

**Los Angeles Filmforum presents  
Femme Grotesquerie  
Sunday, March 8, 2026, 7:30 pm  
At 2220 Arts + Archives**

Los Angeles Filmforum is the city's longest running organization dedicated to weekly screenings of experimental film, documentaries, video art, and experimental animation. 2026 is our 51st year. [www.lafilmforum.org](http://www.lafilmforum.org)

**In person: Jenny Nirgends and curator Sam Gurry**

Desires that curdle.

Ambitions that molt.

Girlhood morphed into menace, myth, and power.

Femme Grotesquerie is a collection of ten contemporary experimental animation short films showcasing femininity as something unruly, excessive, and emboldened. Featuring a variety of mediums including direct animation, stop motion, and digital 2D, these films depict worlds lived, imagined, subverted, or reclaimed. Here, femininity is not decorative or contained but pushed to its edges: raw, acute, tender, funny, and volatile. From the animated porcelain puppets of *On Weary Wings Go By* to the glitter-bombed 16mm of *Moon Cycle (2023-2024)*, these films stage feminine aesthetics and narratives as something to be wielded, distorted, reclaimed, and reimaged on the animators' own terms.

Join us to delight in the animated image and that strange pleasure of watching light, rupture, and reform.

Contemporary international animated films by Justine Lai, Alice Bloomfield, Anu-Laura Tuttelberg, Amy Lockhart, Victoria Vincent, Sofia Carillo, Sophie Koko Gate, Jenny Jokela, Louise Flaherty, and Jenny Nirgends.

Notes and Program by Sam Gurry

Flyer by Jenny Nirgends

**Screening:**

*Moon Cycle*, by Justine Lai

USA, 2024, 16mm, color/sound, 3 min. Los Angeles premiere!

"Moon Cycle is a 16mm animation based on the anime TV series Sailor Moon (1992). Using ink, marker, tape, printer toner, nail polish, and confetti, I recreate the show's transformation sequences where schoolgirls become super heroines. This footage was reused in almost every episode, and I remember as a child feeling (but not really having language for) an anticipation and comfort from recognizing the formula. It wasn't until I was older and producing my own work that the economy of recycling footage felt more significant." - Lai

*Larval*, by Alice Bloomfield

UK, 2025, Digital, color/sound, 12 min. West Coast Premiere!

"Living life in isolation, a girl dreams of luxury and beauty, fantasizing about possessing the looks of her celebrity idol and winning the heart of her unrequited love. In a surreal, dreamlike turn of events she discovers that she should have been more careful what she wished for." - Bloomfield

*Jessica*, by Amy Lockhart

Canada, 2014, Digital, color/sound, 5 min.

"Jessica is stuck in the house with the baby - a mundane domestic tale, full of the awkward and surreal. A paper puppet and cut out animated parody of a tv sitcom pilot." - Lockhart

*On Weary Wings Go By*, by Anu-Laura Tuttelberg  
Estonia/Lithuania, 2024, Digital, color/sound, 11 min.

“A wintry poem about the Nordic nature. The sun moves low and days get shorter. Birds fly South, porcelain animals and insects hide from the freezing wind and snow. Only a small porcelain girl wanders the abandoned landscape with no way out.” – Tuttelberg

*The Last Wild Bird in Heaven*, by Jenny Nirgends  
USA, 2024, Digital, color/sound, 7 min.

“Troubled by the death of her brother a young girl and her best friend run away from their convent school for an afternoon. After burying a dead bird the young girl realizes she must look inward for the will and the courage to carry on.” - Nirgends

*twins in paradise*, by Victoria Vincent  
USA, 2020, Digital, color/sound, 10 min.

“Twin tennis prodigies Marcy & Darcy teeter on the edge of fame, self-destruction, and the ever-present call of the void. Their synchronized swings mask a growing dissonance, between expectation and identity, brilliance and burnout. The narrative crackles like static, a charged silence before the inevitable collapse, one match away from an inferno. As the court lights dim and the world around them blurs into nothing, what remains for the sisters beyond the game, beyond the applause—beyond each other?” - Gurry

*Prita Noire (Black Doll)*, by Sofia Carillo  
Mexico, 2011, Digital, color/sound, 8 min.

