



University  
of Victoria

Centre for Studies in  
Religion and Society

# SCHOLARS IN THE SQUARE



Sarah Lynne Roberts



## Occult Visions: Surrealism, Spirituality and Resistance in Film

Cinema holds a mirror to the world, exposing our inner lives and obsessions. This talk examines how artist Leonora Carrington uses grotesque, surreal imagery in the Mexican horror film *The Mansion of Madness* (1973) to parody Catholic dogma, critique religious authority, and challenge gender norms. Set in an asylum, Carrington channels her personal memory of institutionalization, reimagining femininity and “hysteria” as spiritual strength. Through horror conventions and occult symbolism, the film rebels against both church and state.

**Sarah Lynne Roberts** is a PhD student in Art History Visual Studies at UVic, researching surrealist interventions in Mexican cinema.

Image: *Adieu Amenhotep*. Leonora Carrington, Oil on Canvas. 1955, Museo de Arte Moderno, México City, México.

November 20, 2025  
CLE B017  
5:00–6:00pm PT

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