

"The poet William Blake invited us 'to see the world in a grain of sand.' In *Cinematic Reveries*, a haunting, exquisitely sensitive collection of prose poems, Linda C. Ehrlich invites us to contemplate a vast array of deeply rooted, evocative images that have the power to release us from the tyranny of quotidian reality. Inspired by film and a wide range of readings, this collection will prompt you to look at children, Jerusalem, Chaplin, Garbo, and even the Wicked Witch of the West in ways you never imagined. It also will inspire you to embrace the images that have long lingered in your own life."

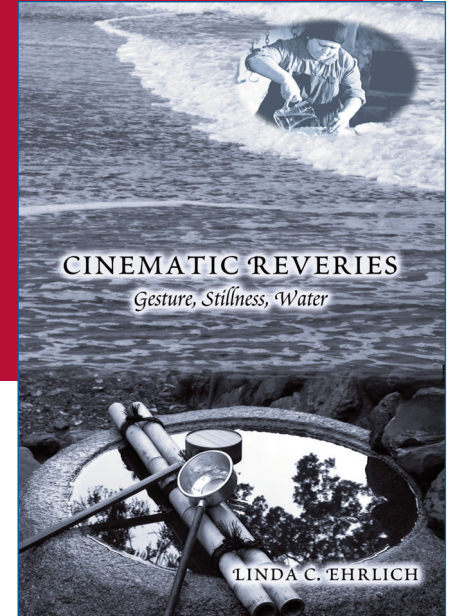
-- Arthur Nolletti, Jr., Professor Emeritus of Film Studies and English, Framingham State University, Massachusetts



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Cinematic Reveries

Gestures, Stillness, Water

By Linda C. Ehrlich

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The 29 prose poems in *Cinematic Reveries: Gestures, Stillness, Water* provide distinctive points of entry into a select group of films through attention to evocative gestures, a sense of stillness, and images of water. These original writings offer film criticism in a new form, with a tone that is at once exploratory, familiar, and elegiac. They explore the precious nature of water; they point to gestures both eloquent and obscure. They offer us moments of arrested motion as well as longer contemplative sequences in films from Asia, Europe, New Zealand, and the United States. To cite a sentiment expressed by filmmaker Raúl Ruíz in his *Poetics of Cinema 2*, these are tributes to great films that “recognize [us] like an old relative.” The reader is encouraged to explore *Cinematic Reveries* as a portrait of the cinema which is at times lyrical, sometimes comic, and often tinged with pathos. This celebration of the art film is richly illustrated, with suggestions for further readings and viewings.

Essayist, teacher, and critic of art films, **Linda C. Ehrlich** has written extensively about Asian and European cinema. Her commentary on the Spanish film *The Spirit of the Beehive* (*El espíritu de la colmena*, director Víctor Erice) appears on the Criterion DVD of the film. She has edited *The Cinema of Víctor Erice* and co-edited *Cinematic Landscapes: Observations on the Visual Arts and Cinema of China and Japan*. *Cinematic Reveries* reveals another of her talents—her creative output as a poet. She has published works in international literary journals and three collections of poetry: *In the Breathing Time*, *Night Harbour*, and *Bodegón*. Currently, she is engaged in connecting her poetry to the theme of dance on screen.

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