



ALEX MACKENZIE is a westcoast-based media artist, designer, teacher, curator and writer, primarily focussed on analog film and the hand processed image. He creates works of expanded cinema, light projection installation, and projector performance. His expanded performances and single channel work have been presented at the Rotterdam International Film Festival, Oberhausen Short Film Festival, the EXiS Experimental Film Festival in Seoul, Lightcone in Paris, Kino Arsenal in Berlin, the LA Film Forum, San Francisco Exploratorium, Microscope Gallery New York, and many other festivals and art spaces worldwide. His installation work has been presented at the Western Front in Vancouver, Flux Gallery in Victoria, Vancouver Art Gallery (Fuse), Rake Gallery in Portland, and at Voorkamer in Lier, Belgium among others. He was the founder and curator of the Edison Electric Gallery of Moving Images, the Blinding Light!! Cinema and the Vancouver Underground Film Festival. Alex was an artist in residence at Atelier MTK in Grenobles, France, the Struts Gallery/Faucet Media in New Brunswick, Cineworks' Analog Film Annex in Vancouver, and Daimon in Gatineau. He co-edited Damp: Contemporary Vancouver Media Art (Anvil Press 2008), and interviewed David Rimmer for Loop, Print, Fade + Flicker: David Rimmer's Moving Images (Anvil Press 2009). He is a founding member of the Iris Film Collective.

media works

2025	brickdust, close-up	16mm, in progress
2024	phosphene 2.0	16mm performance, 12 mins
2023	inogon light	16 mm performance, 6 mins
	one in five	16mm performance, 10 mins
	our days are numbered	16mm performance, 6 mins
	yul20a	digital, 6 mins
2022	waiting room	16mm digital transfer, installation and single channel, 3 mins
	the hollow mountain	35mm performance, 25 mins
2021	pinhole park	35mm pinhole installation and single channel, 11 mins
2020	think before you think: rick raxlen	16mm/digital, 30 mins
2019	mall emotions / granular flight	16mm single projector performance, 15 mins each
	closed-eye hallucination	16mm X 3 loop installation
2018-20	phosphene 1.0	16mm X 2 performance variable length
2017	agar-agar	16mm / digital 1:45 mins
	commercial & grant	16mm 3 mins, commissioned as a part of private view
	bungalow	site specific light & sound installation, falaise fieldhouse, vancouver
	rgb in 16mm	3 X 16mm installation and performance
2016	apparitions	16mm X 2 performance 55 mins
	fascia	16mm X 2 performance 10 mins
	shudder	16mm X 2 installation / performance 12 mins
	all that glitter	16mm installation
	listen cyan fades first	16mm expanded gate installation
	from falaise	super 8 / digital 3 mins
2015	totem	16mm X 2 variable speed or 16mm single channel 6-8 mins
	effulgence	super 8 / digital 5 mins
	16pan	digital black and white prints from panoramic 16mm film frames
2012-2014	intertidal	16mm X 2 analytic projector performance 55 mins (ongoing)
2014	leafblower	16mm X 2 installation
	beauty in pesticides	found footage, the film that buys the cinema commission, cube cinema bristol 1 min
2013	are we still going to the movies?	16mm performance 12 mins
2012	auratone: digitalis	digital video, film pop montreal commission 5 mins
	portal (city symphony: vancouver)	16mm silent, installation winnipeg film group wndx commission 2 mins
	this charming couple	16mm analytic projector performance 5 mins
2011-14	logbook	16mm analytic projector performance 25 mins
2010	accumulation	16mm X 2 projector performance and kinetic sculpture installation
	happiness	16mm performance with barbara bourget (kokoro dance) 10 mins
2009	fixed: view sky rail	16mm double projection loop performance 20 mins
	many hands make light work	16mm film strip, hardboard (wall mounted)
2008	periphery, part 1	16mm projector performance 8 mins
2007-12	the wooden lightbox	16mm projector performance 50 mins (ongoing)
	velvet light trap	gallery installation (lead artist/mentor) interurban gallery, vancouver
2006	loom	double 8mm projector performance 23 mins
	goldenleaf	double 8mm projector performance 6 mins
	underfoot	16mm film transferred to digital 5 mins
2005	antidote	led light projection installation
2005	possible model for a microcinema	gallery installation 16mm loop, transformed applebox
2004/5	parallax	16mm X 2 projector performance 50-65 min
2003	this fleeting	16mm film transferred to digital 45 min
	medi(cine)	16mm X 2 projector performance 20 min
2002	onlooking	commissioned super 8 film/flash site 7 min
	nightsky	super 8 cartridge projector performance 20-30 min
2001	strand 2	16mm X 2 projector performance 10 min
2000	escape velocity	super 8 cartridge projector performance 20-30 min
	barzon on reading	commissioned video for the blueprint project, pleasuredome 30 sec
1999	sombre	gallery installation peep show booth, video surveillance, 16mm
	i, endemic	commissioned interactive web-based installation
1998	i am watched/horizontal fix	super 8 cartridge projector performance various lengths
1997	x-ray pi	super 8 film 3 min
	home safety	pixelvision transferred to video 8 min

