



AgX Meeting
Saturday, January 21, 2017, 4:00 PM
AgX Space
144 Moody Street, Waltham
Present:

Maria Antoneita Astudillo
Janet Benn
Ethan Berry
Nicolas Brynolfson
Genevieve Carmel
Peaches David Goodrich
Brittany Gravely
Stefan Grabowski
Pamela Larson
Ernesto Livon-Grosman

Natalie Minik
William Palumbo
Robert Todd
Douglas Urbank

new members/visitors:
Evan Greene
Austin Koenigstein
Hiroko Okahashi

AGENDA

AgX Member "Inhabit" Screening at Emerson
New Members & Welcoming Working Group Review
Member News & Inspiration
AgX Website & Promotion
Filmmaker Potluck Review
Workshop Review & Schedule
Paul Turano Workshop
Equipment Review
Darkroom Protocol
Inventory & Cataloging
Somerville Open Studios Program
Emerson Film Organization Meeting
SMFA Equipment Donation
AgX Film Logo
AgX Artist Book
Dwolla, Gateway & Dues Payments
Budget & Finance Update
Fundraising & Contacts Update
Fundraiser Perk Delivery

AGX MEMBER "INHABIT" AT EMERSON

Anto updated the group on the upcoming AgX "Inhabit" screening she and Gen are programming. It will happen Friday, March 24, 7:00 PM, at Arts Emerson's [Bright Family Screening Room](#). The venue is owned by Arts Emerson, not Emerson College, and is often booked and difficult to schedule. They were able to schedule it, however without a lot of advance notice. They have arranged for a projectionist and are allowed a maximum time of 2 hours for the screening, plus

short Q&A. The emphasis is on 16mm film. They have 20 submissions which Anto and Gen will review this weekend. Then they will need to rush to collect prints from members. One member wanted to screen on two monitors and they are looking into that possibility. Anto previewed the poster graphic. There is a need for members to help with promotion, particularly from teachers to get the word to their classes. A Facebook event is also needed.

In addition Anto is working with Billy and Kim on Emerson's [New England Graduate Media Symposium](#), April 5. Almagul Menlibayeva, video artist and photographer from Kazakhstan, is the keynote speaker.

WELCOMING GROUP AND NEW MEMBERS

The group welcomed new and potential members Evan Greene, Austin Koenigstein and Hiroko Okahashi. Gen reported that she met with Austin and Adam Gurfinkel prior to the meeting and gave them an introduction and tour. [She says Patrick Fecher wants to attend next time.] Adam and Austin connected to AgX through Daniel Mooney at Brandeis. Doug reported that he emailed Casey Hayward to follow up on his membership status. Gen suggested that Doug send the email he drafted regarding members and dues. Then, the Welcoming Group will follow up with individual new members.

MEMBER NEWS AND INSPIRATION

Rob reported on the [Alchemy Film and Moving Image Festival](#) that he attended in Scotland in early March. Kathryn's *Enolaemeva* double projection was shown, and Sarah presented a program of [Film Farm](#) screenings with Phil Hoffman in attendance. David Gatten also attended and spoke about the importance of the Film Farm to him.

Rob suggested that the 5-day workshop provided to high school students last summer strongly resembled Film Farm. He would like to revise the workshop this summer, and suggested it did not have to be geared to high school students.

Ethan plans to offer a 5-day immersive July 17-21, part of Montserrat's continuing education program. The cost is to be determined. Ethan would ask Sarah to present some of her Film Farm program, and there could also be an AgX program included.

Doug would like to consider the possibility of creating a hand printed AgX artist book, and had discussed the idea with Ethan, who teaches printmaking at Montserrat. Montserrat is set up for all types of printmaking, including letterpress. There would be little practical reason for this project, outside of artistic value, although it might be offered as a fundraiser perk. Anto mentioned that the Aviary Gallery sells artist books and might be interested in an AgX book. Ethan mentioned the Boston Drawing Project at Carroll & Sons Gallery as another possibility.

FILMMAKER POTLUCK REVIEW

Gen reported on the most recent Filmmaker Potluck which happened at the Whitney Hale Parish House connected to The Church of the Advent. Matt Samolis gave a tour of the 19th century church building, including the bell tower. Doug asked if the screening area was dark enough with the large windows, and Gen reported that it worked well. She will follow up with Matt about the possibility of an AgX screening in May or June.

