

Subject Guide

Experimental and Avant-garde film

Films available from the BVL

Shorter films and videos

- Maya Deren. At Land.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=RV-MayaLand&tocid=RV-MayaLand_63151368001121944
- Maya Deren. Study in Choreography for the Camera.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=RV-MayaStudy&tocid=RV-MayaStudy_63151383851121945
- Maya Deren. The Very Eye of Night.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=RV-MayaVery&tocid=RV-MayaVery_63151371821121955
- Sandy Ding. Water Spell.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=RV-Water&tocid=RV-Water_63122596481122007
- Holly Fisher. Softshoe.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=RV-Softshoe&tocid=RV-Softshoe_63122562511121987
- Paul Fletcher. Disparate Fragments Make Patterns.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=bv-9781350881525&tocid=bv-9781350881525_63505175951122022
- Paul Fletcher. Everyday Landscape Portraits.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=bv-9781350881532&tocid=bv-9781350881532_63505196351122022
- Storm de Hirsch. Journey Around a Zero.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=RV-Journey&tocid=RV-Journey_63122786021121963
- Kurt Kren. Kurt Kren - Action Films.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=IN-Action&tocid=IN-Action_63128435601122004
- Marie Losier. Eat My Make-Up!.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=RV-Makeup&tocid=RV-Makeup_63162544081122005
- Marie Losier. Papal Broken Dance.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=RV-Papa&tocid=RV-Papa_63162529401122008
- Marie Losier. L'Oiseau de la Nuit.

- https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=RV-Nuit&tocid=RV-Nuit_63162536211122016
- Marie Losier. The Touch Retouched.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=RV-Touch&tocid=RV-Touch_63162529411122003
 - Marie Losier. Slap! the Gondola.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=RV-Slap&tocid=RV-Slap_63162545091122010
 - Marie Losier. The Ontological Cowboy.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=RV-Onto&tocid=RV-Onto_63162514421122005
 - Daniela Lucato. For the Time Being.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=DL-Time&tocid=DL-Time_63122410561122017
 - Jacques Perconte. Uaoen.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=RV-Uaoen&tocid=RV-Uaoen_63122814671122003
 - Revoir Video. Steichen, Masters of photography; Creative Arts Television home video collection.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=RV-Steichen&tocid=RV-Steichen_63151404451121989
 - Jeff Scher. Leaf and Death.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=RV-ScherLeaf&tocid=RV-ScherLeaf_63122499871122011
 - Jeff Scher. Fly by Night.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=RV-ScherFlyby&tocid=RV-ScherFlyby_63122493941122008
 - Jeff Scher. September Mourning.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=RV-ScherSept&tocid=RV-ScherSept_63122505011122011
 - Jeff Scher. Spring City.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=RV-ScherSpring&tocid=RV-ScherSpring_63122484821122011
 - Jeff Scher. Trigger Happy.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=RV-ScherTrig&tocid=RV-ScherTrig_63122415621121997
 - Jeff Scher. You Won't Remember This.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=RV-ScherYou&tocid=RV-ScherYou_63151380691122007

Longer videos and films

- Ben Ferris. Penelope.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=APR-Penelope&tocid=APR-Penelope_63122809751122011

- Ernst Schmidt Jr.. Ernst Schmidt Jr..
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=IN-Ernst&tocid=IN-Ernst_63128417691121977
- Fluxus. Wolf Vostell.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=RV-Wolf&tocid=RV-Wolf_63133523101121970
- Jeff Perkins. George: The Story of George Maciunas and Fluxus.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=RV-Georg&tocid=RV-Georg_63122796011122018
- Jeff Perkins. George: The Story of George Maciunas and Fluxus.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=RV-Georg&tocid=RV-Georg_63122796011122018
- Marie Losier. Tony Conrad: DreaMinimalist.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=RV-Dreamini&tocid=RV-Dreamini_63120849751122008
- Peter Gidal. Upside Down Feature.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=RV-Upside&tocid=RV-Upside_63122568591121972
- Philippe Garrel. Le Révélateur.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=RV-Revelateur&tocid=RV-Revelateur_63151395561121968
- Philippe Garrel. Marie pour Mémoire: [Marie for Memory].
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=RV-Marie&tocid=RV-Marie_63122575601121967
- Philippe Garrel. L'Enfant Secret.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=RV-Secret&tocid=RV-Secret_63122581601121979
- Serge Bard. Fun and Games for Everyone.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=RV-ZanziFun&tocid=RV-ZanziFun_63122482821121968
- Theovan Gogh. Interview.
https://www.bloomsburyvideolibrary.com/video?docid=CF-InterviewS&tocid=CF-InterviewS_63125227461122003