1996	a current fear of light	16mm film 7 min
1995	watching you...on the late show	16mm film 3 min
1993	blind light	16mm film 8 min
1992	in security	16mm film 3 min
1991	still life	super 8 transferred to video 3 min

performances/screenings

2025	night visions kw studios, vancouver
2024	blockhaus nantes, les ombres electriques rennes, diffraktions berlin, baltic analog riga, whs helsinki, filmverkstaden vaasa, experiments in cinema albuquerque, dresdner schmalfilmtage
2023	nomos nomade saint-nazaire, experiments in cinema albuquerque, exis seoul south korea, la pree rochefort sur loire (mire), craterlab barcelona, filmkoop wien vienna, 37 looe st plymouth, close-up cinema london, bennett centre frome, star and shadow cinema newcastle, engage film festival seattle, antimatter media art victoria, lyra arte bogota, alternative film video serbia
2022	experiments in cinema albuquerque, burrardview fieldhouse vancouver, oberhausen film festival germany, vanlive! vancouver, engage film festival seattle, crossroads film festival sf, dim cinema cinematheque 50th anniversary, experimental intermedia nyc, harkat 16mm festival mumbai india, north bay film festival
2021	cripta747 turin italy, harkat 16mm festival mumbai india, burrard view fieldhouse vancouver, platform gallery winnipeg
2020	cosmic ray film festival chapel hill, fabrica de arte cubano havana, burrardview fieldhouse vancouver
2019	consciousness of changing climate film festival berlin, cinema nova brussels, new works invitational (3 shows) sawdust collector vancouver, capture photography festival vancouver, engage film festival seattle.
2018	experiments in cinema festival albuquerque new mexico, acid free los angeles, wise hall sawdust collector invitational vancouver, winnipeg underground film festival, private view falaise fieldhouse vancouver, in house iris film collective vancouver, labs encuentro mexico city, antimatter film festival victoria, queen mary university of london, local sightings seattle.
2017	back to the futurefuture analog film and sound festival filmwerkplaats rotterdam, excinema seattle, the loft at bucks 5th avenue olympia, northwest film centre/portland art gallery, boathouse cinema portland, echo park film centre los angeles, exploratorium san francisco, shapeshifters oakland, denver film society/process reversal denver, university of colorado boulder, western front vancouver, fava/latitude 53 edmonton, csif calgary, saskfilm pool/independent visions regina, paved arts saskatoon, cinematheque/wndx winnipeg, experiments in cinema albuquerque, cinematheque vancouver, surrey art gallery influx surrey, mohr festival perthshire scotland, electric fields festival, scotland, kelburn garden party scotland, butefest scotland, doune the rabbit hole scotland, antimatter film festival victoria.
2016	flux gallery victoria, diffraktion laborberlin berlin, sight unseen baltimore, rhizome washington, l'etna paris, lomaa london ontario, early monthly segments toronto, cinematheque montreal, daimon gatineau, nightingale cinema chicago, harvard university/balagan boston, microscope gallery new york, big mama cinematheque philadelphia, handmade emulsion rotterdam, bains argentiques nantes, local sightings film and video festival seattle, anti-matter film festival victoria, western front vancouver, kay lnagaay's performance house haida gwaii, experimental film symposium mainfilm montreal.
2015	london short film festival, lichter filmfest frankfurt, cube cinema bristol, kyiv international short film festival, horse hospital london, cinema nova brussels, kino im sprengel hannover, regen bogenkino berlin, huset-kbh copenhagen, the old hairdressers glasgow scotland, hyde park picture house leeds, open school east london, the floating cinema wiltshire & bristol, b-movie hamburg, goethe institute hanoi vietnam, crab park van, echo park film centre los angeles, deluge contemporary art/antimatter victoria, falaise park van, excinema seattle, nwfc seattle, exploded view tuscon, basement films albuquerque, the front new orleans, black hole oakland.
