



The Sculpture Garden will reopen to the public on Sunday, February 14. The West and East Buildings will remain temporarily closed at this time. [Learn more.](#)



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National Gallery of Art



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National Gallery of Art 2020 Spring Film Program Features Agnès Varda Tribute, Julia Reichert Retrospective, Romanian and Austrian Films, American Premieres, and Discussions with Filmmakers and Performers



Still image from *Faces Places*, by Agnès Varda (with JR, 2017, subtitles, 90 minutes), screening at the National Gallery of Art, East Building Auditorium, on April 5, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. as part of the film series Agnès Varda Viewing Art. Image courtesy CineTamaris.

Washington, DC—The 2020 spring film season (April–June) at the National Gallery of Art offers a selection of new restorations; US and Washington, DC, premieres; special events with filmmakers and performers, and several series of archival and contemporary films from around the world.

This season opens with the series *Agnès Varda Viewing Art*, a tribute to the late, groundbreaking director Agnès Varda (1928–2019) that presents a selection of films in which she engages with art as

object, metaphor, and inspiration. *Julia Reichert: Fifty Years in Film*, a retrospective cohosted with the AFI in Silver Spring, Maryland, features six of the award-winning documentarian's titles. *Lucian Pintilie Trio* comprises three later feature films by the Romanian director. *From Vault to Screen* returns in June, focusing on newly restored films from Filmarchiv Austria and sixpackfilm by Austrian artists like VALIE EXPORT, Ruth Beckermann, and Michael Haneke.

Presentations and performances include a collaboration with the Washington Project for the Arts featuring Alisha Wormsley's *Children of NAN: Mothership* and *Cry of the Third Eye: The Last Resort*, a performed live opera film by Li Harris. *Through a Glass Darkly: Early Cinema Looks at Itself* is a presentation by Dimitrios Latsis of Ryerson University about self-referential early cinema. Other special events include screenings of recent nonfiction films, such as *Isadora's Children*, *The Paris Opéra*, *Nijolè*, and *Animus Animalis: On People, Animals, and Things*. *Distant Journey* by Alfréd Radok, presented in association with the Washington Jewish Film Festival, is the first of two restorations from the 1940s; the other is William Wyler's classic *The Memphis Belle, Story of a Flying Fortress*, which is screened on Memorial Day and introduced by the director's daughter, Catherine Wyler.

Films are screened in in the East Building Auditorium, in original formats whenever possible. Seating for all events at the Gallery is on a first-come, first-seated basis. Doors open approximately 30 minutes before each show. Programs are subject to change. For more information, visit [nga.gov/film](https://nga.gov/film).

The East Building Auditorium reopened for weekend programs on March 7 after having been closed since October 2019 as part of the Gallery's ongoing plan to repair and renovate its facilities. Among several other improvements, the auditorium seats, once a light green, were re-covered in their original rust color. The auditorium is scheduled to reopen for full-time use in early June; visitors will also gain access to refurbished restrooms in the adjacent lobby at that time.

## Special Events

### *The Paris Opéra*

April 4, 11:00 a.m. (canceled)

April 25, May 23, May 24, 2:00 p.m. (canceled)

Swiss director Jean-Stéphane Bron has crafted an expansive portrait of L'Opéra National de Paris, which annually presents over 400 performances of ballet, opera, and music. Bron's primary focus is the institution's daily challenges, from labor issues to training to the cost of a ticket. Footage of singers, dancers, musicians, directors, stagehands, maintenance, and managers—the multitude of people who keep the venerable institution going—depicts a life behind the scenes at one of the world's most prestigious performing arts palaces. (Jean-Stéphane Bron, 2017, subtitles, 110 minutes) Shown in conjunction with the exhibition [Degas at the Opéra](#).

