Silver Lake, a day — treatment & shot list

A ~3-minute observational neighborhood film. Silver Lake is the lead; artists are weather, not plot — a mural, a gallery door, a pair of hands in a window. Cool and documentary-honest: patient holds, real ambient sound, no narration, no music-video gloss, no postcard golden-hour on every frame. A loose current from morning to dusk.

Register

Observational grammar — locked or handheld-steady frames, ordinary light handled with respect, real-world ambient sound carried over the cut. Cool over golden; dusk is allowed to warm honestly at the close because that is physics, not a postcard. No baked-in text or wordmarks on frames.

Ground truth

The real Silver Lake: the man-made reservoir and its chain-link-fenced walking loop, the Moreno Highlands and east hills, winding streets (Micheltorena, Effie), hillside Craftsman and mid-century bungalow studios, Sunset Boulevard as the spine with its weathered murals and under-overpass graffiti, Sunset Junction, the public walk-street staircases (the Micheltorena steps, painted with hearts and palms), rooftops and power lines against the hills.

The arc — twelve held beats (~15s each, ~180s total)

Morning — the hills and water wake

1. **Reservoir, dawn.** Still water, cool blue, the chain-link fence in soft focus, hills across the water catching the first flat light. A held wide.
2. **Hillside bungalows waking.** East light raking across rooftops, power lines, a jumble of Craftsman and mid-century houses stepping up the hill.
3. **Winding hill street.** Parked cars, a jacaranda, a lone figure walking a dog down a steep narrow street — ordinary, unhurried.

Midday — descend into texture

4. **Down to Sunset.** A storefront block waking up, a roll-up security gate half-raised, morning shade on the sidewalk.

5. **Mural wall.** A weathered painted wall on Sunset, graffiti under an overpass — real paint, sun-faded, not a clean postcard mural.
6. **The painted stairs.** The Micheltorena-style public staircase — hearts and color on the risers, palms and planting, someone climbing away from camera.
7. **Gallery door going up.** A roll-up gallery door rising, the cool interior and a bare white wall revealed behind it. The art world as a door opening, glimpsed.
8. **Hands in a studio window.** A hillside bungalow window; inside, a pair of hands working — mixing, drawing, the gesture only, no face. Artists as weather.

Afternoon to dusk

9. **Sunset Junction.** The intersection's ordinary life — crossing, a bus, wires overhead, midday flatness. The working street.
10. **Rooftops, afternoon.** Tar-and-gravel roofs, antennas and vents, the hills beyond in warmer afternoon light.
11. **Reservoir path, late.** Walkers and a jogger on the loop, long shadows, the fence and the water, the day tipping.
12. **Reservoir, dusk.** The east side going gold across the water, the hills darkening, still water holding the last light. The close.

Sound

Real ambient over the whole cut — water and distant birds and a far freeway hush at the reservoir; street tone, traffic, a roll-up gate's rattle in the middle; wind and a settling evening quiet at dusk. No music bed, no voiceover.

The finished film

Runs 2 minutes 41 seconds (161.55s), 1920x1080, cool documentary grade held over the whole piece, patient holds joined by slow cross-dissolves. The soundtrack is real ambient field texture that follows the geography and crossfades with the locations: morning reservoir (water, birds, a low air tone) to the hillside (breeze, distant birds) to the street (traffic, a bus, a roll-up gate's rattle at the storefront and the gallery) to the studio (brushwork over a soft open-window room tone) back to the street, and out to the reservoir at dusk (water, evening crickets) under a 2-second fade to black. No music, no voiceover, no baked-in text.

Beat map (output seconds):

1. reservoir, dawn - 0:00
2. reservoir through the fence - 0:09
3. hillside homes - 0:16
4. wires and palms - 0:26
5. hill street, dog-walker - 0:33
6. Sunset storefront, roll-up gate - 0:42
7. weathered mural - 0:52
8. graffiti underpass - 1:00
9. the painted heart stairs - 1:10
10. stairs, lower detail - 1:19
11. gallery roll-up door rising - 1:26
12. hands in the studio window - 1:36
13. the artist's bungalow - 1:45
14. Sunset intersection, the bus - 1:54
15. rooftops, afternoon - 2:04
16. reservoir path, joggers - 2:13
17. dusk water - 2:22
18. reservoir, twilight, house lights - 2:31 (fade to black at 2:41)

Build

Plates composed cool and documentary; each beat a held motion clip; cut together with real ambient sound; proofed end to end by eye before delivery.