2014	artwaste vancouver, your neighbour's window film nights vancouver, iris gulf islands tour (pender, saltspring, lasqueti, mayne), daimon gatineau, l'abominable paris, lieu unique nantes, kino arsenal berlin, sputnik geneva, rendezvous with madness toronto, videodrunken toronto, centro de cultura digital mexico city, casa nueva puebla, centro fotografico alvarez bravo oaxaca, echo park film centre los angeles, bfi london film festival, liverpool radical film festival.
2013	pleasuredome toronto, cinematheque quebecoise montreal, daimon gatineau, ifco ottawa, spectacle cinema brooklyn, glasgow film festival, star and shadow cinema newcastle, cherry kino at wharf chambers leeds, screen bandita edinburgh, other cinema's unconscious archives london, the cube microplex bristol, tie festival colorado springs, la filmforum los angeles, echo park film centre los angeles, sf cinematheque/exploratorium san francisco, sf cinematheque party san francisco, shapeshifters oakland, cinema project portland, antimatter victoria.
2012	rotterdam international film festival rotterdam, voorkamer lier belgium, antimatter victoria, townhouse gallery cairo egypt, pop film montreal, cineworks vancouver, wndx winnipeg.
2011	tba portland, anti-matter victoria, san francisco cinematheque (crossroads), echo park film centre los angeles.
2010	videodumbo brooklyn new york, exis film festival seoul south korea, mercury lounge/ifco ottawa, vancouver art gallery, hexagram black box concordia montreal, winnipeg cinematheque, brief encounters vancouver, pacific cinematheque vancouver.
2009	cinecycle (lift/pleasuredome) toronto, antimatter festival victoria, struts gallery nb, leeds film festival leeds, cork film festival, aurora festival norwich, no.w.here london, star and shadow cinema newcastle, the magic lantern edinburgh, cube cinema bristol, 7 inch cinema birmingham, easdale island centre (muth) oban.
2008	international film festival rotterdam rotterdam, lightcone scratch projections paris, le 102 grenoble, (k-raa-k)3 festival brussels, grand-guignol lyon, wndx festival of film and video art winnipeg, struts gallery sackville, halifax independent filmmakers festival halifax, exis exp. film and video festival seoul, pacific cinematheque vancouver.
2007	international film festival rotterdam, starting from scratch festival amsterdam, vera groningen, cinecycle toronto, battle of the cities festival chicago, interurban vancouver, anti-matter festival victoria.
2006	victoria independent film and video festival, pacific cinematheque/cineworks vancouver, pdx experimental film festival portland, anti-matter festival victoria, rake gallery portland, art gallery of nova scotia halifax, trinity western university langley, murder city>media city/winnipeg cinematheque winnipeg, vancouver international film festival.
2005	available light screening collective ottawa, mediacity 11 windsor-detroit, western front vancouver, olympia film festival olympia, international experimental exposition denver, sf cinematheque san francisco, northwest film forum seattle, 40 frames portland, humboldt state university arcata, send+receive/plug-in gallery winnipeg, university of regina regina, saskatchewan film pool regina, butchershop gallery vancouver.
2004	kino arsenal berlin, starting from scratch festival amsterdam, collectif jeune cinema paris, le 102 grenoble, anti-matter film festival victoria, concordia university graduate cinema program montreal, york university independents graduate cinema program toronto, pleasuredome toronto, cinevic victoria.

2003 the lux london, lightcone paris, subrosa kiel germany, cinemanova brussels, tnt/chercheurs d'ombres bordeaux, le 102 grenoble, hallu-cines limoges, videoex zurich, mediacity 9 windsor-detroit.

2002 splice this! toronto, images festival toronto, winnipeg cinematheque winnipeg, blinding light!! cinema.

2001 mountain standard time performance art festival calgary, mediacity 7 windsor-detroit, anti-matter victoria, blinding light!! cinema vancouver, multiplex x festival vancouver, electronic arts festival vancouver.

2000 exit art new york city, anti-matter victoria, images festival toronto, olympia film festival, ~scope vancouver, other cinema san francisco, justice league san francisco, espace montreal.

