



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Radical Institutions and Experimental Psychiatry: The Legacy of Francesc Tosquelles

June 21–23, 2024

Presented in partnership with The American Folk Art Museum and their new exhibition [*Francesc Tosquelles: Avant-Garde Psychiatry and the Birth of Art Brut*](#)

The visionary psychiatrist Francesc Tosquelles (1912–1994) reshaped institutions of therapeutic care during his time at the Saint-Alban psychiatric hospital in Southern France. From World War II through the early 1960s, the Catalan doctor devised a series of psychiatric practices that came to be called institutional psychotherapy, based on nonhierarchical and collective interactions between patients, medical staff, on-site workers, and neighboring rural communities. At the heart of this “asylum-village” was the Club Paul-Balvet, a cooperative structure whose participants all convened, deliberated on administrative responsibilities, and proposed creative activities like celebrations, plays, dances, and meetings. The hospital had its own printing press, community journal, theater, library, and cinema. This organizational structure, conducive to creative endeavors—like those of Auguste Forestier and Marguerite Sirvins—would impact French artist Jean Dubuffet’s conceptualization of “Art Brut.”

This film series explores approaches to mental health care rooted in community building, self-management, and creativity echoing the institutional psychotherapy developed at Saint-Alban. The program starts with a short film by François Pain on Félix Guattari and a docufiction by Abdenour Zahzah on Frantz Fanon; Guattari and Fanon were both psychiatrists and political activists trained and influenced by Tosquelles. On Saturday afternoon, the program dwells on the possibilities of schooling the “maladjusted” through reinvented structures of care and knowledge, featuring a short fiction film by Danièle Huillet and Jean-Marie Straub and a documentary by Renaud Victor made with special education leader Fernand Deligny. On Saturday evening, a selection of shorts highlights the role of art in counteracting isolation inside and outside of psychiatric hospitals. The program ends with the New York premiere of Mireia Sallarès’s film devoted to the forgotten legacy of Tosquelles in Catalonia, Spain, and beyond.

Co-organized by Mathilde Walker-Billaud, AFAM Curator of Programs and Engagement, and Sonia Epstein, MoMI Curator Science & Technology

Presented jointly by MoMI and AFAM, lead support for this film series is provided by the Institut Ramon Llull, Nina Beaty, Susan Weiler, and the Anthony Petullo Foundation. Additional support is provided by the Goethe-Institut New York, Art Dealers Association of America Foundation, the Dorothea and Leo Rabkin Foundation, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, and the David Davies and Jack Weeden Fund for Exhibitions.

FILM DESCRIPTIONS AND SCHEDULE

All screenings take place at Museum of the Moving Image in the Sumner M. Redstone Theater or the Celeste and Armand Bartos Screening Room, 36-01 35 Ave, Astoria, NY, 11106. Tickets are \$15 with discounts for seniors, students, youth, and MoMI members. \$1.50 transaction fee per ticket for all online purchases. The schedule is available online at movingimage.org/series/radical-institutions.

True Chronicles of the Blida Joinville Psychiatric Hospital in the Last Century, When Dr Frantz Fanon Was Head of the Fifth Ward between 1953 and 1956

Preview screening with filmmakers Abdenour Zahzah and François Pain in person
FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 6:30 P.M.

Dir. Abdenour Zahzah. 2024, 90 mins. With Alexandre Desane, Gérard Dubouche, Nicolas Dromard, Omar Boulakirba, Amal Kateb. Set in 1953 at a psychiatric clinic in Blida, Algeria, and shot on location, the film follows Frantz Fanon (Alexandre Desane), a young black psychiatrist, as he is appointed head doctor. A student of Francesc Tosquelles, Fanon challenges the racist, colonial psychiatry of the clinic with methods that break down established barriers between doctors and patients, and even Christians and Muslims. An illuminating portrait of the critical early work of a renowned politician and decolonization activist.

Preceded by ***Félix's Couch (Le divan de Félix)***

Dir. François Pain. 1985, 17 mins. A private conversation between psychiatrists Félix Guattari and Danielle Sivadon captures a glimpse of the grand adventure of institutional psychotherapy in postwar France.

