

In conjunction with the 2018 FotoFocus Biennale's theme Open Archive, the series presents four films addressing notions of the archive and the document. The films are made entirely out of pre-existing footage, exploring the political and aesthetic ramifications of the archives they draw on. Revisiting histories in this way, filmmakers reassess past visual cultures and bring them into the present. By doing so, they actualize the latency and potentiality of the archive, opening it up for a belated legibility that connects its messages to the present. A one-day workshop concludes the series. It is designed to discuss the screenings in conjunction with theories of the archive and modes of the documentary while also exploring various archival practices.



The Old New World

5 PM // OCT 4

@ 701 OLD CHEM (UC)

INTRO: EVAN TORNER

The Old New World uses archival material and graphics to lay out the history of the world from the beginning of time to humanity's progression through the stages of Marx's historical materialism. This culminates in the present day (1977) when humankind stands on the verge of transitioning from capitalism to socialism. The film then warns of the dangers presented by certain heavily-armed world powers that are opposed to this progress and explains why socialist states must also arm themselves, temporarily, in self-defense. The Thorndikes' use of seemingly neutral historical images to promote their argument reveals the social and political ramifications of the archive and the power that archival documents have to shape and create narratives.



A German Youth

4 PM // OCT 14

@ MINI MICROKINEMA

INTRO: SVEA BRAEUNERT

The Old New World uses archival material and graphics to lay out the history of the world from the beginning of time to humanity's progression through the stages of Marx's historical materialism. This culminates in the present day (1977) when humankind stands on the verge of transitioning from capitalism to socialism. The film then warns of the dangers presented by certain heavily-armed world powers that are opposed to this progress and explains why socialist states must also arm themselves, temporarily, in self-defense. The Thorndikes' use of seemingly neutral historical images to promote their argument reveals the social and political ramifications of the archive and the power that archival documents have to shape and create narratives.



The Green Fog

4 PM // OCT 21

@ MINI MICROKINEMA

INTRO: TODD HERZOG

The Old New World uses archival material and graphics to lay out the history of the world from the beginning of time to humanity's progression through the stages of Marx's historical materialism. This culminates in the present day (1977) when humankind stands on the verge of transitioning from capitalism to socialism. The film then warns of the dangers presented by certain heavily-armed world powers that are opposed to this progress and explains why socialist states must also arm themselves, temporarily, in self-defense. The Thorndikes' use of seemingly neutral historical images to promote their argument reveals the social and political ramifications of the archive and the power that archival documents have to shape and create narratives.



The Atomic Cafe

4 PM // OCT 28

@ MINI MICROKINEMA

INTRO: MATTHEW BAUMAN

The Old New World uses archival material and graphics to lay out the history of the world from the beginning of time to humanity's progression through the stages of Marx's historical materialism. This culminates in the present day (1977) when humankind stands on the verge of transitioning from capitalism to socialism. The film then warns of the dangers presented by certain heavily-armed world powers that are opposed to this progress and explains why socialist states must also arm themselves, temporarily, in self-defense. The Thorndikes' use of seemingly neutral historical images to promote their argument reveals the social and political ramifications of the archive and the power that archival documents have to shape and create narratives.

Workshop

10 AM - 5 PM // NOV 1

@ 701 OLD CHEM (UC)

The workshop is designed to discuss the screenings in light of theoretical literature on the archive and modes of the documentary. Discussions will be framed by presentations by Tanja Nusser (Associate Professor in German and Film and Media Studies), Suzanne Reller (Associate Senior Librarian, German-Americana Collection), and Amanda Curreri (Assistant Professor, Fine Arts) who address these topics in regard to their specific disciplines and practices.