1999 robert beck memorial cinema new york, cinematheque ontario "the independents" toronto, western front vancouver, splice this! toronto, vancouver underground film festival.

1998 images festival toronto, vancouver international film festival, pei experiment charlottetown, wormwood's halifax, pixelvisionaries santa monica, sugar refinery vancouver, pure cinema vancouver.

education

1988 carleton university bachelor of arts, honours film studies
independent studies with peter harcourt

1987/88 carleton university teaching assistant

artist grants/awards (note: travel grants are not included here)

2023-24 spectral seminar residency mire experimental film lab, nantes france

2014-2022 residency artist fieldhouse, vancouver parks board (iris film collective)

2022 platforms: live city of vancouver public art

2019 media arts grant bc arts council

2017 creative development grant media arts, canada council

2016 invited researcher & performer nantes bain argentine artist lab meeting
invited researcher handmade emulsion/primitive colour seminar at filmwerkplaats rotterdam

2014 professional project assistance bc arts council (iris film collective)
project grant canada council for the arts (iris film collective)
invited researcher & performer maddox at l'abominable artist run film lab, paris
residency daimon, gatineau

2013 creative development grant media arts, canada council

2012 residency cineworks analog annex

2010 creative development grant media arts, canada council

2009 project assistance media arts, bc arts council

2008 residency atelier mtk grenoble, france
residency struts gallery, sackville, nb

2006 creative development grant media arts, canada council

2005 project assistance media arts, bc arts council
publication grant media arts, canada council
edgecode grant national film board/cineworks
honourable mention parallax, mediacity 11 festival windsor-detroit

2004 residency atelier mtk grenoble, france
creation grant visual arts, bc arts council

2001 production grant media arts, canada council

1998 creative development grant media arts, canada council

1994 production grant media arts, canada council

curation/workshops

2024 projector maintenance & performance instructor, mire nantes/filmverkstaden vaasa

2023 projector maintenance & performance instructor, crater-lab barcelona/filmkoop wien vienna/37 looe st plymouth
handmade emulsion instructor, not-nowhere london/star&shadow newcastle

2022 greasing the wheels instructor, 16mm projector and splicer maintenance iris film collective vancouver

2019 cyanotype in 16mm instructor, cineworks/iris film collective vancouver
16mm projector maintenance instructor, cineworks/iris film collective vancouver

2018 non-toxic film processing instructor, cineworks/iris film collective vancouver
16mm projector maintenance independent film labs encounter mexico city

2017 canyon cinema 50 co-curation with seth mitter of expanded cinema works from canyon cinema's collection
expanded cinema instructor techniques and methodologies: nwfc portland, exploratorium san francisco, process reversal denver, fava edmonton, university of regina, paved arts saskatoon

16mm film graffiti instructor, hand drawn film workshop, surrey art gallery
handmade emulsion instructor, cineworks vancouver (2 day class)

2016 expanded cinema instructor, techniques and methodologies: sight unseen baltimore, rhizome washington, lomaa london ontario, visions/dbl negative montreal, balagan boston, negativland new york, big mama cinematheque philadelphia

handmade emulsion instructor, daimon/windows collective gatineau, lift toronto

2014 hand drawn film instructor, big draw, vancouver
handmade emulsion instructor, laborberlin berlin, centro fotografico alvarez bravo oaxaca.

2013 introduction to the steenbeck instructor, flatbed editing, cineworks vancouver
handmade emulsion instructor 16mm fabrication, painting and processing of emulsion
ifco ottawa, lift toronto, star & shadow newcastle, no.w.here london

expanded cinema instructor, techniques and methodologies
lift toronto, gsff glasgow, the cube bristol, basement films albuquerque,
tie festival colorado springs, echo park film centre free school, los angeles

2012 cineworks expanding cinema instructor, extended series of immersive workshops, cineworks vancouver

2011 expanded cinema instructor techniques and methodologies, cineworks vancouver

