JANUARY 26
The 53rd Ann Arbor Film Festival Tour
The Ann Arbor Film Festival is the longest-running independent and experimental film festival in North America, established in 1963. This touring program features recent festival favorites, including films by Fabio Lobato, Ashley Sabin & David Redmon, Mike Hoolboom, Katarzyna Piazitiska, Sabrina Rattj, Laura Heit, Vika Kirchenbauer & Martin Sulzer, Peggy Ahwesh, and John Skoog.

FEBRUARY 2
Cinépoems: John Scott in Person
John Scott has won eleven awards and multiple glowing reviews and distinctions as an independent filmmaker and television producer. He has directed fourteen independent projects including feature-length documentary called Scouts Are Cancelled. Scouts debuted at the Hot Docs Documentary Film Festival in Toronto in 2007 and has aired multiple times on the Documentary Channel in Canada. Before becoming a professor, Scott worked as field producer at The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) with a consumer and media advocacy show for teens called Street Cents. Funded by Arts Council

FEBRUARY 9
inToAsia: Time-based Art Festival
Curated by Lorendana Pazzini-Paracciani, Carol Yinghua Lu and Wang Chun-Chi inToAsia showcases a group of time-based artists coming from Japan, Taiwan, Korea, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and Singapore. These artists, with varying cultural and social backgrounds, reflect on their life experiences in relation to the world-wide social issues associated with a global culture, and how this affects the dynamics of the rising East Asian cities as a whole. Funded by Arts Council and Asian Studies

FEBRUARY 16
Tomonari Nishikawa in Person
Tomonari Nishikawa’s films explore the idea of documenting situations/phenomena through a chosen medium and technique, often focusing on the process of art making. His films have been screened at film festivals and art venues, including Berlinale, Edinburgh International Film Festival, Hong Kong International Film Festival, International Film Festival Rotterdam, London Film Festival, New York Film Festival, Singapore International Film Festival, and Toronto International Film Festival. In 2010, he showed a series of 8mm and 16mm films at MoMA P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center. His film installation, Building 94S, received the 2008 Grant from the Museum of Contemporary Cinema in Spain. He currently teaches in the Cinema Department at Binghamton University.

FEBRUARY 23
Early Computer Animations
Before the clones attacked, before the Na’vi Hometree was destroyed, before Buzz Lightyear went to infinity and beyond, avant-garde film and video pioneers were expanding the bounds of the moving image by harnessing computer technology to create radical new ways of seeing. This program explores the genesis of our current media landscape by looking back at the early computer films that introduced new materials and methods of filmmaking—from oscilloscope experiments to computer-assisted psychedelia; formative digital advertising to music videos—spanning from the 1950s to the 1980s, provoking a fresh perspective on art, technology, and the emergence of computer-generated imagery (Ann Arbor Film Festival Program Notes). Funded by Arts Council

MARCH 1
Diary Films: friendships and intersections
In his 1990 film Scenes from the Life of Andy Warhol: Friendships and Intersections, Jonas Mekas chronicles not only the great pop artist, Andy Warhol, but also the social and cultural excitement that swirled around him, throbbing to a hypnotic Velvet Underground beat. Scenes is preceded by Saul Levine’s kinetic and intimate film Notes After Long Silence.

MARCH 8
George Kuchar and Peggy Ahwesh
With his homemade Super 8 and 16mm potboilers and melodramas of the 1950s, 60’s, and 70’s, George Kuchar became legendary as a distinctive and outrageous underground filmmaker whose work influenced many other artists including Andy Warhol, John Waters and David Lynch. Peggy Ahwesh’s eclectic works explore gender and cultural identities through fascinating narratives and textured visuals, ranging from grainy Super 8 to the virtual space of video games. The program includes Kuchar’s Hold Me While I’m Naked and Ahwesh’s The Scary Movie and She Puppet.

MARCH 22
Festival of (In)appropriation #8
Whether you call it collage, compilation, found footage, détour, or recycled cinema, the incorporation of already-existing media into new artworks is a practice that generates novel juxtapositions and new meanings and ideas, often in ways entirely unrelated to the intentions of the original makers. Such new works are, in other words, “inappropriate.” Founded in 2009, the Festival of (In)appropriation is a yearly showcase of contemporary audiovisual works that appropriate existing film, video, or other media. This program includes works from Australia, Argentina, Japan and Sweden.

MARCH 29
Black Radical Imagination
Black Radical Imagination is a touring program of visual shorts that delve into the worlds of new media, video art, and experimental narrative. The notion of the Black Radical Imagination stemmed from a series of discussions around the boundaries and limitations that are historically given to people of color in the realm of the cinematic. Focusing on new stories within the Diaspora, each artist contributes their own vision about post-modern society through the state of current black culture. Curators Erin Christovale and Amir George in attendance. Funded by Arts Council

APRIL 5
Dream Works: surreal cinema
Driven by free association and stream-of-consciousness, these films tap into the wakening dream state of cinema with strange and surprising results. The program includes classics by Man Ray and Maya Deren alongside works by Owen Land and Peter Tchernyshev.

APRIL 12
Films by Jonathan Schwartz
Jonathan Schwartz makes short films that circulate primarily in an experimental and non-fiction film context. Films are generally constructed from fragmented collections and findings, from both exterior and interior spaces. His films have exhibited in many festivals including New York Film Festival “Views from the Avant-Garde” and “Projections”, TIFF “Wavelengths”, Rotterdam, Ann Arbor, Images, Media City, Recontres Internationales, Exis, TIE, and others. Recent solo screenings include Austrian Film Museum, UnionDocs, Cinema Project, and San Francisco Cinematheque. In 2010, he was included in Film Comment magazine as one of 25 Filmmakers for the 21st century. He holds an MFA from Massachusetts College of Art, lives in Brattleboro, Vermont and is an associate professor at Keene State College.

APRIL 19
Barbara Hammer
Barbara Hammer turns to underwater explorations and uninhabited landscapes, placing the female gaze behind the camera in these adventurously filmed from the early 80s. The program includes Pools, Pond & Waterfall, Stone Circles, and Bent Time.

APRIL 26
Bernadette Corporation’s Get Rid of Yourself
This complex, multi-layered work, called an “anti-documentary” by its authors, combines footage of rioting at the 2001 G-8 summit in Genoa with performances by Chloe Sevginy, Werner von Delmont and members of the Black Bloc anarchist group. These elements yield a disorienting and critical video that ultimately questions its own status and role as much as that of its subjects. The artists write that Get Rid of Yourself functions as “a cine-tract that aligns itself with nascent forms of political resistance within the anti-globalization movement... a filmed essay that works by betraying its own form.”

MAY 3
Student Showcase
New student works from Video Art 1, Digital Animation and Digital Studio.