"A creepy tale of two sisters bonded and bound by the ties that bind: co-dependence, separation anxiety and routine" - Carillo

*Slug Life*, by Sophie Koko Gate  
United Kingdom, 2018, Digital, color/sound, 7 min.

“We follow a day in the life of Tanya, a curious woman who has developed a taste for non human lovers. This time her bedroom experiments result in the creation of a beautiful giant slug. Can such a perfect creature survive in this gnarly world full of freaks and beefs?” - Gate

*Dollhouse Elephant*, by Jenny Jokela  
Finland, 2025, Digital, color/sound, 11 min.

“In a world that demands community participation, individual desires inevitably collide. A group of neighbours, each focused on their own goals, must learn to communicate and consider one another. But when small, everyday actions trigger unexpected consequences, they are forced into interactions that challenge their independence.” - Jokela

*Mangittatuarjuk (The Gnawer of Rocks)*, by Louise Flaherty  
Canada, 2024, Digital, color/sound, 15 min.

“Two young women find a trail of colourful stones and decide to follow it, but it unwittingly leads them into danger. They become trapped within the subterranean lair of the Mangittatuarjuk. The women must use their cunning and the teachings of their elders to escape from the monster.” - Flaherty

**Justine Lai** is an artist based in Queens, NY. Raised in Sacramento, CA, she holds a BA in English and Studio Art from Stanford University and an MFA in Painting from Cranbrook Academy of Art. Selected group exhibitions include Asian Art Museum, Asian Arts Initiative, and Gawker Media. Her animation work has screened at Chicago Film Society’s Celluloid Now, SoMad (NYC), Mono No Aware (NYC), WHAMMY! Analog Media (LA), and

Scheusal (Berlin). She has been awarded residencies at the Missoula Public Library Makerspace, Willapa Bay AiR, Constance Saltonstall Foundation for the Arts, and BMAC.

**Anu-Laura Tuttelberg** graduated from the Estonian Academy of Arts in 2013 with an MA in Animation, specializing in stop-motion. Her graduation film *Fly Mill* won 20 prizes globally. Her first post-graduation film, *On The Other Side Of The Woods*, premiered at the Annecy International Animation Festival and won 12 awards across 85 festivals. *Winter in the Rainforest*, the first in her nature trilogy, premiered at Annecy in 2019, winning 13 festival prizes and the Estonian Cultural Endowment Award. Anu-Laura, known for her set designs in stop-motion films, won the 2022 Estonian Film and TV Award for Best Production Design. She teaches animation at her alma mater

**Amy Lockhart** is a filmmaker, animator and artist. Her animations have screened internationally, including the Whitney, NY, British Film Institute, N.Y. Anthology Film Archives, GLAS Animation Festival, Ann Arbor Film Festival, The Ottawa International Animation Festival, Carnegie Mellon, and Hiroshima International Animation Festival. Lockhart received a fellowship at the National Film Board of Canada and support from the Canada Council for the Arts. She has completed residencies at Calgary's Quickdraw Animation Society, Struts Gallery, and The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her drawings, comics and paintings have been published by Fantagraphics (*Ditch Life*, 2019), *Drawn & Quarterly* (*Dirty Dishes*, 2009), and by Colour Code (*Looking Inward*, 2016). Her animations are in the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Experimental Animation Archive.

**Victoria Vincent**, known online as Vewn, is an artist from Los Angeles, California. She has been making independent short films and sharing them online for the past 10 years. Her frantic and fast-paced art style seeks to visually capture our chaotic online culture and general feelings of doom. Despite the apocalyptic subject matter, she also hopes to make people laugh.

**Sofia Carrillo** is a director, animator, and screenwriter, and a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) since 2018, as well as the Mexican Academy of Cinematographic Arts and Sciences (AMACC). A five-time Ariel Award nominee, she has won two Silver Ariels for Best Animated Short Film for *Prita Noire* (2012) and *Cerulia* (2018), the latter of which received over 20 national and international awards. Her films—including *La Casa Triste*, *Prita Noire*, and *Fuera de Control*—have screened at major festivals such as Sundance, Sitges, Toronto, Chicago, and Fantastic Fest. She directed and animated the vignettes for the horror anthology *XX* (Magnolia Pictures, 2017), which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival, and was part of the second animation unit on Guillermo del Toro's *Pinocchio*. In 2024, she participated in the Annecy Residency with her project *Insectario*, produced by Pimienta Films and currently in development.