This Kid, There (Ce gamin, là)

SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 3:30 P.M.

Dirs. Fernand Deligny and Renaud Victor. 1975, 88 mins. A contemplative and intimate portrait of special educator Fernand Deligny and his “network,” a 1970s rural community in the south of France where adults live with and care for non-speaking autistic children.

Preceded by ***En Rachâchant***

Dirs. Danièle Huillet and Jean-Marie Straub. 1982, 7 mins. A subversive and amusing adaptation of Marguerite Duras’s story “Ah! Ernesto!” about a determined nine-year-old boy who refuses to be schooled.

Shorts Program: Captive Feast

With filmmakers Theo Jean Cuthand and Gernot Wieland in person

SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 6:00 P.M.

This selection of films highlights the role of art in counteracting experiences of isolation and alienation for those struggling with mental illness inside and outside of psychiatric institutions.

Captive Feast (La fête prisonnière)

Dir. Mario Ruspoli. 1962, 17 mins. Inmates of the psychiatric hospital at Saint-Alban celebrate the annual village festival with the rest of the town in Ruspoli's respectful, attentive documentary.

Bird in Italian Is Ucello

Dir. Gernot Wieland. 2021, 14 mins. Inspired by a never-performed production of Daphne du Maurier's *The Birds* at an Italian psychiatric hospital, Wieland's film is an unfixed and unreliable tale that ruminates on states of mind, social belonging, and the limits of psychoanalysis.

Abandoned Goods

Dir. Pia Borg. 2014, 36 mins. This meditative essay film tells the story of the rediscovered Adamson Collection, a body of work created between 1946 and 1981 by patients of a psychiatric hospital in Surrey, Great Britain.

Love & Numbers

Dir. Theo Jean Cuthand. 2014, 8 mins. Made after the artist's hospitalization for bipolar disorder, this film attempts to make sense of love, global paranoia, and colonial trauma.

The Potential History of Francesc Tosquelles, Catalonia and Fear

New York premiere with filmmaker Mireia Sallarès, AFAM exhibition co-curator Joana Masó, and sociologist Eric Fassin

SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 5:30 P.M.

Dir. Mireia Sallarès. 2021, 135 mins. A multifaceted, experimental, and speculative portrait of Francesc Tosquelles, the politicized psychiatrist who worked with the precarious and unexpected, using film and the arts in his practice. By exploring how this major figure of institutional psychotherapy revolutionized our relationship to mental illness and how this accomplishment was disregarded in history, the film opens a critical space about Catalonia and the world's failure to remember Tosquelles and his interventions.

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MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE 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

Membership: 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.

AMERICAN FOLK ART MUSEUM INFORMATION:

Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, 11:30-6:00 p.m.

Museum Admission: Free!

Exhibition Information: *Francesc Tosquelles: Avant-Garde Psychiatry and the Birth of Art Brut* is on view from April 12, 2024 to August 18, 2024. For more information about guided exhibition tours, visit our website here:

<https://folkartmuseum.org/programs/upcoming>

The exhibition *Francesc Tosquelles: Avant-Garde Psychiatry and the Birth of Art Brut* is co-organized by the Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (CCCB) and Les Abattoirs, Musée-Frac Occitanie Toulouse. This four-venue collaboration was previously presented at the Abattoirs, CCCB, and Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía in Madrid. It developed from a research project entitled “El llegat oblidat de Francesc Tosquelles” (The forgotten legacy of Francesc Tosquelles), co-produced by the Mir-Puig Private Foundation (Barcelona), the University of Barcelona, and Fundació Antoni Tàpies (Barcelona). Major support is provided by the Institut Ramon Llull, Nina Beaty, Susan Weiler, and the Anthony Petullo Foundation. Additional support is provided by the Juliet Lea Hillman Simonds Foundation, the Art Dealers Association of America Foundation, the Dorothea and Leo Rabkin Foundation, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature, Ellen Still Brooks, and the David Davies and Jack Weeden Fund for Exhibitions.