

## Stacey Steers / Film synopses

### *Edge of Alchemy*

2017 | 19:00 | 35mm to 4K

Mary Pickford and Janet Gaynor, seamlessly lifted from early silent films, are cast into a surreal epic with an upending of the Frankenstein story and a contemporary undercurrent of hive collapse. In this handmade film, Stacey Steers selects sequences from early cinematic sources, prints the frames, and re-contextualizes the action, allowing the “story” assembled from appropriated images to evolve. She inserts her actors into newly imagined collage environments, built by hand from fragments of 19th century engravings and illustrations. *Edge of Alchemy* is the third film in a trilogy examining women’s inner worlds. Music by the Polish composer Lech Jankowski.

“*Edge of Alchemy* is the epitome of Stacey Steers’ unique vision of collaged re-examination animations, an uncanny way to carry on in the great tradition of surrealist cinema. Max Ernst would refer to Lautreamont’s sewing machine and umbrella to define the structure of the surrealist painting as “a linking of two realities that, by all appearances, have nothing to link them, in a setting that by all appearances does not fit them.” I would add, making it all feel so seamlessly inevitable and inexplicably right...the “feeling of form,” as Suzanne K. Langer might have put it...”  
—Phil Solomon

### *Night Hunter*

2011 | 16:00 | 35mm color

In this meticulously crafted film, the actress Lillian Gish is scrupulously lifted from silent-era cinema and plunged into a new, haunting role. *Night Hunter* summons a disquieting dreamscape drawn from allegory, myth, and archetype to evoke the uncanny and reflect on the creative process. Music and sound by Larry Polansky.

### *Phantom Canyon*

2006 | 10:00 | 35mm | Black and white

*Phantom Canyon* explores memories and is a personal reflection on a pivotal journey taken years ago. The film metaphorically circumnavigates this experience and is a surreal meditation on the filmmaker's process of interpretation. Music and sound by Bruce Odland.

## *Totem*

1999 | 11:00 | 35mm | Color

Unfolding as a dream might, *Totem* explores our evolving relationship with the animal world. Music and sound by Bruce Odland.

## *Watunna*

1989 | 24:00 | 16mm | Color

The creation myths of the Yekuana Indians of the Orinoco region of Venezuela provide a transparent look at the poetic process by which human beings construct meaning from their experience. Narrated by Stan Brakhage. Music and sound by Bruce Odland.