

Dana Berman Duff (Fine Arts and Graduate Public Practice)

In the spring of 2015 I received a Faculty Development Grant which supported of the continuation of a film project that I'd been working on for a year and hoped to expand into several films.

The impetus for the project was a 16mm film I made in 2014 entitled "Catalogue," which depicted the pages of a designer knock-off furniture catalogue as a particular category of space useful for the observation of both perceptual illusion and desire.

After the positive reception of the first film, which screened at a number of international film festivals in 2014 and 2015 including as the Toronto and the Edinburgh International Film Festivals, I made a commitment to shooting the entire 13-volume catalogue as a series, but I needed better studio equipment to accomplish the studio and the stunt shots.

The grant made it possible for me to acquire several pieces of equipment that are necessary for shooting fixed pages in the properly lit studio setting, with cool CFL lights rather than the very hot ones I'd been using, and which allow the camera to be moved on a fixed beam over flat material. The equipment makes the rather tedious process of studio shooting go quickly and smoothly, without the terrible heat of 500W bulbs.

I was also able to purchase a GoPro camera for a live shoot from an ultralight aircraft over an ocean beach that was used in the third film.

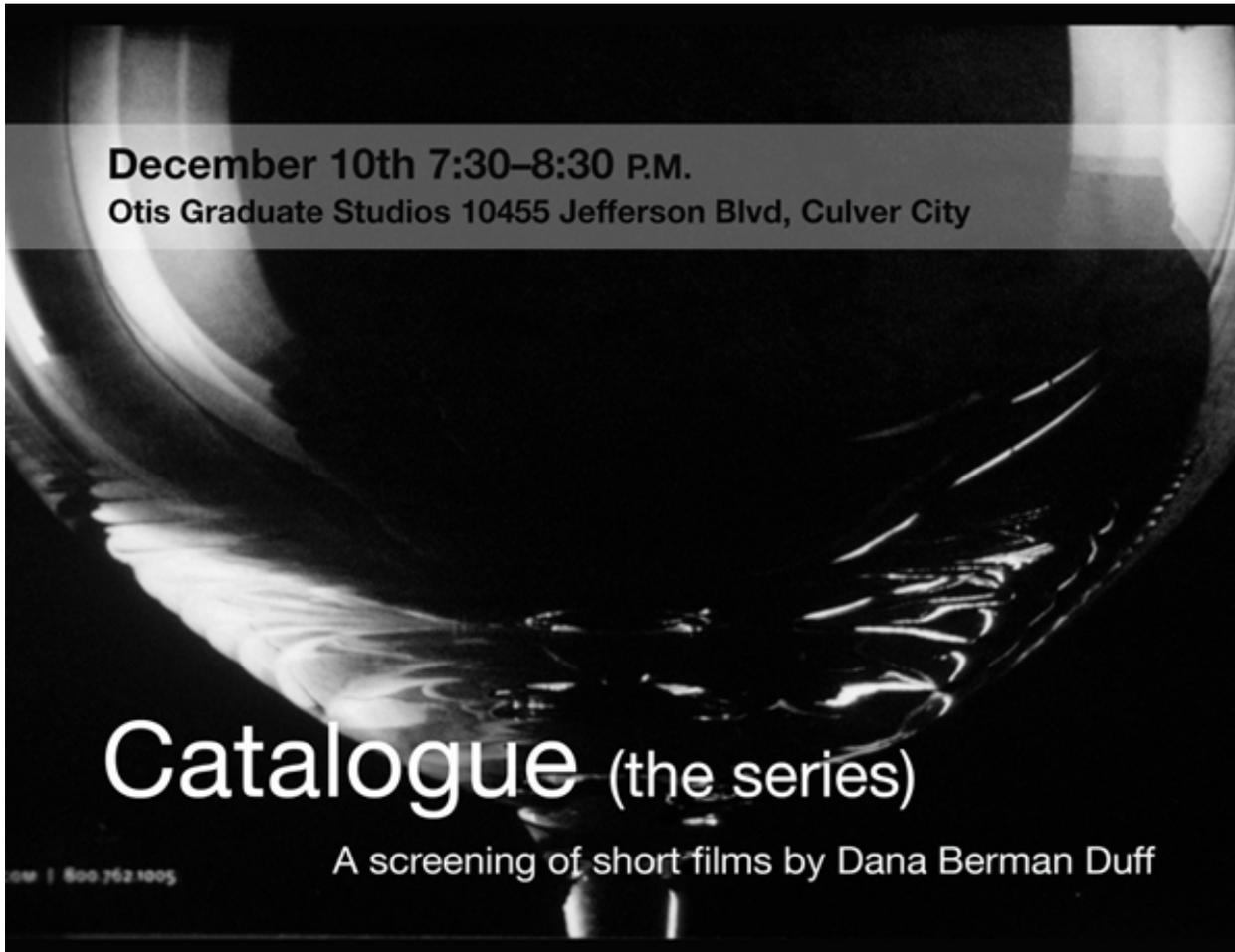
I have been able to complete five films in the grant year and was able to present those along with the first film in a six-film screening at the Otis Graduate Studios on the evening of December 10th, 2015. The screening was held for the Otis community and the Los Angeles film community, and was attended by a number of current undergrad and graduate students, by Otis faculty, and by a number of my former students.

The grant will make possible advancement in my career, as the films in this project have already been invited to screen at a Los Angeles film center and will be submitted to upcoming film festivals. The process of conceiving, planning, and making the films will be shared with students in my Experimental Filmmaking classes. Another benefit to my classes has been my sharing of the experiences of travel to international film festivals and my reports of recent and hard-to-see films that I've been able to view at the festivals.

The first film can be viewed on Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/85637218>

Interview with Dana Berman Duff in VideoFocus journal 2015:

http://issuu.com/stigmart10press/docs/stigmart_videofocus_special_edition_e674518f8fafe0/16



December 10th 7:30–8:30 P.M.

Otis Graduate Studios 10455 Jefferson Blvd, Culver City

Catalogue (the series)

A screening of short films by Dana Berman Duff

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