

# MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

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## MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE PRESENTS FIONA TAN'S VIDEO INSTALLATION 'FOOTSTEPS'

On view March 13–June 16, 2024, opening as part of First Look 2024

Reception with the artist on Friday, March 15, 5:30–7:00 p.m.



Fiona Tan, *Footsteps* (2022). [Press gallery](#).

Astoria, New York, February 12, 2024 —Museum of the Moving Image will present the first U.S. exhibition of Fiona Tan's ***Footsteps***, March 13–June 16, 2024. Composed exclusively of archival films from the Netherlands captured at the birth of cinema, paired with narration written by Tan's father in the late 1980s, this video work creates a dialogue between history, the artist's past, and our present. *Footsteps* will be presented as a gallery installation as part of the 13th annual First Look festival, the Museum's showcase for inventive new international cinema. *Footsteps* was organized by Sonia Epstein, Curator of Science & Technology. This exhibition is supported as part of the Dutch Culture USA program by the Consulate General of the Netherlands in New York.

The 97-minute video installation in the Museum's second floor Amphitheater Gallery will be shown on Thursdays at 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., on Fridays at 2:00 p.m., 4:00

p.m., and 6:00 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays at 12:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., and 4:00 p.m.

“*Footsteps* is a contemplative work that makes space for viewers to consider how history is presented and remembered through film,” said Epstein. “We are thrilled to debut Fiona Tan’s piece, which reflects on world events, in New York’s most diverse borough.”

Tan is an internationally recognized artist known for her film and video installations. She has explored her heritage throughout her work; she was born in Sumatra, Indonesia, to her Indonesian-Chinese father and Australian mother. *Footsteps* draws exclusively from films made between 1896 and the late 1920s found in the archive of Eye Filmmuseum (Amsterdam), the institution that commissioned and debuted the work. Originally silent footage is augmented by Dutch sound designer Hugo Dijkstal, who created a unique soundscape for this piece. *Footsteps* pairs mesmerizing moments of people working more than a century ago—sewing fishing nets, harvesting wheat, collecting chicken eggs, sorting oysters—with missives from Tan’s Australia-based father, written between 1988 and 1990, read aloud by Scottish actor Ian Henderson. In between personal anecdotes, he comments on international occurrences including the fall of Communism in USSR, the release of Nelson Mandela in South Africa, the Fijian Coup, and the climate crisis.

About the artist: Fiona Tan is a visual artist and filmmaker. Her installations and photographic works have been shown in numerous solo and group exhibitions in international venues. She has written and directed three feature length films to date. Recent solo exhibitions have taken place at Eye Filmmuseum, Amsterdam (2022); Kunsthalle Krems, Krems an der Donau (2020); Museum der Moderne Salzburg (2020); Sprengel Museum, Hannover (2019); and MAC’s (Grand-Hornu), Belgium (2019). Her work has been shown in international group shows including in the São Paulo Biennial, Venice Architecture Biennale, Documenta IX, Istanbul Biennale. Tan’s work is represented in numerous international public and private collections including the Tate Modern, London, the Guggenheim Museum New York, the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam, the Neue National Galerie, Berlin and the MCA, Chicago.

First Look, MoMI’s annual festival for adventurous new cinema, returns for its 13th edition, March 13–17, 2024. The program encompasses feature and short films; fiction and nonfiction; New York premieres and works in progress; experiments with—and exemplary expressions of—form. The guiding ethos of First Look is discovery, aiming to introduce audiences to new films, filmmakers to new audiences, and everyone to different methods, perspectives, interrogations, and encounters. Learn more at <https://movingimage.org/series/firstlook2024/>.

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 stunning 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](http://movingimage.us).

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[PRESS IMAGES](#)

**MUSEUM INFORMATION**

Hours: Thurs, 2:00–6:00 p.m. Fri, 2:00–8:00 p.m. Sat–Sun, 12:00–6:00 p.m.

Museum Admission: \$20 adults, \$12 senior citizens (ages 65+) and students (ages 18+) with ID, \$10 youth (ages 3–17). Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. General admission is free every Thursday, 2:00–6:00 p.m.

Film Screenings: Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, and as scheduled. Unless otherwise noted, tickets: \$15 adults, \$11 students and seniors, \$9 youth (ages 3–17), free or discounted for Museum members (depending on level of membership). Advance purchase is available online.

Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.

Subway: M or R to Steinway Street. N or W to 36 Ave or Broadway.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us)

Membership: [movingimage.us/join-and-support/become-a-member](http://movingimage.us/join-and-support/become-a-member) or 718 777 6877

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](http://movingimage.us).