OTHER SCREENING OPPORTUNITIES

Stefan mentioned that Harvard's Fogg Museum is open to possible AgX screenings at Menschel Hall. Another event in collaboration with Non-Event at the Metropolitan Waterworks Museum is also a possibility that he suggested we pursue. Stefan said that our main contact there had left the Museum and that the management may not be as enthusiastic about the possibility, but that he believes they are still open to it. Ernesto commented on the extraordinarily large turnout for last year's Waterworks event.

Natalie reported that Tufts is interested in hosting an AgX event. She would like to organize an event in their garden terrace in the fall. Natalie will send photos of the space.

WORKSHOP REVIEW

Janet reported that she got 16 responses to her Direct Animation Workshop. They were able to offer it to 10 participants, and received a lot of positive feedback. Two potential additional participants didn't show up. Janet reported on some technical difficulties, as well as the administrative challenges of responding to interested parties, collecting workshop fees and other tasks. Specifically the payment gateway caused some issues, including a problem with the SSL secure connection, which Stefan reported he had raised with Matt. An improvement is that the gateway now includes the ability to pay via credit card. Janet proposed another direct animation workshop, possibly Saturday, April 22.

Billy suggested there was a need for a Workshop Group which could handle the administrative tasks for all workshops. Janet was able to show the students Norman McLaren's *Begone Dull Care*, which she called a masterpiece in which every direct animation technique is demonstrated. Janeann and Sarah helped with the workshop and Janet gave a special thanks to Ethan for his help and for digitizing the workshop products. As with Pam's workshop the results were looped and screened at the end of the workshop.

Rob proposed that a database of all workshops and attendees be created. He created a new workshop registration form which is now included in the Google Drive Workshop folder. The group asked that it be converted to a Google document. AgX promotional permission rights could be built into the registration form. Gen raised the possibility of using MailChimp to organize and promote workshops to previous participants. Stefan was reminded of the need for the Working Group codes that Sean had agreed to create.

Stefan reported on the 16mm Production and Processing Workshops he is teaching with Mike this Saturday and Sunday. They had wanted to limit the Saturday production workshop to 6 participants, but have 11, and believe they can secure cameras for all but the instructors. (Two prospective participants have yet to confirm.) Cameras will be lent for the workshop by Peaches, Brittany, Mike, Rob (2), Ethan (3) and Stefan (2). Stefan has created an outline of the timeline. Hours are noon to 6:00 PM and Stefan would like to allow an hour before and after for prep and cleanup. Youjin will assist Saturday; Peaches and Ethan on Sunday. Additional assistants would be helpful. Sunday's workshop has 6 participants and so there will be 2 sets of 3 people processing. Stefan ordered enough bulk chemistry for 25 reversal workshops. Some of the chemicals are concentrated and need to be handled with special care. He also ordered 1200' of ORWO UN54, which he would downspool, but is concerned that it might not arrive in time. Alternatives were suggested. So far only Facebook and the newsletter have been used for promotion, but flyers would be good in addition.

There was general discussion of lab protocol, safety and cleanup. The need for a DarkOps work day was discussed, to improve organization, add labeling and post additional procedures.

Rob reported on the 16mm Editing Workshop which will be an overview of possible editing workflows. Seven participants have signed up, which is a good number. The problem is that he needs a working Steenbeck and had been counting on the SMFA donation to provide one. HFA's John Quackenbush told Rob about a Waltham couple who have a 6-plate Steenbeck in the basement which is available.

Ethan reported that Richard Touhy was currently touring and told him he could get our Model C working. The group discussed the idea of inviting him to visit AgX to present a screening and workshop in addition.

SMFA EQUIPMENT

Rob reported on a miscommunication with SMFA on the terms of the equipment loan or donation. SMFA understood Rob to offer lifetime access to SMFA students in exchange for the equipment, which Rob had not intended. They had initially wanted to donate the equipment outright. Rob reported that some SMFA faculty were opposed to losing the equipment, and that the issue was touchy. He said there was resistance from SMFA to cover moving costs. They have a 4-plate Steenbeck which Rob said would be ideal for AgX as it is relatively small and light. They also

have a 6-plate and an optical printer for DSLR swappable with a Bolex. They are also offering an Elmo TRV-15 which Rob said would be extremely beneficial, plus 6 super 8 cameras and other equipment. SMFA values the offer at \$5,000 and proposed AgX pay off the equipment with services to the school, although they added they don't think they have volume for more than one event per semester. Ethan reported that a van can be rented for \$30 per day and that AgX can handle the move.

PLUMBING AND ELECTRICAL BUILDING ISSUES

Doug reported that he had spoken with our building manager, Susan Murphy, a couple of weeks ago and she had assured him that she would get us a quote on the electrical work to add a 220V line for us. Ethan confirmed that we hadn't received it. Doug said the issue is that she is busy and we need to keep after her. Doug also discussed the issue of the lease which she told him would be coming nearly a year ago, as well as a rent increase. She confirmed that we would eventually have a 5-year lease. Doug will follow up and coordinate with Ethan.

