

“Border-Crossings”—a Film/Writing Workshop
Dr. Linda Ehrlich (Duke University)
University of Granada Fulbright Specialist
April 26-29 2022

An exploration of the poetics of cinema and alternatives to the standing film essay.

(April 26) INTRODUCTION—the standard film essay and review

What kinds of borders do we cross? What does it mean to enter a new culture?

Main Viewing: *The Visitor* U.S. director Tom McCarthy’s *The Visitor* (2007), 1 hr. 44 min. [in English, watch closed captioned]

Main reading:

- Review of *The Visitor*, Philip French, *The Guardian* (5 July 2008)

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2008/jul/06/culture.drama>

Additional recommended readings:

- Readings from *The Eloquent Silence: A Rhetoric of Film*, by Gilberto Pérez (Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2019). (pdf available)

- Readings from *The Cinema of Poetry* (P.A. Sitney) and writings by directors Pasolini and Raúl Ruíz. (pdf available)

(April 27) THE LYRIC ESSAY

Main Viewing: *El Cielo Gira (The Sky Spins)*, dir. Mercedes Álvarez, Spain, 2004). 1 hr 55 minutes (in Spanish, subtitled)

Main reading:

- “Narrative of Fragments” (Sarah Menkedick, *The New Inquiry*, 3 July 2014), in <https://thenewinquiry.com/narrative-of-fragments/>

Additional recommended readings:

- *The Seneca Review* (special issue on the lyric essay), in

<http://www.essaydaily.org/2010/11/seneca-review-introducing-defining-and.html>

- L. Ehrlich, “Reflecting Through Images: The Documentaries of Mercedes Álvarez,” in *Female Authorship and Documentary Strategies* (Edinburgh University Press, 2018).

- Readings (in Spanish) by director Mercedes Álvarez

(April 28) THE PAINTERLY

Ekphrastic writing (in the style of paintings)

Main viewing: *Maborosi* (dir. Kore-eda Hirokazu, Japan, 1995/2018), 1 hr. 50 minutes.[in Japanese, with subtitles]

Main reading:

- L. Ehrlich essay in Spanish “Luces fantasmas”

in <http://www.revistas.uma.es/index.php/trasvases/issue/viewIssue/541/295>

Additional recommended reading:

- Readings on Ekphrastic poetry. (pdf available)

(April 29) BORDER-CROSSING REVISITED:

Main viewing: *Le Havre* (Aki Kaurismaki, Finland/France, 2011). 1 hr. 33 minutes [in French with subtitles in English]

Supplemental viewing: scenes from Finnish director Aki Kaurismaki 's *The Other Side of Hope*, 2018, Finnish and Arabic with subtitles)

Main reading:

- Interview with Aki Kaurismaki in <http://www.philonfilm.net/2012/04/interview-aki-kaurismaki.html>

Additional recommended reading:

- Readings on Magic Realism from R. Stam *Literature through Film* (pdf available)
- Border-Crossing exhibition readings

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS. Different ways to write about *Le Havre*.

REQUIREMENTS: 4 film viewings

- Classroom attendance. Come prepared to discuss the readings
- (Optional) Google Doc contributions
- (Optional) Final Writing (re: *Le Havre*)