

STACEY STEERS ~ synopses

**Edge of Alchemy** 2017, 19:00, 35mm to 4K, stereo sound

*Edge of Alchemy*, 19:00, 35mm to digital 4k, 2017

Mary Pickford and Janet Gaynor, seamlessly appropriated 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 over time. 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 (Brothers Quay).

“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 Lautréamont'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, 15:30, 35mm color, stereo sound

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

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**Phantom Canyon** 2006, 10:00, 35mm, B&W, stereo sound

*Phantom Canyon* is an exploration of memories and 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 own process of interpretation. Music and sound design by Bruce Odland.

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**Totem:** 1999 11:00 35mm, color, stereo sound

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



**Watunna:** 1990 24:00 16mm, color, stereo sound

In this handmade film, the creation cycle mythology from the Yekuana Indians of the Orinoco region of Venezuela provides 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.

[www.staceysteers.com](http://www.staceysteers.com)