2010	hand processing handmade emulsion the western influence	instructor 16mm and super 8 processing by hand, ifco ottawa instructor fabrication, painting and processing of emulsion winnipeg curator classic influential experimental west coast works winnipeg
2009	handmade emulsion flashes of light quick n' dirty	instructor, lift toronto, no.w.here london instructor 16mm rayogram, contact printing, hand processing workshop cork film festival, aurora festival norwich, cube cinema bristol, leeds iff. instructor 16mm hand-processing workshop, cinevic victoria
2009	hands-on film	mentor/instructor over 3 months, history and practical approaches to fringe film, projections/intersections at-risk youth vancouver
2008	riffing the light fantastic	curator special video drive-in program, ok quoi festival sackville
2007	the velvet light trap	lead artist workshop and installations on pre-cinema, projections vancouver
2006	terminal city celluloid	curator recent vancouver experimental shorts winnipeg
2004	cinema magick radical mavericks doxa film festival	instructor pre-cinema devices for pre-teens, art city winnipeg curator, works by arthur lipsett and norman mclaren, european tour curator, documentary film festival vancouver
1998-2003	the blinding light!! cinema	full time curator & founder, underground cinema vancouver
1998-2003	vancouver underground film fest	founder, curator, festival director, panel moderator
2003	mismanaging my image	curator, video mundi chicago
2002	the devil lives in hollywood	curator, recent vancouver underground, winnipeg cinematheque winnipeg
2000	doxa film festival	curator, documentary film festival vancouver
1999	markings: dimension thru surface quick n' dirty the independents	curator, hand-processed films/live performance, western front vancouver co-curator, hand-processing film workshop/screening, splice this! toronto curator, new vancouver underground, cinematheque ontario toronto
1998	quick n' dirty	instructor/curator, 5 day hand-processing workshop, gifts. galiano island
1997	pixel peep show	curator, one hour program of pixelvision-based works north american tour
1996	quick n' dirty	instructor/curator, b&w super 8 hand-processing workshop vancouver
1995-1997	edison electric gallery	founder and curator, underground cinema vancouver
writing/editing		
2023	david rimmer remembrance	millenium film journal, nyc
2013	microclimate, vancouver 1995-2003	essay for microcinema issue #4 of incite, guest ed. christina battle
2012	lycanthropy monument	commissioned essay for strange codes: the life and films of arthur lipsett commissioned essay for dvd release of empty quarter (a. letourneau/p. minty)
2010	the western influence	curatorial essay to accompany screening, winnipeg cinematheque
2009	loop, print, fade + flicker	david rimmer interview, pacific cinematheque monograph #1 anvil press
2008	damp	co-editor designer/contributor, book on media arts in vancouver anvil press
2008	hand cranked	interview with lee krist millenium film journal no. 50 new york
2006	summer love	catalogue essay amy lockhart's faking it, helen pitt gallery vancouver
2004	doxa film festival	trouble in the image catalogue essay vancouver
2000-2003	250W	editor/contributor blinding light!! cinema 'zine, four issues vancouver
1995-2003	program notes	over 2000 film notes written for curatorial programming 8 years
2000	~scope	markings: dimension through surface catalogue, ~scope vancouver
1994-1996	take one magazine	west coast contributor monthly national film magazine toronto
1993-1995	workprint noise magazine	editor/contributor cineworks bi-monthly magazine vancouver film editor/contributor monthly cultural tabloid vancouver
juries/panels/artist talks		
2021	canada council film friends strange questions	juror media arts research and creation/concept to realization zoom artist talk, echo park film centre youtube channel interview with gerry fialka
2019	canada council	juror media arts sector innovation and development
2018	canada council canada council	juror media arts support organization - major warning component juror media arts organisctor zations equipment purchase
2017	canada council canada council	juror media arts residencies juror media arts organizational support
2016	bc arts council university of syracuse	juror annual assistance to media arts organizations and project grants artist talk trans media department
2015	mire, nantes	artist talk on experimental/documentary hybrids
2014	canada council	juror media arts grants ottawa
2010	canada council concordia university exis film festival	juror annual assistance to media production organizations artist talk graduate cinema program montreal invited panelist creating alternative contexts
2009	90 second quickie canada council canada council	juror winnipeg film group juror annual assistance to media production organizations juror organizational development in media arts
2008	moderator wndx festival mount allison university	deliberate obstructions + calculated aimlessness: bruce mcclure dim cinema vancouver invited panelist expanded cinema and film art artist talk fine arts program
2007	halifax ind. filmmakers festival	delegate symposium: is film dead? halifax
2005	humboldt state university university of regina	artist talk arcata, california artist talk "art for lunch" series regina

