BOOK LAUNCH

WHEN TECHNOLOGY WAS FEMALE: HISTORIES OF CONSTRUCTION AND DECONSTRUCTION, 1917–1989

Following the afternoon film programme, Altmann and collaborators will gather for a conversation to celebrate the launch of the publication. Joining the discussion are managing editor Megan Hoetger and design collective Experimental Jetset with whom Altmann worked to realise the performative form of the book. Together, the group reflects on the material connections and ideological collisions between modernism and the (post-)punk era, which animated many of their dialogues over the year of collaboration on *When Technology Was Female*, as well as on their experimentation with the relations between images and text and the haptic experience(s) of history writing and reading.

PURCHASE THE *WHEN TECHNOLOGY WAS FEMALE* PUBLICATION ONLINE

STUDIO SEMINARS

To learn more about Altmann's research process, please visit the If I Can't Dance Studio where a wide range of visual and textual materials from the *When Technology Was Female* project were shared through the summer and autumn of 2023. Envisioned as a sequence of curriculum scores for seminars-to-come, the Altmann's studio room includes suggested readings available as PDFs for download, a gallery of images and film clips to think alongside, and an episode of *Talk Me Through...*, a podcast series that takes visitors inside the art historian's method of close reading analysis.

VISIT THE ONLINE STUDIO

IF I CAN'T DANCE

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When Technology Was Female is a commission of If I Can't Dance, I Don't Want To Be Part Of Your Revolution for their Edition IX — *Bodies and Technologies* biennial programme (2022-23) and has been curated by If I Can't Dance programme curator Megan Hoetger. For more on Altmann's project and the Edition IX schedule of events, visit www.ificantdance.org. Special thanks to Julia Sokolnicka for her video editing assistance while preparing the film programme, and to Viola Karsten of the Goethe-Institut Amsterdam for her enthusiastic collaboration in realizing the film programme and book launch event. Handout design by Kommerz.

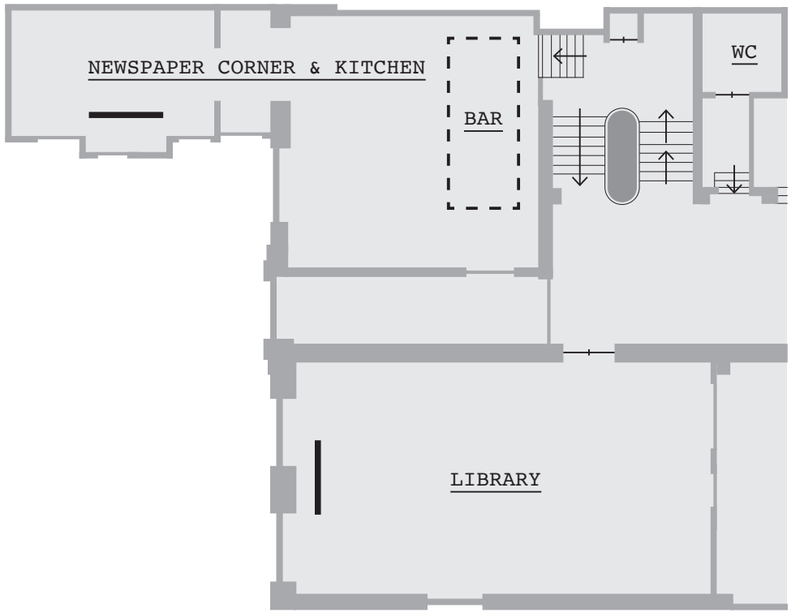
FILM PROGRAMME

20 JANUARY 2024, 14-18HR
GOETHE-INSTITUT, AMSTERDAM

If I Can't Dance, I Don't Want To Be Part Of Your Revolution presents in collaboration with the Goethe Institute Amsterdam a film programme conceived by art historian and curator Susanne Altmann. The programme marks the launch of *When Technology Was Female: Histories of Construction and Deconstruction, 1917–1989*, Altmann's new publication with If I Can't Dance, which traces the resonances and dissonances between aesthetic principles and production methods of the post-revolutionary early Soviet and late Eastern bloc state socialist periods. Grounded in women's art practices between 1917 and 1989, the book offers a lively comparative study that weaves between art historical analysis and personal memory, featuring over one hundred images of works ranging from costume sketches, textile designs, stage maquettes, and collages, to paintings, photographs, film stills, and multi-media assemblages.

For the film programme, Altmann has taken over all three floors of the Goethe's canal house on Herengracht, bringing together a wide range of greater- and lesser-known film materials discussed in her sweeping 70-year survey. Through a series of excerpt selections as well as a few full-length shorts, the programme maps the ways in which women artists engaged with film technologies and, reciprocally, were engaged by the technological imaginaries performed on screen.

