

Filmmaker, writer mash up B-movie narratives, home video

By Kimberly Chun Updated 2:26 pm, Wednesday, October 28, 2015



Frances Scholz and Mark von Schlegell's 2015 installation and video "Amboy" is on exhibit at the CCA Wattis Institute through Nov. 21. Credit: CCA Wattis Institute

Where does reality end and the unimaginable begin? Artistic identity is key to this conundrum when an IRL documentary on **Lydia van Vogt**, widow of sci-fi writer **A.E. van Vogt**, collides with the foggy past of a mythical dead artist going by the moniker Amboy.

For this purported horror film and installation at the **CCA Wattis Institute**, painter and filmmaker **Frances Scholz** and sci-fi writer and art theorist **Mark von Schlegell** mash up B-movie narratives, home video and documentary on a handful of screens, as headphones with competing soundtracks dangle near a stripper pole and dare the viewer to attempt to piece it all together.

Vying for your attention are players like **Paul Giamatti**, who washes up in the ghost town of Amboy in the Mojave Desert with a blond quiff and a sad Hawaiian shirt. Meanwhile music makers such as Stockton-raised Pavement lead vocalist **Stephen Malkmus** and Holy S— drift in and out of the sun-baked swirl. Cue a Hollywood-style slow fade.

— *Kimberly Chun*

Frances Scholz and Mark von Schlegell: Amboy: Noon-7 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays and noon-5 p.m. Saturdays. Through Nov. 21. Free. CCA Wattis Institute, Kent and Vicki Logan Galleries, 360 Kansas St., S.F. (415) 355-9670. www.wattis.org.

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