*Lithuanian Nonfiction: Nijolė* followed by *Animus Animalis: On People, Animals, and Things*

April 18, 2:30 p.m. (canceled)

Antanas Mockus is a Lithuanian-Colombian mathematician, philosopher, and politician who was mayor of Bogotá, ran as a presidential candidate, and served in the Colombian senate. Lithuanian-Italian coproduction *Nijolė*, however, is not a film about the politician, but about his 88-year-old Lithuanian mother, the eccentric and irreverent artist Nijolė Šivickas and her approach to the world—a philosophy that continually inspired her son. (Sandro Bozzolo, 2018, subtitles, 82 minutes)

In a secluded region of Lithuania—where the local church is decorated with antlers and the children nestle in fur—a tightknit community of hunters and skilled taxidermists doggedly skirts the edge of mortality, searching for game and celebrating life. In the world of *Animus Animalis: On People, Animals, and Things*, hunting is synonymous with love of nature, and animals, dead or alive, are part of community ritual and lore. The impermanence of existence appears to have a quietly mystical significance, closely aligned with the cycle of the seasons and the presence of abundant forests and faunae. (Aistė Žegulytė, 2018, subtitles, 70 minutes) Presented in conjunction with the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, the Embassy of Lithuania, and the Lithuanian Film Centre.

*Gold Is All There Is*

**American premiere**

April 25, 4:30 p.m. (canceled)

May 3, 4:00 p.m. (canceled)

*Gold Is All There Is (Tutto l'oro che c'è)*, a beautiful observational documentary set in a remote Italian-Swiss landscape, is a slender tale of five characters—a hunter, a gold prospector, a naturalist, a carabinieri, and a young boy—all exploring the countryside for unique reasons. Their paths never cross, but they are all absorbed in the landscape's swirling trees, singing birds, wondrous skies, atmospheric mysteries, and occasional traces of civilization. As filmmaker Andrea Caccia draws close to and moves away from his subjects, his manner varies between philosophical and scientific, but never evokes a nature documentary. (Andrea Caccia, 2019, ambient sound only, no dialogue, 100 minutes) Shown in association with [True to Nature: Open-Air Painting in Europe, 1780–1870](#).

*Children of NAN: Mothership* followed by *Cry of the Third Eye: The Last Resort*

**Discussion with Tsedaye Makonnen, Alisha Wormsley, and Li Harris**

May 2, 3:30 p.m. (canceled)

Alisha Wormsley's multimedia work, *Children of NAN: Mothership*, is an archive of video footage, photos, objects, philosophies, myths, rituals, and performances that Wormsley has been compiling for over a decade. Part of this work, a single-channel video, is screened at the Gallery. (Alisha Wormsley, 2019)

*Cry of the Third Eye: The Last Resort* is the final part of a three-act opera film—with live vocals and theremin—that considers gentrification, intergenerational legacy, loss, and the space of dreams. (Li

Harris, 2019) (Total running time approximately 75 minutes)

This event is a component of the exhibition *Black Women and the Archive: Space, Moving Image Memory*, guest curated by Tsedaye Makonnen at the Washington Project for the Arts, on view through June.

*Through a Glass Darkly: Early Cinema Looks at Itself*

**Dimitrios Latsis, speaker**

May 9, 2:30 p.m. (canceled)

How cinema has typically regarded itself is an interesting and often overlooked facet in the history of film. From the start, films about film were a common convention, as the novelty of the form, the marvels of technology, and the mysteries inside the industry all had their allure. Dimitrios Latsis screens excerpts from a variety of silent films, tracing the technological and popular history of cinema as a medium. Produced within and beyond the major Hollywood studios and ranging from the quasi-scholarly to the unabashedly promotional, films such as J. Stuart Blackton's *March of the Movies* (1930), Otto Nelson and Terry Ramsaye's *Thirty Years of Motion Pictures* (1925), and Paramount's *The Evolution of the Picture Play* (1919) argued for the cultural and scientific legitimacy of the medium. These short films also shed light on a variety of genres that still flourish today—the educational documentary, for example: a self-reflexive hybrid of advertisement, lecture, and behind-the-scenes tour that is older than many might assume. Dimitrios Latsis teaches at the School of Image Arts at Ryerson University. (Approximately 100 minutes)

*Isadora's Children*

May 10, 4:30 p.m. (canceled)

Isadora Duncan's two young children, Patrick and Deidre, died in France in 1913, and the famous dancer never completely healed from this loss. She choreographed a dance entitled *Mother*, a tender reflection on her relationship with her children. French filmmaker Damien Manivel has used Duncan's concept to create a delicate fictional tale about art's ability to convey emotion and heal. The film comprises three interconnected stories, each focusing on a ballerina's discipline and rigor, but also conveying emotions to strangers in the audience. (Damien Manivel, 2019, subtitles, 84 minutes)

*Restoration: Distant Journey*

**Introduced by Lukáš Příbyl; Discussion with Gabriel Paletz and Lukaš Příbyl follows**

May 17, 4:00 p.m. (canceled)

*Distant Journey* (*Daleka cesta*) follows a Jewish doctor, Hana, who falls in love and marries a gentile named Toník. Their love story becomes a nightmare when Hana's family is transported to Theresienstadt (Terezín) and struggles to survive. Although director Alfréd Radok was only half Jewish, he lost much of his family in the Holocaust and was himself imprisoned in a camp near Wrocław, Poland. He began production on *Distant Journey*, his first film, soon after the war ended, shooting a large portion on location in Terezín, where both his father and grandfather had been killed.

