

SCI-Arc Presents Film Series Exploring “Queer Perspectives in Architecture”

*Featuring films by Evaline Wu Huang, Enrique Agudo, and John Ira Palmer
With panelists Ruben Esparza, Natania Meeker, Tag Christoff, Jeffrey Kolb,
and Natou Fall*

June 10, 6 - 10pm



Film still of *The Nomad*

Los Angeles, CA (May 19, 2022) – SCI-Arc is pleased to announce it will be hosting a public screening of the National Endowment for the Arts-supported SCI-Arc Channel film series "Queer Perspectives in Architecture." On June 10, 2022, amid LA Pride, the three-part, short-form film series will examine diverse perspectives on aesthetics, creative practice, alternative histories, and possible futures for queer architecture. Three talented artists—Enrique Agudo (MS Fiction and Entertainment '19), Evaline Wu Huang (M.Arch '17), and John Ira Palmer—have been invited by SCI-Arc Channel producers Reza Monahan and Marcelyn Gow to each develop and direct a short film exploring Queer Perspectives in Architecture. The screenings will be accompanied by public panel discussions moderated by Natou Fall (M.Arch '19) held at SCI-Arc in the Keck Lecture Hall.

Schedule

6:00pm

Introduction by Hernán Díaz Alonso

Part 1: Film by Evaline Wu Huang

6:25pm-7:30pm

Film Screening + Panel Discussion

More information if forthcoming

Part 2: *The Nomad* by Enrique Agudo

7:30pm-8:35pm

Film screening + panel discussion with Ruben Esparza and Natania Meeker

The Nomad is a short film animation of artist Enrique Agudo in collaboration with Miwa Espinoza and Michelle Recio. *The Nomad* is a vessel traveling across the American landscape that houses a matriarchal clan, with the purpose of rewilding and biodiversifying its surroundings. This chariot is more than a home, and a tool, and a form of transport—it portrays the notion that we are guests in a land that cannot be owned. In our world, plants shape human existence and *The Nomad* reveals a whimsical technological mediation between us and our vegetal environment. Human relationships to Nature are molded by a culture whose definition of “Nature” is biased around homophobia, classicism, sexism, racism, and xenophobia to justify its exploitation. Thus, *The Nomad* presents a speculative illustration of the potential for Queer environmentalism.

Part 3: *Out of the Corner of our Eye* by John Ira Palmer

8:45pm-9:50pm

Film screening + panel discussion with Tag Christoff and Jeffrey Kolb

Out of the Corner of our Eye is a short documentary reflection about seven iconic, formerly queer architectural sites in Los Angeles that are no longer what they once were. From a longstanding lesbian art and community haven to the custom-built home of America's first well-known drag performer, this film asks what queer space looks like—and might mean—today. Written and directed by John Ira Palmer, cinematography by Tag Christof, narrated by River Gallo, and music by J.R. Schwartz.

More information on the filmmakers and the event participants can be found below.

Evaline Wu Huang

Evaline Wu Huang is a Taiwanese American production designer based in Los Angeles. She is an interdisciplinary creative and has worked with a cross-industry list of clients including the Sundance Film Festival, Capcom, Sony Pictures, Netflix, Conde Nast, Virgil Abloh, Google, Lexus, and Meta. Huang has served as a guest lecturer at SCI-Arc, Cal Poly Pomona, and Parsons School of Design. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from SAIC and a Master of Architecture from SCI-Arc.

Enrique Agudo

Enrique Agudo is a New Media Artist. Contemporary culture is infused with digital imagery, and Agudo's work focuses on the pattern recognition of these digital indexes and shedding light on how they affect the way we behave, we see the world through digital interfaces and by extension, that is how we unavoidably understand ourselves. Agudo is the Creative Director behind *The Pantheon of Queer Mythology*, a VR short film premiered at Tribeca Film Festival 2020, Cannes VR, FIVARS Film Festival, or Geneva Film Festival in 2020. Enrique is a graduate of the Architectural Association (RIBA Part I), IE University (BArch (Hons)), and SCI-Arc (M.Arch 2 + MA Fiction and Entertainment). After working as Studio Director for Daniel Canogar's Los Angeles Office, Agudo continues to use immersive and experimental digital media as the tools to question and challenge anthropological

discourse around identity through new forms of mythology in the upcoming exhibition *Ipseity* in Madrid, Spain.