	simon fraser university	artist talk film program X 2 vancouver
	carleton university	artist talk film studies program ottawa
	doxa documentary film festival	advisory board member vancouver
2004	york university	artist talk graduate cinema program toronto
	concordia university	artist talk graduate cinema program montreal
	emily carr institute	artist talk and workshop film and video program vancouver
	cineworks	juror annual production fund vancouver
	cinevic	artist talk film cooperative victoria
	rim shots aifva agm	round table mediator fragmented markets, segmented audiences vancouver
2004	canada council	juror media arts festival grants ottawa
	canada council	juror canadian cinemathèque bi-annual operations grants teleconference
2003	amia conference	invited panelist access issues in avant-garde & experimental film vancouver
	northwest film festival	invited panelist festival programming portland
2001	images film festival	juror 8 awards toronto
	bc arts council	juror media arts grants victoria
	pdx film festival	juror pdx invitationals portland
2000	cbc television	juror screenwriting contest vancouver
1998	vancouver int. film festival	juror telefilm short, canadian screenplay, canadian feature vancouver
1996	canada council	juror media arts grants

other/collaborations

2019 experiments for a single projector in collaboration with audio artists clare kenny and stephen wood

bibliography | alex mackenzie

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“Alex Mackenzie is the unequivocal master of contemporary Canadian expanded cinema. Using rare and outdated technology with the deft touch of a visual alchemist, Mackenzie spins his stunning and mesmerizing anti-narratives using the detritus of cinematic history to create a completely unforgettable, and undeniably powerful, alternate vision.”
Deborah de Boer, Antimatter Film Festival

“MacKenzie is a key player in the revival of expanded cinema forms, having performed an array of super 8 and 16mm multiple projection works over the last twenty-five years. His projects stretch the possibilities of the analogue form, manipulating images to beyond our received expectations.”

Chris Kennedy, Early Monthly Film Segments (Toronto)

phosphene “...Alex MacKenzie’s two-projector light performance breathes with life as he transforms the image from a simulation of shifting patterns created by optic nerves on the surface of the eye to bursts of illumination and shimmering, vibrating suggestions of emergent form that unite the cosmic with the microscopic. Radiance flows as if like water, enveloping possible micro-organisms, the spark of life at source, moving, growing, expanding outward again, exploding into the burning sun and pulsating as if through circulatory systems of living creatures, all suggestive of heat, energy, vision, uniting inner and outer worlds, all being, the known and the vast unknown, in an ecstatic splendour of light.”

Marilyn Brakhage

apparitions “Celluloid wizardry.” *Northwest Film Forum, Portland*

“A dreamlike montage that will push you to think of film in new ways.”

Adrian Mack, Georgia Straight

“Mackenzie gestures toward the ongoing development of cinema itself and points toward the expanded cinematic image as the next step in the medium’s evolution.”

Morton Duras, The Central Ruhr

intertidal “A bitter-sweet celebration of the beauty and power of a natural world which we are so quickly using up. Its power is in its forthright reflection of the natural world. In an era where so much media threatens to control, pacify or overwhelm its viewer, Mackenzie understands that less is more.”

Owen O’Toole, Wide Open Cinema

“Film performance, aka live cinema, injects the static projection of images with the immediacy—and risk—that attends in-the-moment creation. One of this bubbling genre’s most celebrated pioneers, Canadian experimental film manipulator Alex MacKenzie...employs two 16mm analytic projectors to slow, morph and freeze his imagery, conjuring the kind of ephemeral sensations one rarely encounters at the movies.”

Michael Fox, KQED Arts

“Part naturalist journal, part poetic travelogue, MacKenzie’s masterful handmade film work captures the rugged beauty of the west coast and its delicate cycles of marine life. Speeds shifting with the tides, vintage projectors rumble as we are piloted through hidden passages to remote inlets on a timeless voyage of discovery.”

Todd Eacrett, Antimatter Film Festival

the wooden lightbox “[MacKenzie’s] work often has an otherworldly quality, as if we were seeing images for the first time...his process allows for the re-entry of a sense of wonder, what theorist Walter Benjamin once referred to as the *promesse de bonheur*, or the utopian promise of technology that can only be reproduced through an artistic reinvestment in the hidden possibilities of a medium. Through his rediscoveries, MacKenzie takes us back to the birth of the moving image...”

Chris Kennedy, Strategies of the Medium III: In the Dark

“The Wooden Lightbox is about remembering, about throwing ourselves back to a time when audience expectation was open, with the projection of films equally non-rigid. The degraded quality of the images, often created through alternative emulsions and hand processing of the film, helps to reinforce the notion of lost memories and decaying history. By reviving some of the technical approaches... Alex preserves some of the spirit of that past and shares the adventure of invention with the contemporary audience.”

