

# UC Irvine

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# NANG 9

# ARCHIVAL IMAGINARIES

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dedicated to *cinema in Asia*

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Editorial: *by Bono Olgado &* 6  
 Through the Past, the Future *Rufus de Rham*

Archival Waters *by Bliss Cua Lim* 10

Imagine the Archives *by Kong Rithdee &* 11  
*Dome Sukvong*

An Inarticulate Archive *by Elizabeth Wijaya* 15

Left Traces of *by Bernadette Patino &* 22  
 Future Alternatives: *Green Papaya Art Projects*  
 Conversations and Notes on Fire

A Single Point of View *by Kelvin Kyung Kun Park* 33

Dust on the Window *by Shireen Seno &* 45  
*Demie Dangla*

Archives of Love *by Latipa* 54

Intermission 69

Impossible Films: A Century of *by Ariel Esteban Cayer &* 78  
 Lost Asian Cinema (1926–2026) *K. F. Watanabe*

A Film Archive of Errors, *by Louise Jashil Sonido* 91  
 1897–2020



## ARCHIVAL WATERS

BY Bliss Cua Lim

Less inertia than *potentia*  
 less a record than a pathway,  
 a weave of traces,  
 a river,  
 a flow.

Then we would see  
 not forms and blanks,  
 not ledgers and repositories,  
 neither figure nor ground.  
 Beyond negativity, positivity, neutrality,  
 Imagine  
 curving constellations, completely open  
 to power, yes, but also to the push  
 of creativity, the pull  
 of silence,  
 the lure  
 of the overlooked, and  
 the magnetism  
 of old, imperfect, devalued, unremarkable,  
 forces, people, creatures, and machines:  
 their cries, their losses, infinitely precious, forgotten.

Less recovery than (mis)remembering,  
 (mis)taking, for good or ill.  
 Error, always, but also the Subjunctive —  
 Access, evocation, and the forging of the new.  
 Curiosity, resolve, encounter  
 at the tip of more times than we know.  
 Less an archive than a shoreline:  
 we wade in. ©

# NANG Issue 9

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*Nika Bohinc* (1979–2009) and *Alexis Tioseco* (1981–2009)