By the time Radok finished, the communists had taken over postwar Czechoslovakia, ushering in an era of censorship, and the film was subsequently banned for four decades. (Alfréd Radok, 1949, subtitles, 108 minutes) Presented in association with the Washington Jewish Film Festival.

*Restoration: The Memphis Belle, Story of a Flying Fortress*

### **Catherine Wyler in person**

May 25, 2:30 p.m. (canceled)

A production team supervised by American film director William Wyler filmed the classic documentary *The Memphis Belle, Story of a Flying Fortress* during the spring and summer of 1943 on the Eighth Air Force bases in the United Kingdom and on bombing missions over Europe. The film was edited in Hollywood and released in April 1944. Since its original theatrical run, copies of *The Memphis Belle* have deteriorated, thanks to laboratory scratches inflicted on the original footage. In 2018, Wyler's original 16 mm negative was found, digitally restored, and more than 500 individual shots were exactly repositioned over the existing soundtrack. This heralded a new kind of film restoration—a literal re-cutting from scratch, while preserving the content of the original. Catherine Wyler is the daughter of director William Wyler. (William Wyler, 1943–1944, 45 minutes)

### **Film Series**

#### **Agnès Varda Viewing Art**

April 4–12 (canceled)

Belgian-born pioneer of the French nouvelle vague, Agnès Varda died in 2019 at the age of 90. Her celebrated filmography signifies not only her agency as a woman in the male-dominated realm of midcentury European cinema but also an endless interest in the arts as subject matter. From her student days at the École du Louvre and École des Beaux-Arts, Varda engaged with the arts on many levels; the space of the museum and culture of the art world, combined with her quirky poetry, were frequent motifs. The filmmaker's later multimedia installations were often featured in galleries. This program includes assorted Varda films that contemplate art—as object, as metaphor, as inspiration—and complements a simultaneous Agnès Varda retrospective at the AFI in Silver Spring.

*Mur Murs* followed by *Documenteur*

April 4, 1:30 p.m. (canceled)

*Mur Murs* celebrates the grand Chicano street murals of Los Angeles—an art form that became vital to Varda's experience of living in that city. She refers to these murals "animating" the architecture of her neighborhood. Characteristically, Varda digresses and tells many stories about the people and communities that created the murals. (1981, 85 minutes)

Another outcome of Varda's stay in L.A. was *Documenteur*, a tender fiction about a newly divorced mother and her child (played by Varda's own son) living a quiet life on the city's margins. The protagonist, played by *Mur Murs* co-editor Sabine Mamou, may be a stand-in for Varda herself, as she

had recently separated from her husband. These two L.A. films are interwoven, filled with corresponding images and ideas. (1981, 65 minutes)

### *Varda Shorts: Art and Life*

April 4, 4:30 p.m. (canceled)

Styled as a silent film, Varda's early short *Les fiancés du pont Mac Donald* features the cast and director of Jean-Luc Godard's *Bande à part* (1961, 5 minutes). *T'as de beaux escaliers, tu sais* is her amusing homage to the Cinémathèque Française on the institution's 50th anniversary (1986, 3 minutes). *The So-Called Caryatids* is a reflection on the caryatids of Parisian architecture, set to Jacques Offenbach's music and Charles Baudelaire's poetry (1984, 12 minutes). In *Le lion volatil*, the filmmaker playfully spins a romantic yarn around Frédéric Bartholdi's famous lion in Place Denfert-Rochereau (2003, 12 minutes), while in *Elsa la rose*, poets Louis Aragon and Elsa Triolet recount moments of a happy youth together (1966, 20 minutes). Finally, in an episode from the miniseries *Agnès de ci de là Varda*, the filmmaker relives moments with art from her perpetual travels—from the Beaubourg in Paris, to the Venice Biennale, to the Cologne Cathedral, to quiet exchanges with artist friends Christian Boltanski and Annette Messager (2011, 45 minutes). (Subtitles, total running time 97 minutes)

