
This is a Feminist Film Project.

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Abstract

This short film is the product of an impromptu intervention at the IVSA Montreal Conference in June, 2017. A selection of female conference participants encountered mostly by chance following a closing night reception, were offered a 1974 Movexoom 3000 Super 8 camera loaded with expired film (circa 1981). Those who agreed to try the camera were given 15 seconds to shoot a segment of the 3 minute film inside. The only instruction given was that "this is a feminist film project." This minimal brief was interpreted differently by each woman who agreed to participate. Reactions recorded on film range from initial apprehension and inhibition in handling a mostly unfamiliar type of camera, to visceral delight and confidence in the act of filming. The reactions of the filmmakers were also recorded photographically, capturing the women's visible responses to the camera and experiences of filming "their" 15 seconds of footage. In this short film the Super 8 footage shot by the women is cut together with still images of them filming, offering an unusually intimate insight into the phenomenology of momentary empowerment.

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