

**THE LIAISON OF INDEPENDENT FILMMAKERS OF TORONTO (LIFT)
ANNOUNCES AMERICAN VISITING ARTIST
MARY HELENA CLARK**

Toronto, February 11, 2015—The Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto (LIFT) is pleased to announce that American filmmaker Mary Helena Clark has joined us in Toronto from **February 5th to 18th, 2015** to work on a new film based on Franco Moretti's book *Signs Taken for Wonders* using our darkroom and optical printer. She will also present a screening of her films on **Monday February 16th** at the Gladstone Hotel, in association with Early Monthly Segments.

Currently based in Berkeley, California, Mary Helena Clark has been an active filmmaker over the past ten years, showing her 16mm films internationally to wide acclaim. Mary Helena Clark's films explore genre tropes, the materiality of film, and the pleasure of tromp l'oeil. Bringing together observational, appropriated, staged and abstract footage, they operate on a dream logic that is disrupted by moments of self-reflexivity. She has exhibited at the Wexner Center for the Arts, the National Gallery of Art, Anthology Film Archives, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, and the Pacific Film Archive, as well as film festivals around the world. She has shown her films twice in TIFF's Wavelengths program. Her most recent film, *The Dragon in the Frame*, a moving tribute to YouTube artist Mark Aguhar, premiered at Wavelengths at the 2014 Toronto International Film Festival.

On **Monday February 16th at 8:00pm**, the **Early Monthly Segments** screening series will be presenting a program of her films. Her work will be shown in the context of three additional films that she has selected as complement by the filmmakers Amy Halpern, Scott Stark and Stephen Connolly. The screening takes place in the Ballroom at the Gladstone Hotel, 1214 Queen Street West. The screening has a suggested admission of \$5-\$10.

Now in its fifth year, **Early Monthly Segments** is a monthly film series named after an early film by Robert Beavers, and is inspired by the immediacy, vibrancy and experimentation found in that film. Programmed by Scott Miller Berry, Chris Kennedy, and Kathryn MacKay this series features historical and contemporary avant-garde 16mm films in a salon-like setting at the Gladstone Art Bar in Toronto, Canada. <http://www.earlymonthlysegments.org>

The Liaison of Independent Filmmakers of Toronto (LIFT) is Canada's foremost artist-run production and education organization dedicated to celebrating excellence in the moving image. LIFT exists to provide support and encouragement for independent filmmakers and artists through affordable access to production, post-production and exhibition equipment; professional and creative development; workshops and courses; commissioning and exhibitions; artist-residencies; and a variety of other services. LIFT is supported by its membership, Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Ontario Arts Foundation, the Government of Ontario and the Toronto Arts Council. <http://lift.ca>