

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

PRESS ADVISORY

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE AND TATE MODERN CO-PRESENT “SCIENCE/BODY/ANATOMY,” A SCREENING PROGRAM FEATURING MEDICAL FILMS AND FILMS BY ARTISTS

MoMI’s Curator of Science and Technology Sonia Epstein to present illustrated lecture as part of weekend program at Tate Modern (London), November 24–25

Astoria, New York, October 13, 2023 —Museum of the Moving Image (MoMI) Curator of Science and Technology Sonia Epstein, in collaboration with Tate Modern’s Valentine Umansky (Curator, International Art) and Beatriz Garcia-Velasco (Assistant Curator, International Art), has organized **Science/Body/Anatomy**, a two-day series of films, presentations, and discussions on how the moving image engages with the human body, explored through presentations of medical films and films made by artists. The program is presented in the Starr Cinema at Tate Modern (London) on November 24 and 25, 2023. It will travel to MoMI in 2024.

Science/Body/Anatomy explores the intersection of film and medical technology and includes two screening programs, conversations between the curators and invited artists, an illustrated lecture by Epstein, and a conversation about representations of women’s bodies in archival film between Epstein; Angela Seward, Research Development Specialist, Wellcome Collection, where some of the films in this program are archived; and participating filmmaker Jyoti Mistry, whose *Cause of Death* is collaged from footage in the EYE Filmmuseum archives.

The two-day film program spotlights work from the history of cinema, particularly that of women artists. Highlights include the premiere of Sasha Litvintseva and Beny Wagner’s *My Want of You Partakes of Me* (2023), influential artist Ana Mendieta’s only sound film *X-ray* (c. 1975), and pioneering queer filmmaker Barbara Hammer’s *Sanctus* (1990).

Detailed information is available at <https://www.tate.org.uk/art/tate-film>

Science/Body/Anatomy: Screening Program 1

Friday, November 24, 7:00 p.m.

Roentgenfilm IV (Robert Janker, 1937)

Ellie’s Eye (Jeamin Cha, 2020)

Sanctus (Barbara Hammer, 1990)

Khôra (Caroline Key, 2021)

Strange Space (Leslie Thornton and Ron Vawter, 1992)

Unidentified Orthopaedic Subject (1935)

In this opening selection of shorts, archival medical films from the Wellcome Collection are paired with contemporary works by women artists Barbara Hammer, Leslie Thornton, Caroline Key, and Jeamin Cha. Each film frames medical renderings of the body—created by moving image X-rays, 3D animation, sonograms, and other tools to visualize the otherwise invisible—in a distinctive way. This program underscores the fraught relationship between the personal experience of the body and the medical gaze.

Followed by a conversation with Caroline Key and Leslie Thornton.

Overexposed: Anatomy and Cinema

Saturday, November 25, 4:30 p.m.

Sonia Epstein will present an illustrated lecture about the historical and contemporary ways filmmakers have engaged with the body through medical imaging. This talk shows the related development of cinema and optical medical tools, focusing on X-ray technology as the first instrument to visualize the inside of a living body. It will include an eclectic array of images and film clips, with examples from early cinema, archival films, and excerpts of works by contemporary artists such as Sandra Lahire and Mona Hatoum, as well as select scenes from films included in the two-day program.

Followed by a conversation about representations of women's bodies in archival films between Sonia Epstein, Wellcome Collection's Research Development Specialist Angela Saward, and filmmaker Jyoti Mistry.

Science/Body/Anatomy: Screening Program 2

Saturday, November 25, 6:00 p.m.

Cause of Death (Jyoti Mistry, 2020)

X-ray (Ana Mendieta, c. 1975)

My Want of You Partakes of Me (Sasha Litvintseva and Beny Wagner, 2023)

This program of artists' films invites viewers to reflect on the interplay of anatomy and cinema. Both Ana Mendieta's and Jyoti Mistry's films are uniquely situated within bodies. In a rarely screened short film completed in the 1970s, Mendieta displays her body through the use of X-rays, raising awareness of the policing of women's bodies across time and space. Forty-five years later, Mistry's *Cause of Death* revisits the theme, highlighting feminicide and the recurrence of violence against women. In *My Want of You Partakes of Me*, Sasha Litvintseva and Beny Wagner source snippets from

different moments in history to narrate a fundamental change in perception, elucidating how the physical and perceptual boundaries of our bodies have never ceased to evolve. From the poet Dante Alighieri to a Chinese molecular biology lab, from the science fiction author Octavia Butler to the late 19th-century French physiologist Claude Bernard, the filmmakers weave a fragmented narrative exploring how self-recognition emerges from different historical models of the body.

Followed by a conversation with Sasha Litvintseva and Beny Wagner.

Museum of the Moving Image (MoMI) is the only institution in the United States that deals comprehensively with the art, technology, enjoyment, and social impact of film, television, and digital media. In its facility in Astoria, New York, the Museum presents exhibitions; screenings; discussion programs featuring actors, directors, and creative leaders; and education programs. It houses the nation's largest collection of moving image artifacts and screens over 500 films annually. Its exhibitions—including the core exhibition *Behind the Screen* and *The Jim Henson Exhibition*—are noted for their integration of material objects, interactive experiences, and audiovisual presentations. For more information about the MoMI, visit movingimage.us.

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Museum of the Moving Image is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and has received significant support from the following public agencies: New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; New York City Council; New York City Economic Development Corporation; New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature; Institute of Museum and Library Services; National Endowment for the Humanities; National Endowment for the Arts; and Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation). For more information, please visit movingimage.us.