

San Francisco Cinematheque and Pacific Film Archive present

True to Life: GUNVOR NELSON

Sunday, November 12, 2006 — Yerba Buena Center for the Arts — 7:30 pm

Gunvor Nelson returns to the Bay Area after leaving her California home in Muir Beach in 1992 to return to her native Sweden. She lived in the Bay Area for over thirty years and for twenty of those she taught at the San Francisco Art Institute. Gunvor came to Northern California to study art and received an MFA degree in Painting and Art History from Mills College in Oakland. With her first film, *Schmeerguntz*, made with Dorothy Wiley, she began her prolific artistic career as a filmmaker, completing 26 works from 1966 through this year. Coinciding with the move to Sweden was her move from working with film to video, which has enabled her to explore the more direct editing process and to return to abstract forms of expression.

"I am afraid of becoming "too skillful". Then you lose some of the expression, I think. If you repeat a gesture too many times it easily becomes a routine, but it is also hard not to use the skills and knowledge you have acquired. Then you risk losing that which is unique and that which you have not done before. Concerning video I already have the image, I do not need to relearn how to compose or assemble it...I can produce it all by myself." (Gunvor Nelson, from *Still Moving*)

Please note, immediately following the films Janis Crystal Lipzin, artist and San Francisco Art Institute Film Professor, will host a conversation and short Q&A with Gunvor Nelson. After the conversation there will be a book signing and reception in Gunvor's honor.

***True To Life* (2006) Mini DV, color, sound, 30 minutes Bay Area Premiere**

Gunvor Nelson's plays freely and naturally in a garden confronting the camera with nature, and nature with the camera to reveals a new life force and cycle. The camera climbs up a dark red stem, across the spiny frost that outlines the walls of a budding flower. It rummages and rustles among the garden floor. The penetrating lens is heavy on the delicate leaves and on the viewer retina.

***Light Years Expanding* (1998) 16mm, color, sound, 25 minutes**

Light Years Expanding is an extension of her previous film, *Light Years* (1987) and continues her collage approach, a journey through the Swedish landscape.

***Field Study #2* (1988) 16mm, color, sound, 8 minutes**

Lighthearted irony filled with whimsical dashes of nonsensical "scientific" knowledge. "Superimpositions of dark pourings are perceived through the film. Suddenly a bright color runs across the picture and delicate drawings flutter past. Grunts from animals are heard." (Gunvor Nelson, *Canyon Cinema: Film/Video Catalogue #7*)

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On Tuesday, November 14, 2006 at 7:30, the **Pacific Film Archive** will show the third evening of works by Gunvor Nelson.