GROUND FLOOR



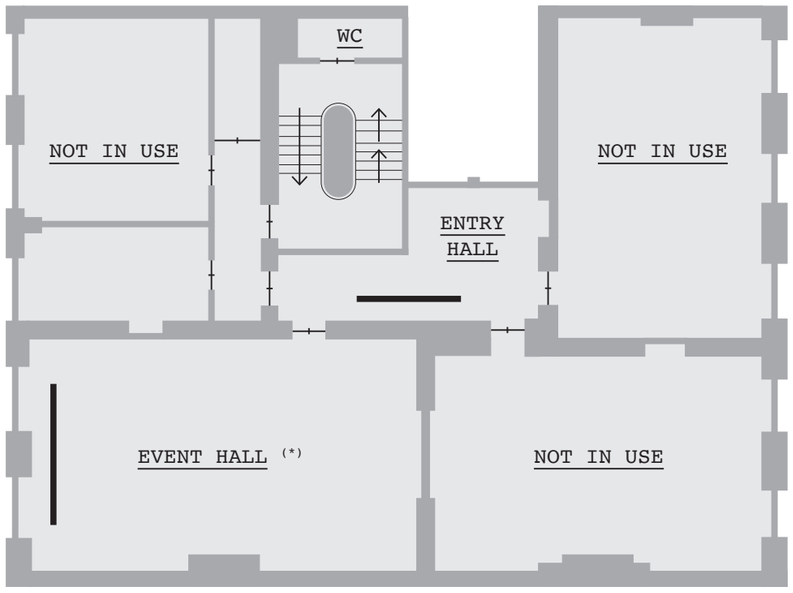
KITCHEN

Künstlerinnengruppe Erfurt (Erfurt Women Artists' Group), *Komik Komisch* (*Comic Comical*), 1988. Super 8 film, 29 minutes.

LIBRARY

Künstlerinnengruppe Erfurt (Erfurt Women Artists' Group), *Signale* (*Signals*), 1989. Super 8 film, 28 minutes.

FIRST FLOOR



ENTRY HALL

A compilation with excerpts from:

Aelita, directed by Yakov Protazanov (1924), 111 minutes.

Zhurnalistka (*The Journalist*; also called *Vasha znakomaya*, or *Your Acquaintance*), directed by Lev Kuleshov with Alexander Rodchenko (1927), unfinished fragments.

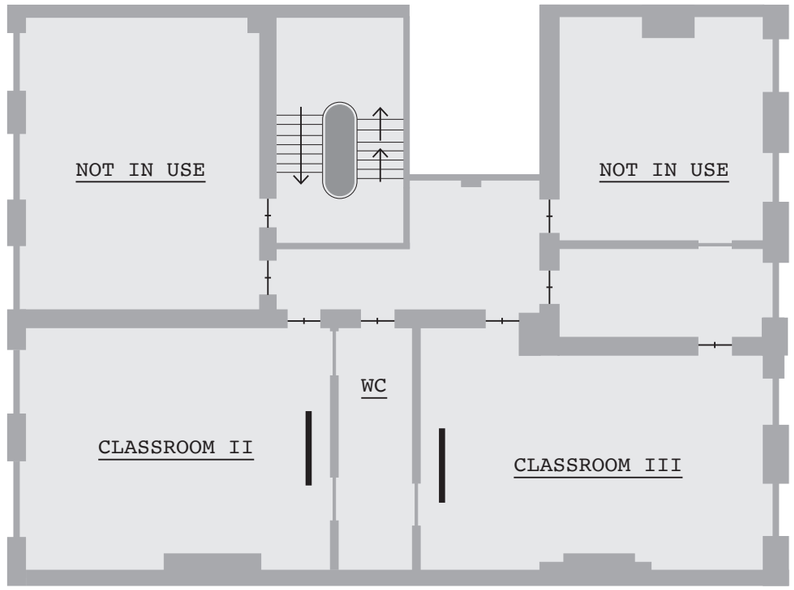
Zemlya (*Earth*), directed by Alexander Dovshenko (1928), 75 minutes.

EVENT HALL

Zhizn v Rukakh (*Life in Your Hands*), directed by David Maryan (1930), 72 minutes.

(*) BOOK LAUNCH IN THE EVENT HALL AT 18.30HR

SECOND FLOOR



CLASSROOM II

A compilation with excerpts from:

Sedmikrasky (*Daisies*), directed by Věra Chytilová (1966), 75 minutes.

Der schweigende Stern (*The Silent Star*), directed by Kurt Maetzig (1959/1960), 93 minutes.

Ikarie XB 1, directed by Jindrich Polak (1963), 81 minutes.

CLASSROOM III

A compilation with excerpts from:

Wäscherinnen (Laundry Women), directed by Jürgen Böttcher (1972), 23 minutes.

Wittstock, directed by Volker Koepp (1974), 117 minutes.

Poznavaya belyy svet (*Познавая белый свет*, or *Getting to Know the Big, Wide World*), directed by Kira Muratova (1979), 75 minutes.

Panelstory aneb Jak se rodí sídliště (*Panel Story, or Birth of a Community*), directed by Věra Chytilová (Filmové studio Barrandov, 1980), 96 minutes.