

## Grand Rapids Public Library | Wealthy Theatre

### 16mm Experimental Film Project

Since the invention of motion pictures in 1895, hand-processing film has been a form of experimental filmmaking and an opportunity for artistic expression. What is hand-processing? It's simply creating art on film by hand. So instead of using a camera to record footage, you are using the film in a more arts-and-crafts style. The 16mm clear leader you've been provided with is traditionally used for loading a projector. It is attached to the beginning of a movie so that the actual movie doesn't get damaged when the projectionist threads the projector. Today we are going to be coloring on it so when it plays through a projector, we get fun abstract images, which often look like moving stained glass.

Below we give you tips on designing your film strip, and instructions for returning it so our team can digitize it for you. Be sure to also check out Wealthy Theatre's 16mm film loop tutorial video:

<https://www.grpl.org/film-kits>

**\*\*Adult supervision is strongly encouraged\*\***

#### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Create lines or shapes on the clear film strip with the enclosed marker.
2. Add more designs on the film strip using optional supplies.
3. Allow the film strip to dry and return it to the library (See below).

**Note:** The gray film strip in this craft pack is a bookmark! It's not needed for the craft.

#### **OPTIONAL SUPPLIES:**

- Watercolor paint (do not use oil-based paints)
- Markers (washable, permanent, etc.)
- Transparent art supplies (if light can't get through, it'll just look like a black blob on screen)

#### **TIPS:**

- Keep the perforations (aka: sprocket holes) clear! Try to avoid painting over the holes that run along the side of the film strip. When the film goes through the projector, gears use these holes to pull the film through. If they're blocked, it can damage the projector and film.
- Do NOT bend the film. Creases and breaks can make it difficult to run the film through the projector.
- When your film strip is finished and dried, simply coil it up and use a gentle tape, like painter's or masking tape, to secure the coil of film.
- Use your art supplies to color or draw right onto the film. Just pick one side of the film strip and color away. Try things like line patterns, shapes, or have fun with colors.
- Have fun! There is no wrong way to create experimental film.

#### **RETURNING YOUR FILM STRIP:**

1. If using markers or paint, please allow film strip to dry completely before rolling up and packing
2. Roll up the film strip into coil and put into envelope
3. Seal envelope and drop it off in any Grand Rapids Public Library book drop or walk up window
4. We will collect the film strips after the deadline and arrange them into a community made abstract film!