Resources from Screen Studies

EBooks

- Barnett, D. (2017). *Movement as Meaning in Experimental Cinema: The Musical Poetry of Motion Pictures Revisited*. London: Bloomsbury Academic.
<https://www.screenstudies.com/encyclopedia?docid=b-9781501329814>
- Clayton, S. , & Mulvey, L. (Ed.). (2017). *Other Cinemas: Politics, Culture and Experimental Film in the 1970s*. London: I.B.Tauris.
<https://www.screenstudies.com/encyclopedia?docid=b-9781350987449>
- Dancyger, K. , & Rush, J. (2013). *Alternative Scriptwriting: Beyond the Hollywood Formula*. Burlington: Focal Press.
<https://www.screenstudies.com/encyclopedia?docid=b-9780240522470>
- Gurshtein, K. , & Simonyi, S. (Ed.). (2022). *Experimental Cinemas in State-Socialist Eastern Europe*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press.
<https://www.screenstudies.com/encyclopedia?docid=b-9789048561919>
- Verrone, W. (2011). *Adaptation and the Avant-Garde: Alternative Perspectives on Adaptation Theory and Practice*. New York: Continuum.
<https://www.screenstudies.com/encyclopedia?docid=b-9781628928518>

eBook Chapters

- Bowden, D. (2006). Introduction to the Experimental Film. In *Writing for Film: The Basics of Screen writing* (pp. 259–282). New York: Routledge.
<https://www.screenstudies.com/encyclopedia-chapter?docid=b-9781351226707&tocid=b-9781351226707-chapter10>
- Fickers, A. , & Oever, A.v. (2019). Doing Experimental Media Archaeology: Epistemological and Methodological Reflections on Experiments with Historical Objects of Media Technologies. In B. Roberts & M. Goodall (Ed.). *New Media Archaeologies* (pp. 45–68). Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press.
<https://www.screenstudies.com/encyclopedia-chapter?docid=b-9789048561452&tocid=b-9789048561452-chapter2&pdfid=9789048561452.ch-002.pdf>
- Redmond, S. , & Sita, J. (2018). Shaping Abstractions: Eye Tracking Experimental Film. In T. Dwyer , C. Perkins , S. Redmond & J. Sita (Ed.). *Seeing into Screens: Eye Tracking and the Moving Image* (pp. 129–153). New York: Bloomsbury Academic.
<https://www.screenstudies.com/encyclopedia-chapter?docid=b-9781501329012&tocid=b-9781501329012-chapter7&pdfid=9781501329012.0014.pdf>
- Grant, B.K. (2009). *My Winnipeg: Canada, 2007 – 80 mins – Guy Maddin*. In B.K. Grant & J. Hillier (Authors), *100 Documentary Films: BFI Screen Guides* (pp. 143–144). London: British Film Institute.
<https://www.screenstudies.com/encyclopedia-chapter?docid=b-9781838710606&tocid=b-9781838710606-0000854&pdfid=9781838710606.0062.pdf>

Study questions

- What experimental techniques does the filmmaker use to challenge traditional narrative structures (e.g., montage, non-linear storytelling, abstraction)?
- How does the film use visual or auditory elements to create meaning beyond conventional storytelling?
- In what ways do the editing, sound, and image composition affect your emotional or intellectual response to the film?
- How does the film play with time and space? Is there repetition, distortion, or fragmentation?
- How do transitions (or the lack thereof) influence the coherence or disorientation of the viewing experience?
- How are music and sound used in unconventional ways? How are asynchronous sound, silence, and noise used in the film?
- How does the filmmaker experiment with perspective or point of view? How does this affect the narrative clarity?
- Does the film prioritise sensation and atmosphere over the plot? In what ways?