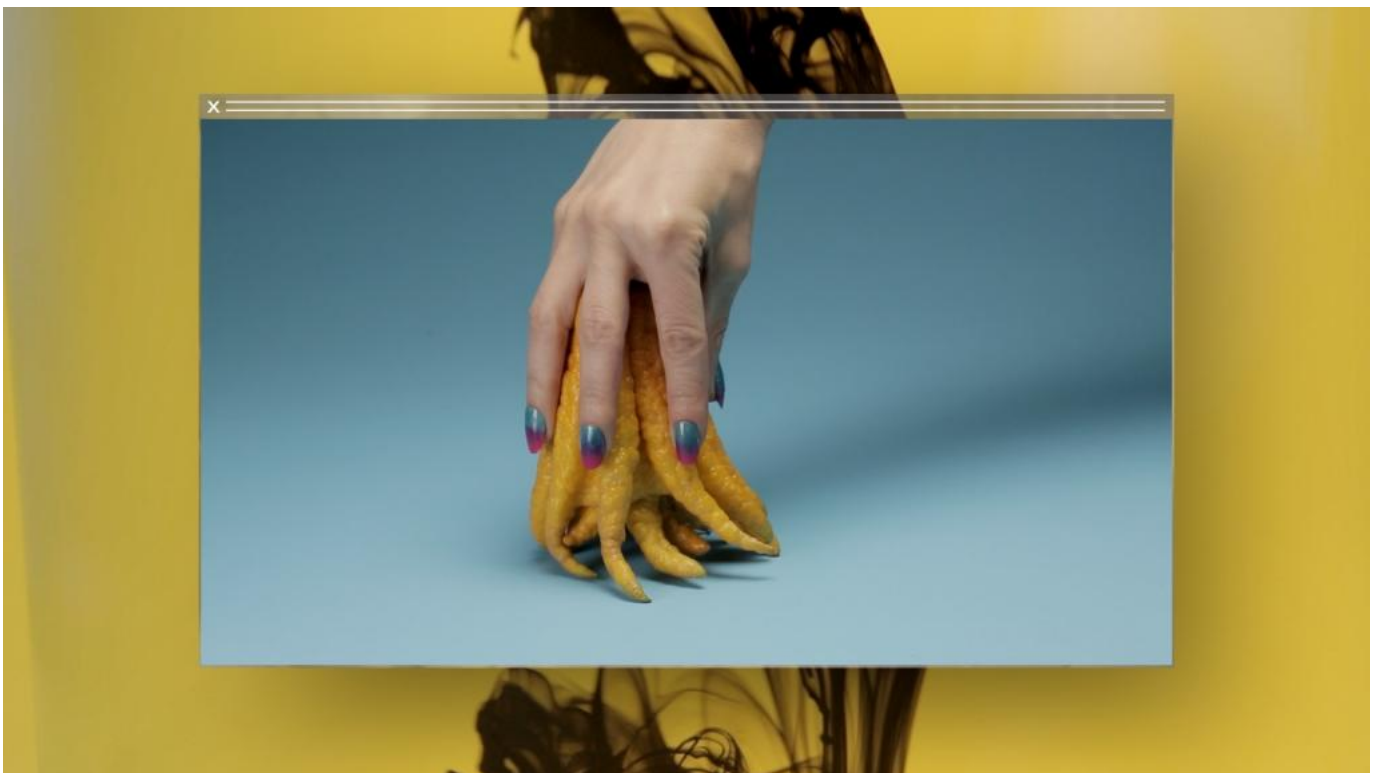


BROAD UNDERGROUND FILM SERIES

Ego & Eco

7pm • Friday • 20 January 2017 • The Robin Theatre, REO Town



The Robin Theatre is located at 1105 S Washington Ave, Lansing, MI 48910

Spanning nearly a century, this program presents three films and videos that forefront mythmaking systems through which humans see the natural world. Jean Painlevé's 1927 silent film *The Octopus* is a science film conceived in the current of French Surrealism. Robert Smithson's 1970 *Spiral Jetty* is a filmic meditation on geological time and entropy. Camille Henrot's 2013 *Grosse Fatigue* presents a digital nesting of taxidermy archives and popular culture to suggest a universal origin story for today. These films and videos speak to the ways that our understanding of the natural world is imbricated with passions for self-knowledge and humanist world creation.

Programmed by Dr. Lily Woodruff

Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum & the Film Studies Program, Department of English

The Octopus**Jean Painlevé (1927, 13m)**

While ostensibly a science film, *The Octopus* tells its story of one of the sea's most slippery and nimble carnivores by drawing on the aesthetics of the 1920s French Surrealist milieu that Painlevé inhabited. As we learn about the behaviors and signs of the octopus, we also observe the resemblance between its eye and ours and our species' distinctions erode. The human world and that of the octopus intertwine as we follow the beast through a loosely articulated narrative that dramatizes the trials of its underworld dreamscape.

Spiral Jetty**Robert Smithson (1970, 32m)**

This film depicts the construction of one of the most iconic artworks from the Earthworks movement of the 1960s and '70s, but it is also a work of art in its own right. As the film travels to the site of the Spiral Jetty's construction on Utah's Great Salt Lake, it also takes us back to the time of the dinosaurs, inserting us into a geological time-scale that will ultimately crush human efforts to instrumentalize the natural environment. Spinning North, East, South, West, Smithson's camera, like his jetty, dizzies as it conveys us through the entropic loosening of civilization's rational structures.

Grosse Fatigue**Camille Henrot (2013, 13m)**

A computer desktop opens into a universe created through infinitely cascading windows displaying ethnographic coffee table books, Google searches, nature imagery, and scenes from the archives of the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC, where Henrot made *Grosse Fatigue* while in residence. Akwetey Orraca-Tetteh performs a poem on origin myths by Jacob Bromberg. Meanwhile, on screen, formal linkages between unrelated cultural artifacts undercut the orderliness of scientific cataloging systems, replacing them with an everyday mythmaking process that results from surfing through the exhausting wealth of information that takes shape in our contemporary image world.