### *Faces Places*

April 5, 4:00 p.m. (canceled)

Codirected with French photographer and street artist JR (a companion one-third Varda's age), *Faces Places (Visages Villages)* is a buoyant road movie filmed on back roads and in small towns throughout remote regions of France that are now vulnerable to the incursions of modern life. The local workers, farmers, and housekeepers generally welcome the artists, who create huge photographic murals on buildings around the countryside celebrating the people's labors, looks, and mettle. In typical fashion, Varda manages to cover a full range of human emotion in the film—from happiness and love to resentment and nostalgia. (2017, subtitles, 90 minutes)

### *Cinévardaphoto*

April 11, 2:00 p.m. (canceled)

A triptych of short documentary segments linked by Varda's photography, *Cinévardaphoto* spans 40 years of production and includes *Ulysse*, an essay on memory and art linked to a black-and-white photograph she created three decades earlier (1982, 22 minutes); *Salut les Cubains*, a montage of photos taken while visiting Cuba just after the revolution and narrated by Varda's friend, actor Michel Piccoli (1963, 30 minutes); and *Ydessa, the Bears and Etc.*, her documentation of a memorable museum exhibition that featured forgotten images of treasured teddy bears and their owners (2004, 44 minutes). (Subtitles, total running time 96 minutes)

### *Daguerréotypes*

April 11, 4:00 p.m. (canceled)

*Daguerréotypes*, a sequence of portraits with a title referencing Varda's long-standing interest in the history of photography, presents renderings of the artisans and shopkeepers on Rue Daguerre in Paris's 14th arrondissement. Varda, who lived on this street virtually her entire adult life, created these filmic vignettes of her neighbors—couples who own a butcher shop, a hair salon, a bakery, and a notions shop—that alludes to her own artisanal past. Varda imposed a shooting constraint while making the film: she filmed only as far from her home as her long electrical cord would stretch, remaining close to her toddler son. (1976, 80 minutes)

#### *The Beaches of Agnès*

April 12, 4:00 p.m. (canceled)

*The Beaches of Agnès (Les Plages d'Agnès)*, made in honor of her 80th birthday, is an outdoor cinematic art installation in which Varda views her long career in reverse through site-specific three-dimensional works, tableaux vivants, and playful pageants. She started at her childhood Belgian home, continued to the Seine and to the sunny coast of California, reliving not only her films but also—mainly—her cherished remembrances of friends and loved ones. (2008, subtitles, 110 minutes)

#### **Julia Reichert: Fifty Years in Film**

April 18–May 2 (canceled)

Emmy Award–winner and three-time Academy Award nominee Julia Reichert—a founder of the groundbreaking collective New Day Films—has created one of the most admired bodies of work in American nonfiction cinema. Her first film essay *Growing Up Female* spawned controversy on its release in 1971. Her most recent film, *9to5: The Story of a Movement*—which is screening at the AFI in Silver Spring in May—revisits the women office workers who famously fueled workplace reforms in Boston during the 1970s. The Gallery is pleased to join the American Film Institute in this Julia Reichert retrospective. The program was organized by David Filipi of the Wexner Center for the Arts in Columbus, Ohio, with The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Special thanks to the Chicken & Egg Pictures for support.

#### *Making Morning Star* preceded by *Sparkle*

April 18, 1:00 p.m. (canceled)

Sheri Williams, known as Sparkle, has been a star performer with the legendary Dayton Contemporary Dance Company for 40 years—an unparalleled record in the dance community. Sparkle is also one of the few dancers outside New York to have been honored with the prestigious Bessie Award for Individual Performance. After this dynamo suffers her first serious injury, she's forced to consider whether she really has the will to return to the stage as her 50th birthday approaches. (Julia Reichert and Steven Bognar, 2012, 18 minutes)

*Making Morning Star* presents a behind-the-scenes look at the joys and challenges of developing a new American opera in a workshop hosted by the Cincinnati Opera and the University of Cincinnati's Conservatory of Music. Featuring interviews with composer Ricky Ian Gordon, librettist William M.



