Feminist Film and Video in Los Angeles
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Abstract
Feminist film and video art is alive and well in Los Angeles, with a long list of artists making creative and critical projects that investigate the role of gender in media. This seminar introduces four of these exciting artists through screenings and discussion. The artists we will focus on are Miwa Matreyek, who blends theater, performance, animation and cinema to create magical live events layering multiple projections, recorded music and the image or silhouette of her own body moving through the projections; Rebeca Mendez, a designer and transmedia artist who explores the forces of nature modulated through technology using film, video, sound, image and immersive environments, creating what she calls impossible landscapes; Sharon Lockhart, whose work explores the relationship between the still and moving images, onscreen and off-screen space, the frame, color, texture, materiality and the incredible drama of the detail; and Cauleen Smith, who has made a series of films examining African-American identity as well as narrative form, and describes herself as an "interdisciplinary filmmaker" to underscore her interest in multiple media forms. We'll end the session by looking at the various organizations in the city that support alternative media art practices, helping participants jump-start a connection to LA's vibrant media arts scene.

Faculty Biography
Holly Willis is the Associate Dean of Research in the School of Cinematic Arts and is currently writing a book on avant-garde film practices by women, focusing specifically on handmade, artisanal work. She teaches courses on new and emerging media forms, and is the author of Fast Forward: The Future(s) of the Cinematic Arts and New Digital Cinema: Reinventing the Moving Image. The co-founder of Filmmaker Magazine dedicated to independent film, she served as the editor of RES Magazine and co-curator of RESFEST, a festival of experimental media, for several years and she writes frequently for diverse publications about experimental film, video and new media.