

Career Summary of Su Friedrich

Su Friedrich has produced and directed twenty-seven 16mm films and digital videos, including *Today* (2022), *I Cannot Tell You How I Feel* (2016), *Gut Renovation* (2012), *From the Ground Up* (2007), *Seeing Red* (2005), *The Head of a Pin* (2004), *The Odds of Recovery* (2002), *Hide and Seek* (1996), *Rules of the Road* (1993), *First Comes Love* (1991), *Sink or Swim* (1990), *Damned If You Don't* (1987), *The Ties That Bind* (1984), *Gently Down the Stream* (1981), and *Cool Hands, Warm Heart* (1979). With the exception of *Hide and Seek*, Friedrich is the writer, director, cinematographer, sound recordist and editor of all her films.

In 2015, *Sink or Swim* was one of the 25 films chosen by the Library of Congress to be included in the National Film Registry.

Her work is the subject of two recent books: *Su Friedrich: Interviews*, edited by Sonia Misra and Rox Samer, Univ. of Mississippi Press (2022) and *Su Friedrich* by Barbara Mennel, Univ of Illinois Press (2023.)

Friedrich's films have won many other awards, including BEST NARRATIVE FILM AWARD at the Athens International Film Festival, OUTSTANDING DOCUMENTARY FEATURE at Outfest in Los Angeles, SPECIAL JURY AWARD at the New York Gay & Lesbian Film Festival, GRAND PRIX at the Melbourne Film Festival, the GOLDEN GATE AWARD at the San Francisco Film Festival and BEST EXPERIMENTAL NARRATIVE AWARD at the Atlanta Film Festival. Her work is widely screened in the United States, Canada and Europe and has been the subject thirty-one retrospectives, including at the Museum of Modern Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Rotterdam International Film Festival, The London Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, The Stadtkino in Vienna, the Pacific Cinematheque in Vancouver, the National Film Theater in London, the Buenos Aires Festival of Independent Cinema, the New York Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, the First Tokyo Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, among others.

Friedrich is the recipient of the Alpert Award in the Arts (1996), an Independent Television Service production grant (1994), an NEA Fellowship (1994), a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship (1990), a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship (1989), a DAAD grant as artist-in-residence in Berlin (1984), as well as multiple grants from the New York State Council on the Arts, the New York Foundation for the Arts and the Jerome Foundation.

Her work is in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Royal Film Archive of Belgium, the Centre Pompidou in Paris, the National Library of Australia, as well as many university libraries. The films are distributed by The Museum of Modern Art, Outcast Films, Canyon Cinema, The Canadian Filmmaker's Distribution Center, Light Cone in Paris and the Freunde der Deutschen Kinemathek in Berlin.

The films have been reviewed in numerous publications, including *Variety*, *Premiere*, *The Village Voice*, *Artforum*, *The New York Times*, *The Nation*, *Film Quarterly*, *The Millennium Film Journal*, *Sight and Sound*, *Flash Art*, *Cineaste*, *The Independent*, *Heresies Art Journal*, *Afterimage*, and *The L.A. Weekly*. Essays on her work as well as excerpts from her scripts have appeared in numerous books, including *Crafting Truth: Documentary Form and Meaning* (2011), *Modern Women: Women Artists at the Museum of Modern Art* (2010), *Women's Experimental Cinema* (2007), *Contemporary American Independent Film: From the Margins to the Mainstream* (2005), *Visionary Film: The American Avant-Garde, 1943-2000* (2002), *Left in the Dark* (2002), *The Wedding Complex: Forms of Belonging in Modern American Culture* (2002), *Collecting Visible Evidence* (1999), *Experimental Ethnography* (1999), *The New American Cinema* (1998), *Play It Again, Sam* (1998), *Film Fatales* (1998), *Cinematernity* (1996), *Screen Writings* (1994), *Queer Looks* (1993), *Avant-Garde Film: Motion Studies* (1993), *Vampires and Violets* (1992), and *Critical Cinema: Volume Two* (1992).

Her DVD collection is distributed by [Outcast Films: The link to stream all the films](#) and her two most recent films are at [Icarus Films](#).