Hoffman, and theater director Ron Daniels, the film captures the delicate balance of personalities in an intense collaboration. (Julia Reichert and Steven Bogner, 2016, 37 minutes)

### *Growing Up Female* followed by *Union Maids*

April 25, noon (canceled)

Reichert's first effort, *Growing Up Female*, is a documentary of historic reach. Cast with women of different ages from her hometown of Yellow Springs, Ohio, it examines the often-conflicting forces that have shaped them. The fifty-year-old film is still screened regularly to illustrate the history of feminism and demonstrate the social dynamics that persist to this day. (Julia Reichert, 1971, 52 minutes)

In *Union Maids*, three remarkable women share frequently amusing yet difficult tales about their battles to form industrial trade unions during the early 20th century. Stella, Sylvia, and Kate left small farms for the dream of greater job opportunities at a time when it was dangerous to demand safe working conditions and determined strikers were frequently beaten by police. *Union Maids* was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. (Julia Reichert, Jim Klein, and Miles Mogulescu, 1976, 48 minutes)

### *Seeing Red: Stories of American Communists*

May 2, 1:00 p.m. (canceled)

*Seeing Red: Stories of American Communists* follows ordinary Americans who joined the Communist Party and documents the high price many of them paid during the Red Scare in the 1950s. Compiling more than 400 interviews with former and current party members, the filmmakers deliver an engaging, funny, and human portrait of 50 years of communist activism and retaliation. Personal accounts from iconic folk singer Pete Seeger as well as rank-and-file members have special resonance in today's political climate. The film was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. (Julia Reichert and Jim Klein, 1983, 100 minutes)

## **Lucian Pintilie Trio**

June 6–7

Romanian director Lucian Pintilie's career in theater, cinema, and opera was one of the most notable in contemporary performing arts. He launched his theater career in Bucharest but went on to direct successful productions in many parts of the world—in 1986 he staged Henrik Ibsen's *The Wild Duck* for Washington, DC's Arena Stage. He remained one of Europe's most inspiring filmmakers for several decades, exploring themes like oppression and repentance. His first film, *Sunday at Six* (1965) so aggravated Romanian censors that he was not allowed to make his next film, *The Reenactment*, until 1968; then, it was banned. (*The Reenactment* screened at the Gallery in 2019 as part of the series *Welcome to Absurdistan: Eastern European Cinema 1950 to 1989*). This program, which is showing simultaneously with *The Romanians: 30 Years of Cinema Revolution* at the AFI in Silver Spring,



includes three of Pintilie's most notable later feature films. Special thanks to Oana Radu, Mihai Chirilov, David Schwartz, and Corina Șuteu.

### *The Oak*

#### **Washington, DC, premiere of the restoration**

June 6, 2:00 p.m.

After the fall of communism in Romania in 1989, Pintilie returned to Bucharest and became director of national film production for the Ministry of Culture. *The Oak*, his first film after returning home, follows Nela, a young schoolteacher, after the death of her father, an official with the country's secret police. On an uneasy odyssey through Romania, she carries his ashes in a Nescafe jar. After many surreal moments depicting the end of Nicolae Ceaușescu's regime, Nela meets a doctor named Mitica. His anti-authoritarian nature makes them instantaneous comrades in arms, but a sequence of surprises works against them, and for a while, nothing seems to go right. (1992, subtitles, 105 minutes)

### *An Unforgettable Summer*

June 6, 4:30 p.m.

Based on a short story by Petre Dumitriu, *An Unforgettable Summer* is set in the 1920s in a region that has been part of both Romania and Bulgaria. When the film opens, a young military officer (Dumitriu himself, played by Claudiu Bleont) is about to attend a ball with his wife Marie-Therese (Kristin Scott Thomas). After his wife resists the advances of a superior officer, this stylish cosmopolitan family is relocated to a dreary and desolate post along the Bulgarian/Romanian border, where the couple's marriage and, indeed, their lives are at stake. (1994, subtitles, 35mm, 81 minutes)

### *Niki and Flo*

June 7, 5:00 p.m.