John Ira Palmer

John Ira Palmer is a Los Angeles-based filmmaker. His experimental 16mm and super-8 short films have screened at venues such as REDCAT, Blum & Poe, and Pacific Film Archive. He has curated film series and programs for American Cinematheque, Echo Park Film Center, and San Francisco Art Institute. Past residencies and fellowships include Film at Lincoln Center's Artist Academy at the New York Film Festival, Echo Park Film Center's LA AIR program, and AICAD's New York Studio Program, and awards include the ARRI Emerging Filmmaker Grant, the James Broughton Film Award, and a Princess Grace Foundation Film Honorarium. John earned his MFA in Film & Television Production at USC's School of Cinematic Arts and his BFA at San Francisco Art Institute.

Event Panelists + Moderator

Jaffer Kolb is a designer based in New York and co-founder of the award-winning architectural practice N/A. He sometimes writes, sometimes curates, and often teaches—most recently at Yale University, Columbia University, and Cooper Union. He was the 2015 Muschenheim Fellow at the University of Michigan, and before that worked as a designer in New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles. His work has appeared in numerous exhibitions and has been published internationally. Previously he worked on the 13th Venice Architecture Biennial under David Chipperfield, and before that served as the US Editor of the *Architectural Review*. He holds a Master of Architecture from Princeton University, a Master's in Urban Planning from the London School of Economics, and his Bachelor of Arts in Film Studies from Wesleyan University.

Tag Christof is a photographer and writer based in Los Angeles, CA and Santa Fe, NM. He tells stories about design and architecture, automobiles and the road, and the dark side of innovation. His recent clients include The New York Times, The Intercept, Design Within Reach, The Guardian, and Hello Mr., and he is a Central Saint Martins MA graduate and former editor-in-chief of *Human Being Journal*.

Rubén Esparza is an artist and independent curator based in Los Angeles. Esparza's studio practice spans painting, drawings, and digital work, mixing it with elements of Conceptualism, ethnicity and Queer Culture. His curatorial work focuses on under-represented artists primarily in the queer and ethnic communities. His work is included as part of the permanent collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, the Santa Barbara Museum, National Museum of Mexican Art, Chicago, Illinois, among others.

Natania Meeker is an associate professor of French and comparative literature at the University of Southern California. She published *Voluptuous Philosophy: Literary Materialism in the French Enlightenment* with Fordham University Press in 2006. Her research and teaching interests include animated and animating plants, vegetal ontologies, plant art and media, materialisms old and new, feminist theory and thought, and the Enlightenment, broadly conceived. She was named Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques in 2017.

Natou Fall (moderator) is a creative director and visual artist based in Los Angeles, working primarily in make-up, film, and design. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interior Architecture and Design at George Washington University in 2016 and earned her Master of Architecture from SCI-Arc in 2019. Fall has also held teaching assistantships in SCI-Arc's Pop-Arc and Design Immersion Days

programs. Her SCI-Arc Graduate Thesis project, *Shaping Face*—which earned her the Gehry Prize awarded for most outstanding graduate thesis project—aimed to re-establish cosmetics in architecture as including thickness, feature enhancement, exaggeration, ornamentation, and other transformational effects that empower individual expression of identity. Her research challenges how cosmetics have been linked to the notions of eroticism, allure, and theatrical performance in architectural discourse over the last two decades.

This event is generously supported by the National Endowment of the Arts.



With the health and safety of our community in mind, this spring 2022 SCI-Arc's public programs will be open for in-person admission only with proof of vaccination including a booster shot. All guests must check at the health screening station located in the parking lot at 350 Merrick Street, LA 90013.

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