GRANT WORKING GROUP REVIEW

Rob stated he will call a meeting of the Fundraising and Grant Working Group. Mass. Cultural Council grants are due in May and Mass. Development is coming up. Stefan mentioned that we should follow up on the offer of a walkthrough of AgX.

AGX 16MM LOGO

Rob had agreed to create a black and white version and, Stefan, a color version. Stefan suggested a simple animation was possible. The group said the logo would be adequate and Stefan agreed to create a negative from the logo artwork. Doug repeated that he thinks we should have one ready for the Haverhill Film Festival in the event that AgX members are included.

EQUIPMENT INVENTORY

The group discussed the coding, labeling and inventory of our equipment. Ethan has been doing inventory bit by bit, just using serial numbers, but the coding system Sean was working on would be preferable. Stefan repeated that he has an excellent FileMaker system at Harvard that could also be used at AgX. Ernesto recommended that any application we use be one that lasts for future generations.

AGX WEST

Ethan reported that he and Sarah had discussed doing another AgX West event this spring. The group has never had a screening of these events, and there was interest in scheduling one.

[Some updates from Mike Piso, who could not attend the meeting:]

PAUL TURANO CONTACT PRINTING WORKSHOP

Mike will coordinate with Paul regarding part 2 of the optical printing workshop and contact workshop participants to determine possible dates. Mike hopes to have this done end of this week. (Paul contacted Doug via email and said that, with notice, he could do the workshop on a Monday or Wednesday beginning at 6:00 PM.)

SOMERVILLE OPEN STUDIOS PROGRAM

Mike reported that SCATV is sending out a call for entries for their Somerville Open Studio screening, and local AgX members are encouraged to apply. If members want him to be in touch with other Somerville venues for an Open Studios screening, Mike will take that on.

SCATV WORKSHOPS

Mike would like to determine a date for the film workshops at SCATV.

WORK-IN-PROGRESS SCREENINGS

Mike will be in the lab on Tuesday and will be sending out an email soon with a date for April's WIP screening. He's thinking either the last or second to last Thursday of the month. [The group had suggested that if Mike would organize April's WIP, perhaps Valery and Susan could organize one for May.

WORKING GROUP LIST

The group discussed the need for an updated Working Group list of members. Doug has been including the original list with meeting notes, however it is very out of date.

End of Meeting

NEXT MEETING & OTHER SCHEDULING

The next AgX Meeting is scheduled Sunday, April 23, at AgX and beginning at 1:00 PM.

AgX "Inhabit" Screening will be March 24, 7:00 PM, at Arts Emerson's Bright Family Screening Room.

Emerson's New England Graduate Media Symposium will be April 5.

Mike will schedule and host April's Work-in-Progress screening possibly either the last or second to last Thursday of the month. Valery and Susan may organize one for May.

Ethan's 5-day Filmmaking Immersive through Montserrat is scheduled for July 17-21.

The next Boston Filmmaker Potluck schedule is to be determined.

Workshops scheduled are as follows:

- March 24-25: 16mm Production and Processing Workshops, organized by Stefan and Mike
- April 1: Editing Workshop, organized by Rob, to include structural, continuity, in-camera
- April 22: tentative Direct Animation workshop, organized by Janet
- Part 2 of Paul Turano's JK workshop schedule is to be determined
- Zack Hart color negative cross-processing workshop date is to be determined

End of Meeting Notes

Notes by Douglas Urbank

ORIGINAL WORKING GROUP SIGNUP

Exhibitions & Screenings

Anto Astudillo
Carmine Grimaldi
Ernesto Livon-Grosman
Kathryn Ramey
Susan DeLeo
Valery Lyman

Planning & Administration

Brittany Gravely
Corrin Barnes
Douglas Urbank
Ernesto Livon-Grosman
Gen Carmel
Mike Piso
Anto Astudillo

Budget & Finance

Christina Hunt
Ethan Berry
Gen Carmel
Libbie Cohn
Matthew McWilliams
Mike Piso
Robert Todd

Lab & Operations

Christina Hunt
Ethan Berry
Frank Aveni
Kathryn Ramey
Laura Ryan
Mike Piso
Nic Brynolfson
Nicholas Bunch

Outreach & Website

Anto Astudillo
Brittany Gravely
Corrin Barnes
Frank Aveni
Matthew McWilliams
Nicholas Bunch