Retired army officer Niki Ardelean lives in a small Bucharest apartment with his ailing wife Poucha, his daughter Angela, and Angela's new husband Eugen. Angela is pregnant, but Niki's excitement is dulled by the fact that the young couple is planning to leave for the United States. He's torn between his wish to see his daughter happy and a desire to have her nearby. Meanwhile, Eugen's father Flo, a domestic tyrant of sorts, slowly exerts his control over Niki. (2003, subtitles, 35mm, 100 minutes)

#### **From Vault to Screen: Austria**

June 13–28

The occasional series *From Vault to Screen* combines recent restorations and overlooked treasures from international film archives. The Gallery is pleased to present ten programs that sample the distinctive cinematic heritage of Austria, beginning with a pioneering expressionist work and concluding with a recent production based on the life of a romantic poet. Contrary to the misconception that Austrian films are emotionally distant or demanding, these films are resonant with thoughtful perceptions and powerful feelings. Filmarchiv Austria is the principal keeper of the country's cinematic heritage. The archive's repository houses not only a collection of more than 3

million films but also one of Europe's most extensive assemblages of historical technology. Special thanks to Filmarchiv Austria; the Embassy of Austria; and sixpackfilm, a nonprofit organization that works to preserve and present Austria's experimental cinema and video art.

*Ciné-Concert: The Hands of Orlac*

**Andrew Simpson in performance**

June 13, 2:00 p.m.

Four years after *Das Cabinet des Dr. Caligari*, Robert Wiene completed *The Hands of Orlac* (*Orlacs Hände*), a potent psychological drama based on a literary work by Maurice Renard. The film stars Conrad Veidt as a virtuoso pianist who, following an accident, receives the hands of a condemned murderer—or so he believes. Though its sets are more traditional than those of the expressionistic *Caligari*, *Orlac* employs other design strategies to convey the characters' seething emotions. Andrew Simpson is a composer, pianist, and organist, and professor of music at The Catholic University of America. (Robert Wiene, 1924, subtitles, 113 minutes)

*Maskerade*

June 20, 12:30 p.m.

Two of 20th-century Europe's most popular actors—Viennese natives Anton Wohlbrück and Paula Wessely ("Die Wessely" to her fans)—lead the radiant cast of the Austrian operetta film *Maskerade*. Wessely's naive art student Leopoldine meets Viennese high society painter Heideneck (Wohlbrück) at an over-the-top carnival ball—the centerpiece in a spirited intrigue set in decadent turn-of-the-century Vienna. Franz Planer's cinematography and Willy Schmidt-Gentner's score (performed by the Vienna Philharmonic) complete the dreamlike enchantment. (Willi Forst, 1934, 35 mm, subtitles, 90 minutes)

*The City Without Jews*

June 20, 2:30 p.m.

*The City Without Jews* (*Die Stadt ohne Juden*) was once considered lost, but this reconstructed version was released in 2019. The film is an adaptation of the 1922 *The City Without Jews: A Novel of Our Time* by Austrian writer Hugo Bettauer, a work now considered prophetic with respect to the Holocaust. Set in early 1920s Vienna, the film depicts a population feeling loss and looming social instability, aggravated by inflation and unemployment. The people are demanding the purging of Jews from the city. Newly commissioned score by Austrian composer Olga Neuwirth. (Hans Karl Breslauer, 1924, subtitles, 80 minutes)

*The Paper Bridge*

June 20, 4:30 p.m.

Ruth Beckermann, a widely admired master of the film essay genre, constructs works that are at once personal and political. Her first-person narrative *The Paper Bridge* (*Die Papierene Brücke*) is a journey through family history and an attempt to reclaim remnants of Jewish life in regions of the former

Austro-Hungarian Empire. On a trip from Vienna to Romania, she visits the sites where her grandmother hid from the Nazis and the place of her father's birth. Survivors of the Holocaust, Beckermann's parents met in Vienna after the war, and her film is in part a meditation on her own identity as a Jewish woman in postwar Austria. (Ruth Beckermann, 1987, subtitles, 95 minutes)

#### *VALIE EXPORT: New Restorations*

June 21, 4:00 p.m.

Since the late 1960s, Austrian artist VALIE EXPORT has traversed and freely combined the disciplines of sculpture, photography, installation, performance, film, and video. This selection of four recently restored short films presents a cross section of feminist concerns, including investigations of the male gaze, female agency, and the culpability of patriarchy in the stifled daily lives of women and children. In ... *Remote...Remote* the artist quietly, patiently disfigures her cuticles with a box cutter and dips her bleeding fingers into a bowl of milk before an image of two children who are wards of the state (1973, 10 minutes). *Adjunct Dislocations* is a black-and-white film incorporating three screens: one showing the artist with an 8 mm camera strapped to the front of her torso and one on her back, and the other two running the resulting films (1973, 8 minutes). The silent film *Interrupted Line* is a study of cinematic time with the filmmaker always in the present (1971/72, 9 minutes). And *Syntagma* is a collision of the artist's expanded cinematic works, photography, and electronic image processing used to question constructs of public and private, exterior and interior space (1983, 18 minutes). (Total running time 45 minutes)

#### *The Seventh Continent*

June 21, 5:15 p.m.

