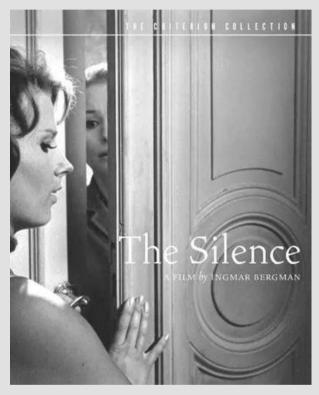
Reel Thinking presents...

THE SILENGE

Swedish: Tystnaden (Ingmar Bergman 1963)

Date: Sunday, 13 November 2022 Time: 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Discussant: Martina Kolb, Ph.D.









While this drama film has been primarily known for its frank depiction of sexuality, its minimal plot focuses on two sisters — one a mother, sensuous, and sexual, the other a translator, intellectual, and ill — and their complex relationships with themselves, with language, and with each other and others. Leo Braudy and Woody Allen suggested that the two women represented two conflicting dimensions within one person rather than two separate characters. The Silence is set in a fictional country on the brink of war. Against the background of this country's constructed language and the sisters' struggle to communicate, it features a spectrum of individual, social, and political forms of conflict and aggression.

Martina Kolb holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Yale and is Winifred & Gustave Weber Professor in Susquehanna the Humanities at University Pennsylvania, where she teaches in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures and the Honors Program. She is the recipient of Academic Fellowships at the American Psychoanalytic Association and PCOP, has taught internationally across the humanities, and has published widely at the interdisciplinary crossroads of art, literature, and psychoanalysis. She has presented over seventy papers and authored over forty publications, including recent articles on drama and disability, the intersection of fiction and memoir, and on prison writing (Edith Jacobson). Her monograph Nietzsche, Freud, Benn, and the Azure Spell of Liguria (Toronto UP 2013) comes highly recommended by reviewers.

