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Edited by Ksenya Gurshtein and Sonja Simonyi

Experimental Cinemas in State-Socialist Eastern Europe

Was there experimental cinema behind the Iron Curtain? What forms did experiments with film take in state-socialist Eastern Europe? Who conducted them, where, how, and why? These are the questions answered in this volume, the first of its kind in any language. Bringing together scholars from different disciplines, the book offers case studies from Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, former East Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and former Yugoslavia. Together, these contributions demonstrate the variety of makers, production contexts, and aesthetic approaches that shaped a surprisingly robust and diverse experimental film output in the region. The book maps out the terrain of our present-day knowledge of cinematic experimentalism in Eastern Europe, suggests directions for further research, and will be of interest to scholars of film and media, art historians, cultural historians of Eastern Europe, and anyone concerned with questions of how alternative cultures emerge and function under repressive political conditions.

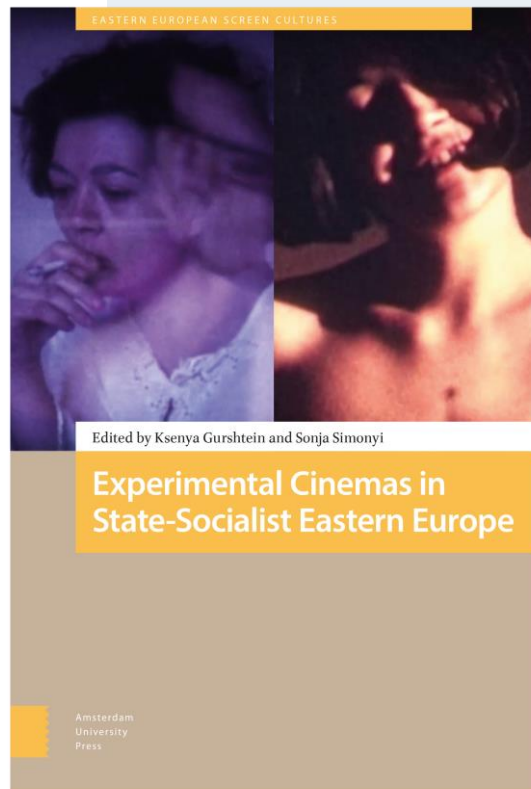
BIOGRAPHY

Ksenya Gurshtein is the Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita State University in Wichita, Kansas.

Sonja Simonyi is an independent scholar working on the audiovisual cultures of socialist Eastern Europe.

"This gem of a collection makes a unique, lasting contribution to film studies, offering the definitive, thoroughly researched, interconnected, and yet locally specific histories of experimental cinema in the East European countries in the 1960s-70s, the most prolific period of this kind of filmmaking during the Cold War."

– Anikó Imre, University of Southern California



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Nieuwe Prinsengracht 89
1018 VR Amsterdam

T +31 (0)20 420 00 50
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