**Jenny Jokela** is a Finnish animation director and artist based in Edinburgh, UK. She earned an MA in Animation from the Royal College of Art, London, in 2017. Her films have received multiple awards, including the Annecy Cristal for Best Graduation Film in 2018 for *Barbeque* (2017). One of her notable projects is *Hibernation*, a hand-painted animated film performed live with a large ensemble across Europe, which premiered at the Centre Pompidou in Paris in June 2022. She has also directed the children's TV series *Hoppsorna* (YLE, Finland, 2018–2022) and *Arne Alligator* (SF Studios, Sweden, 2023).

**Louise Flaherty** grew up in Clyde River, Nunavut. Early on, Louise was fortunate to be surrounded by great storytellers. Her grandparents instilled in her a passion for Inuktitut, and an understanding that speaking Inuktitut is a fundamental part of Inuit identity. In 2005, Louise co-founded Inhabit Media Inc., an independent publishing house dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Inuit knowledge and values, and the Inuktitut language. Inhabit Media has since published dozens of books and Inuktitut resources that are used in classrooms throughout Nunavut. In 2012, with her partners at Inhabit Media, Louise co-founded Taqqut Productions Inc., a Nunavut-based

animation company. In her role as producer for Taqqut Productions, Louise continues to work to ensure the current generation of Nunavummiut never forget their culture and their language.

**Jenny Nirgends** is a multimedia artist and filmmaker. Her work melds digital and analogue technologies, found objects and handmade puppets to explore themes of memory, and personal mythology. In her stomp motion films she uses stop-motion and video collages to create worlds at once still and in perpetual movement. She is currently based in Los Angeles where she works as a freelance animator, and visiting lecturer in Animation History at Cal State University Los Angeles.

London based artist, **Alice Bloomfield**, embraces human emotion, sex and love through illustrated and animated works. Her linear, figurative style is reminiscent of manga with cool hues and rich compositions. Describing her art as “opulent, perturbing and sleazy”, she finds inspiration in tacky 70’s interiors and anything dark and mysterious. She has been signed as a Director to Black Dog Films since 2021 and worked on various projects with clients including Gucci, Rihanna, Marc Jacobs and Netflix.

**Sophie Koko Gate** is a writer and animation director from Bath, England she is represented by Fourth Wall Management for TV and film and Jelly for commercial work. Her RCA graduation film *Half Wet* (2014) screened in over 200 festivals worldwide including SXSW, BFI, AFI and the Tate Modern. She has made short films for Hulu, FX, Adult Swim, MTV, BBC and BFI. Her film ‘Slug Life ’(2018) screened at Sundance 2020 and won awards at SXSXW, Ottawa and GLAS Animation festival. Her latest short *Hotel Kalura* (2021) was televised on Hulu and won 10 awards including 2 at Ottawa and ‘Best Animation ’at Indie Lisboa. She has also curated animation for Adult Swim’s Off The Air program entitled ‘Moon ’and Eternal Family’s monthly program. After being nominated for the Arts Foundation Award and recognized as a fine artist, she was the first animator ever to be nominated for the prestigious Jarman Award in 2023. This led to a solo exhibition “Milk Bath” at East Gallery in the UK in 2024. She has been working in development for animated feature films and series including her own animated TV series with Sony Pictures Animation and Adult Swim ‘Evil Queens’. She is currently in production with her new 3D animated short “Not On My Watch” funded by the BFI, due to be released end of 2026. She is also a regularly performing stand-up comedian and clown. She’s a finalist of the Berlin new stand-up award 2024 and has critically acclaimed reviews from Edinburgh festival, Pen theater and Mezrab.

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Los Angeles Filmforum screenings are supported by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Department of Arts & Culture, the Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles. We also depend on our members, ticket buyers, and individual donors.

Coming Soon:

March 20 - The Volcano Trilogy, by Cauleen Smith, at the Velaslavay Panorama

March 22 - Gunvor Nelson Tribute, program 1, at 2220 Arts

March 27 - Gunvor Nelson Tribute, program 2, at the Academy Museum

March 28 - Gunvor Nelson Tribute, program 3, at the UCLA Film & TV Archive at the Hammer Museum

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