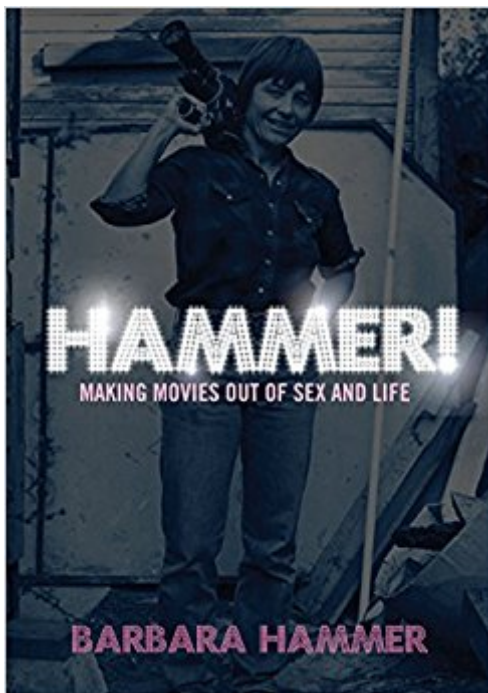


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# HAMMER!: Making Movies Out Of Sex And Life



## Synopsis

HAMMER! is the first book by influential filmmaker Barbara Hammer, whose life and work have inspired a generation of queer, feminist, and avant-garde artists and filmmakers. The wild days of non-monogamy in the 1970s, the development of a queer aesthetic in the 1980s, the fight for visibility during the culture wars of the 1990s, and her search for meaning as she contemplates mortality in the 2000s—HAMMER! includes texts from these periods, new writings, and fully contextualized film stills to create a memoir as innovative and disarming as her work has always been. HAMMER! was the winner for the 2010 Judy Grahn Award for Lesbian Nonfiction.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Queer, feminist experimental-filmmaking pioneer Barbara Hammer's autobiography is one in the truest sense; it reveals her personality and her philosophies on art and, at the same time, becomes a key part of her legacy." —Library Journal "What an amazingly inspirational book, filled with powerful stories and beautiful images. I truly love and recommend it."

—Sadie Benning, artist; Barbara Hammer's genius is an erotic genius, one rich in intuitive intelligence. HAMMER! reveals a spirit that is at once youthful and worldly, full of conviction, and often optimistic, bold, ravenous, and celebratory. —Cecilia Dougherty, artist; A brilliant and shimmering feast of art and activism. Barbara's fearless queer intelligence illuminates every page. —John Greyson, filmmaker; Now the gift of Hammer's sounds and images is matched by that of her words. Beautifully designed and

illustrated, HAMMER! is a striking book, from its title to its impact. —Patricia White, author of *Uninvited: Classical Hollywood Cinema and Lesbian Representability*; A candid and colorful memoir, HAMMER! offers valuable primary source material and original feminist film theory by a pioneer of avant-garde American cinema. —Livia Bloom, film curator; Barbara Hammer is a true cinematic pioneer; her tremendous body of work continues to inspire audiences and artists alike. —Jenni Olson, filmmaker

Barbara Hammer has made over eighty films and video works over the past forty years. Her experimental films of the 1970s often dealt with taboo subjects such as menstruation, female orgasm, and lesbian sexuality. She received the first Shirley Clarke Avant-Garde Filmmaker Award in October 2006, the Women In Film Award from the St. Louis International Film Festival in 2006, and the Teddy Award for best short film for *A Horse Is Not A Metaphor* at the 2009 International Berlin Film Festival.

An extraordinary autobiography! Decade by decade of a productive and mind blowing life. Such honesty and refreshing philosophy. An out and proud reinvented radical dyke bringing lesbian sex and life into a mind altering realm. Unprecedented and interactive. A treasure for eyes, body, mind and spirit.

Bold, beautiful and startling. A true iconoclast and pioneer in her field.

I went to hear Barbara Hammer read from *HAMMER!: Making Movies Out of Sex and Life* at the KGB bar last night, and I've been buzzing with inspiration ever since. I was surprised by my own crying when she read, but I was so overwhelmed by the power of hearing what felt like my own thoughts and feelings out loud. As a woman artist/filmmaker, she gave me permission for my ambition, for wanting to do what I do without "choosing." And while I wish I didn't need permission, that I was strong and brave all the time, it is true I still crave and look for "founding mothers for the visual image maker" as she says in the book. I feel lucky that she wrote this book, that she lives her life and makes her films so full of warmth and openness and generosity. The second dedication of the book is to women artists everywhere, and the book truly is the most valuable gift to a young artist. I recommend it wholly, as I continue to run off of this feeling of being so hopeful and proud. Thank you Barbara.

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