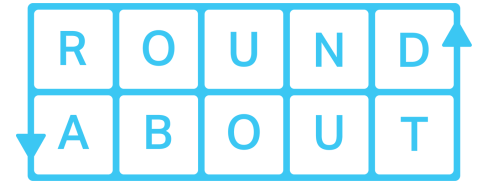


# Video Data Bank Presents: *Roundabout*

## Featuring Electronic Arts Intermix

September 28th, 2023 – 6PM at Gene Siskel Film Center



**Video Data Bank (VDB)**, a special collection of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, presents *Roundabout*, a new screening series in which the Chicago video art distributor invites fellow moving image archives and distributors to collaborate on a conversational program of short experimental works, prompted to respond to a selection of works from VDB's collection with a selection from their own. The first participant, **Electronic Arts Intermix**, is a New York City-based nonprofit arts organization that is a leading international resource for video and media art, and whose core program is the distribution and preservation of a major collection of more than 4,000 new and historical video works by artists.

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### ***One, Two, Three, Four* - Richard Landry - 1972 - 6:16 - VDB Collection**

Starting with an activity as basic as four hands clapping, Landry composes an arresting visual documentation of the fundamentals of music through a play of visual and sonic rhythms.

Richard Landry (b. 1938) is an interdisciplinary musician who was active in the experimental music movement of the 70s and early 80s. The fundamental concerns of Landry's work circulate around randomness, harmony, and repetition.

### ***Work in Progress* - Luis Valdovino - 1990 - 14:00 - VDB Collection**

An experimental video about cultural and political disputes surrounding immigration and naturalization processes. *Work In Progress* explores the effects of the 1986 U.S. Immigration Reform Law and individuals who did not qualify for amnesty under this reform, therefore remaining undocumented.

Luis Valdovino (b. 1961) is an Argentinian-born, Colorado-based video artist who testifies to the experience of Latino Americans, raising difficult issues of racism and exclusion in a supposedly democratic society, showing the injustice and hypocrisy of the American Dream when it means being over-worked and under-paid, exploited, and unrecognized in the land of opportunity.

### ***The Hollow Coin* - Frank Heath - 2016 - 12:25 - EAI Collection**

*The Hollow Coin* combines documentary footage of New York City's rapidly disappearing network of payphones with audio of a covertly recorded telephone exchange between an actor and an unknowing bystander. The video explores roles of authority in public space.

Frank Heath (b. 1982) is a filmmaker and artist based in New York City. Heath's videos interrogate vast, unfathomable subjects such as geological time, communication, and the apocalypse with shifting approaches ranging from prank phone calls to deftly composed environmental portraiture.

### ***Letter to a missing woman* - Mary Patten - 1999 - 5:27 - VDB Collection**

Based partly on memories of someone who has been a political fugitive since 1983, the video combines documentary "evidence" and fiction in a reconstruction of public documents and private history.

Mary Patten (b. 1951) is a visual artist, video-maker, writer, educator, occasional curator, and a long-time political activist. Her practice is fueled by the desire to address collisions as well as alignments between politics and art-making.



*Mermaid* (1997), Ursula Hodel



*My Father* (1973-75), Shigeko Kubota

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***Once Upon a Screen: Explosive Paradox* - Kevin B. Lee - 2020 - 9:31 - VDB Collection**

A childhood experience is projected on a shadowy wall of a former movie theatre. A racist cinematic trauma passed between friends and family is remembered among the rustling of leaves and reflections of trees on an iPad screen.

Kevin B. Lee (b. 1975) is a filmmaker, media artist and film critic. In his short films and documentaries, Lee often criticises the medium of film and the film industry. Over the last ten years, he has produced over 360 video essays.

***My Father* - Shigeko Kubota - 1973-75 - 15:30 - EAI & VDB Collections**

"Father, why did you die?" With this deeply intimate statement of grief, Kubota mourns the death of her father. Video and television are central to her ritual of mourning, and allow her father to assume a presence after death.

Over her five-decade career, Kubota (b. 1937, d. 2015) lyrically blended the personal and the technological, often merging vibrant electronic processing techniques with images of nature, culture, art and everyday life. A prominent Fluxus artist in the 1960s, she also created an idiosyncratic video diary that spanned the 1970s to the mid-2000s.

***Daughter* - Maggie Lee - 2016 - 4:27 - EAI Collection**

In her short video *Daughter*, artist Maggie Lee contacts her estranged father, now older and ill, and reunites with him briefly in Taiwan.

Maggie Lee (b. 1987) creates videos that often oscillate between the personal and the pop-cultural, blending diaristic self-documentation with collaged found sound and image. Lee garnered significant acclaim for her 2015 feature-length video *Mommy*, assembled in the process of the artist clearing out the contents of her childhood home in Westfield, New Jersey.

***Mermaid* - Ursula Hodel - 1997 - 7:00 - EAI Collection**

Hodel's hand, neatly manicured with nails polished a deep black, dances in a pool of vivid blue water. The simple beauty of this image is further articulated by the jewel-like sunlight on the water.

With irony, humor, and an outrageous sense of style, Ursula Hodel's (b. 1960) performance gestures conflate desire, consumerism, vanity, and the female body — and put a new spin on the idea of video as mirror. Hodel explores notions of beauty, hedonism, narcissism and self-obsession.