempt to revive a friendship that has faded away due to circumstances that imprisoned one and forced the other to emigrate. Neda, who lives in Iran, spent her thirtieth birthday in prison, and Hoda, the film director, began her thirties in a new country as an immigrant. Runtime 23m. Directed by Hoda Sobhani.

## **October 18-29**

*Sea State* Runtime 20m. Directed by Jordan Freeman.



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## **November 1-12**

*Many Moons* (2020) is a hybrid documentary that asks questions about ghosts and placemaking today— looking at the history of Chinese expulsions in Humboldt County and the people who, often with the help of local tribes, continued to live in the county despite the threat of white violence. Directed by Chisato Hughes.

## **DATE TBA**

*Twirling, Not Spiraling* is a documentary performance and installation by Lara Saab that includes xerox-printed social/media posts, maps, a series of drawings and sketches, magnets, sand, found objects, sound, and moving images. This iteration of the performance is site specific and draws from research around coastal life along the coasts of Beirut, Lebanon where Saab is based, and Santa Cruz, California where they are currently studying. The material is weaved together from personal archives, collected memories, social media content, and recorded video and sound material reflecting around the sea and the ocean.

## **November 29-December 10**

*LAND/TRUST* (2022) explores interrelationships of people, plants, and land as Amah Mutsun Tribal Band members and community volunteers work to restore a coastal prairie on California's Central Coast. Directed by Ruth Anne Beutler.

## **January 3-14**

*Yesterday Ended Last Night*

In the Arizona desert, a community of Christian Romanians live in the fear that the socialism they left behind the Iron Curtain is making a comeback in their new home, America. Two women filmmakers travel the literal and emotional distance to understand how their fellow Romanians have turned far-right Americans. Threading a fine line between being accepted and rejected by the church members, the filmmakers process the ethics of their methodologies and ponder upon the purpose of their documentation. The project takes a close look at the intersection of politics and religion in the lives of a Romanian-American conservative Christian community in Arizona and weaves a multigenerational portrait of its members. Directed by Oana Tenter and Delia Marinescu.

Visit [sesnon.ucsc.edu](https://sesnon.ucsc.edu) for filmmaker biographies and upcoming related events.

