"A Cut is not a Wound: Flow and Rupture in Film Editing"
Lynne Sachs Masterclass – in conversation with Marek Hovorka, Founder & Director
Ji.hlava International Documentary Film Festival
Oct. 30, 2026

In this Masterclass workshop, I will explore kinetic movement, rhythm, and deep rupture as editing strategies for conveying different modes of expression – from urgency to joy. We will look at movement as quotidian dance, body language, performing for the camera, protest and violence in the image.

Come sister,
melt the city,
twist a rhythm
To the streets
a long winter
has withered
if you light a spark,
we'll all dance.

- Silvia Federici, friend, historian, philosopher, activist

"The Washing Society" co-directed with Lizzie Olesker (44 min, HD Video, 2018)
When you drop off a bag of dirty laundry, who's doing the washing and folding? *The Washing Society* brings us into New York City laundromats and the experiences of the people who work there by observing these disappearing neighborhood spaces and the continual, intimate labor that happens there. The juxtaposition of narrative and documentary elements in "The Washing Society" creates a dream-like, yet hyper-real portrayal of a day in the life of a laundry worker, both past and present.
Website: http://www.lynnesachs.com/2018/08/23/the-washing-society/
DAFilms: https://dafilms.com/film/14342-the-washing-society
Vimeo: https://vimeo.com/239157405

Time Code: 35:10 - 38:20

"Maya at 24" (4 min, 16mm to digital transfer, b&w, 2021)
Lynne films her daughter Maya in 16mm black and white film, at ages 6, 16 and 24. At each iteration, Maya runs around her mother, in a circle – clockwise - as if propelling herself in the same direction as time, forward. Conscious of the strange simultaneous temporal landscape that only film can convey, we watch Maya in motion at each distinct age.
Website: http://www.lynnesachs.com/2021/01/15/maya-at-24/
Vimeo: https://vimeo.com/432200317

"Contractions" (12 min. color, sound, 2024)
In 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court ended a woman's right to a safe and legal abortion in the United States. "Contractions" takes us to Memphis, Tennessee where we contemplate the discontinuation of abortion services at a women's health clinic. We listen to an obstetrician and a reproductive rights activist who movingly lay out these vital issues. We watch 14 women and their male allies who witness and perform with their backs to the camera. In a place where women can no longer make decisions about her own bodies, they "speak" with the full force of their collective presence.

Website: https://www.lynnesachs.com/2024/02/29/contractions/
DAFilms: https://dafilms.com/film/18977-contractions

Vimeo: https://vimeo.com/887257040

Time Code: 3:38 – 6:14

E•pis•to•lar•"y: letter to Jean Vigo" (5 min, HD Video, B&W, 2021)
In a cinema letter to French director Jean Vigo, Lynne Sachs ponders the delicate resonances of his 1933 classic "Zero for Conduct" in which a group of school boys wages an anarchist rebellion against their authoritarian teachers. Thinking about the January 6, 2021 assault on the United States Capitol by thousands of right-wing activists, Sachs wonders how innocent play or calculated protest can turn so quickly into chaos and violence.

Website:
http://www.lynnesachs.com/2021/02/18/e%e2%80%a2pis%e2%80%a2to%e2%80%a2lar%e2%80%a2y-letter-to-jean-vigo-from-lynne-sachs/
Vimeo: https://vimeo.com/513925175