Michael Haneke's debut feature foretells the artistry of his later masterworks. Based on a news story that the director read by chance, *The Seventh Continent* follows three years in the lives of an average middle-class Austrian family disillusioned by the emptiness and dull routines of their days. Husband Georg, wife Anna, and daughter Eva decide to discover for themselves the nirvana suggested by an Australian tourism poster they pass each day. Typical for Haneke's work, the conclusion is both shocking and redemptive. (Michael Haneke, 1989, 35 mm, subtitles, 111 minutes)

#### *Notes on Film 02*

June 27, noon

The influence of Austria's lively avant-garde scene is evident in *Notes on Film 02*, as Norbert Pfaffenbichler combines structural filmmaking methods with elements of narrative cinema to investigate the theme of variation and repetition. Content from Robert Frank's *O.K. End Here* (1963) comes in the form of random moments from the life of a married couple arranged on an alphanumeric editing model. (Norbert Pfaffenbichler, 2006, subtitles, 96 minutes) This film is presented in association with sixpackfilm, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and presenting Austrian experimental cinema.

*A prima vista*

June 27, 2:00 p.m.

"*A prima vista (At First Sight)* is an essay about the innocence of the gaze, that first look at the world which only small children (and great filmmakers) are capable of. Without a trace of inhibition and with the curiosity of someone who has no particular plan in mind, who instead deals with what is there to see, hear, and taste...Previously unreleased footage that Michael Pilz shot over more than four decades provides the raw material. Italy, Vienna's Wurstelprater (amusement park)—a farm, a Shinto celebration: these elements are divided, like musical punctuation marks, by self-portraits and portraits of friends. Film is rhythm, intuitive composition. Largo, allegro, then a switch to brief fades in and out which were done in the camera."—Michael Omasta (Michael Pilz, 2008, subtitles, 91 minutes)

*La Pivellina*

June 27, 4:00 p.m.

The modest yet colorful tale of a makeshift family of itinerant circus people living on the outskirts of Rome was a subject that attracted Rainer Frimmel and Tizza Covi, an Austro-Italian filmmaking team who specialize in documenting outsider circus communities. The main characters—circus knife-throwers playing themselves—bring an abandoned small child (la pivellina) into their trailer. When all hope of finding la pivellina's parents has gone, they try acclimating her to their unconventional lifestyle. (Tizza Covi and Rainer Frimmel, 2009, subtitles, 100 minutes)

*Amour Fou*

June 28, 4:00 p.m.

The elegant simplicity of Jessica Hausner's *Amour Fou* belies the complexity of the tale—the relationship of German poet and novelist Heinrich von Kleist and Henriette Vogel and the saga of their murder-suicide pact. The two met in 1809, delighting in their mutual fondness for music and literature. Their bonds grew more intense and, in November 1811, they traveled from Berlin to Wannsee after composing farewell letters that, along with an account of their last night together, have become a legendary feature of world literature. The couple's shared grave at Kleiner Wannsee is now a tourist attraction. (Jessica Hausner, 2014, subtitles, 96 minutes)

Update: March 19, 2020

*This update includes program cancelations.***Press Contact:**Laurie Tylec, (202) 842-6355 or [l-tylec@nga.gov](mailto:l-tylec@nga.gov)**General Information**

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Questions from members of the media may be directed to the Department of Communications at (202) 842-6353 or [pressinfo@nga.gov](mailto:pressinfo@nga.gov)

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### **West Building**

[6th St and Constitution Ave NW](#)

Closed

### **Sculpture Garden**

[7th St and Constitution Ave NW](#)

Closed

### **East Building**

[4th St and Constitution Ave NW](#)

Closed

*The National Gallery of Art serves the nation by welcoming all people to explore and experience art, creativity, and our shared humanity.*

*The Sculpture Garden will reopen to the public on Sunday, February 14. The West and East Buildings will remain temporarily closed at this time. [Learn more.](#)*



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