Gerald Saul, Experimental Film Review

parallax “An ephemeral highwire track through the cinematic unconscious and an elegy to 16mm’s passing future. Amid the increasingly commodified, rhythmically challenged, digital age of projected images, MacKenzie exhibits

genuine commitment to film’s outmoded apparatus, material fragility and musical cadence. Parallax is cinema to be played (with); it requires a different kind of engagement, in which the viewer becomes actively aware of celluloid’s fragile, fleeting magic.”

Brett Kashmere, Synoptique

“MacKenzie orchestrates a sumptuous, stunning collage of moving images and sound which walks a tightrope between control and chance, order and chaos, permanency and change—reminding us of the fragile, ephemeral nature of film and ultimately, of course, of life itself.”

Larissa Fan, Take One Magazine

this fleeting “A 22-part retake on the empire of family, going back through a single family’s archive and relooking at the moments, the gestures of inclusion and exclusion, the way they’ve managed to say yes with the camera. These home movies were originally made between 1948-1957 and feature bathing beauties, parades, cars, trips abroad and much much more. Relive the dream.”

Mike Hoolboom, Filmmaker/Writer

“MacKenzie’s ‘silent movie with sound’ favours images from this collection of home movies that are often the failures: when the unknown amateur filmmaker breaks with the conventions of image-capturing through camera error, overexposure or poor focus, it is these ‘accidents’ that are explored and the film becomes more of a graphic entity, imposing a watercolour beauty and a depth of colour to this early Kodachrome family album...”

Jörg Meyer, Kieler Nachrichten

nightsky “The sheer virtuosity of MacKenzie’s live film performance is enough to blur the line between cinema and historical re-enactment. NIGHTSKY unfolds like a window-seat view of a return voyage to the sea of tranquility, its images accumulate, overlap and recede with mesmerizing calm, sea and sky gradually yielding to a horizonless black space teeming with stars and satellites and fellow sojourners. Frail souls like us, blanched and zealous faces barely visible behind their visors, the grainy, re-photographed and hand-processed found footage of Armstrong et al evokes more than the (admittedly exquisite) pathos of watching an excessive century’s grandest icons nearly vanish before our eyes. Earthbound in the mortal intimacy of an obsolete “home-movie” technology and the all-too-human touch of MacKenzie’s performance, we surpass nostalgia. This is history—that which is made only when reproduced - the vital urge to comprehend what has not been lived, to find meaning in the abandoned fragments of mere grandeur.”

Jeremy Rigsby, Director, Media City Film and Video Festival

The performance/screening of NIGHTSKY at Innis was one of the understated festival hits that make Images what it is. Alex MacKenzie’s haunting multi-projector invocation of our own projections of the romance, mystery, science and wonder of space was perfectly matched by Haco’s real time score which seemed to compose a shifting space-scape of fusing and decaying neutrons and space dust made audible.

Images Film Festival, Toronto

somber “Recognizing the beauty of the blurred, unfixed, and fleeting, MacKenzie indulges its potential for aesthetic effect, in contrast to the sharp focused (seamless) spectacle to which we have become accustomed in the movie theatre and on television...SOMBER confronts our desires and our implication in our own repression by thwarting our expectations.”

Fiona Bowie, Curator, in ~scope

i am watched / horizontal fix “Using experimental masking and filtering techniques, persistence-of-vision sleight-of-eye and shadowplay, this live show features stunning original hand-processed super8 film and manipulated super8 footage.”

Splice This Super 8 Festival

“A thrilling re-use of old technologies, a profound understanding of archival images, and a rigorous juxtaposition and re-framing of voyeuristic themes...drop-dead beautiful and essential viewing.”

Images Film Festival, Toronto

“Better than Schmelzdahin [famed German film collective, Jurgen Reble a primary member].”

John Porter, Filmmaker (Toronto)

blind light / in security “[MacKenzie’s films] play upon the phantasmagoric qualities of old images or styles. They confirm the intuition that film images may only be dream-like anymore by evoking a cinematic past....these are obscure corners of our culture and experience, and the damaged surfaces and faded textures of salvaged images effectively convey the failures and violence which are central to so many of the stories being told.”

Will Straw, James McGill Professor of Urban Media Studies