

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

CALENDAR ADVISORY

January at MoMI: Honoring Martin Luther King, Jr., The Video Essay, plus filmmaker appearances in Curators' Choice and other series

Personal appearances by **Mati Diop, Annie Baker, RaMell Ross, Adam Elliot, Mohammad Rasoulof, Hannah Bos and Paul Thureen, Aaron Schimberg, Ken Leung, and more**

Astoria, New York, January 3, 2025 — This January, Museum of the Moving Image will present a weekend focus on the video essay; host Australian animator Adam Elliot with screenings of his films; continue with Curators' Choice, an annual series presenting some of the best released film and TV of the past year, many with filmmakers in person; feature 35mm screenings of classic big-screen movies in See It Big: Let It Snow; and honor Martin Luther King, Jr. with a family day and screenings of *Chisholm '72: Unbought and Unbossed*; among other programs.

Please note the Museum will be open on Monday, January 20, 12:00–6:00, for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

From January 3–5, the rise of the video essay in the twenty-first century is receiving its due with the series **Expanded Screen: The Video Essay**, with four programs of shorts that combine artistic experimentation, academic research, and essayistic reflections into a singular expression. Guest programmers Will DiGravio, John Gibbs, Evelyn Kreutzer, Kevin B. Lee, and Mara Oliva will be on hand at the final program on Sunday, January 5.

Among filmmaker appearances this month: ***Memoir of a Snail*** and ***Mary and Max + Shorts Trilogy*** with Adam Elliot in person (Jan. 3 & 4); ***Nickel Boys*** with RaMell Ross (Jan. 7); ***The Seed of the Sacred Fig*** with Mohammad Rasoulof (Jan. 8); ***Anora*** (35mm) with co-star Karren Karagulian (Jan. 9); an episode of the HBO series ***Somebody Somewhere*** with creators Hannah Bos and Paul Thureen (Jan. 10); ***Sugarcane*** with Julian Brave NoiseCat (Jan. 10); an episode of the HBO series ***Industry*** with actor Ken Leung (Jan. 10); ***Dahomey*** with Mati Diop (Jan. 11); ***Troma's Bring on the Damned!*** with Brandon Bassham (Jan. 11); ***Janet Planet*** with Annie Baker (Jan. 12); ***A Different Man*** with Aaron Schimberg (Jan. 17); two episodes of the Showtime series ***Couples Therapy*** with executive producer Josh Kriegman (Jan. 31); and more to be announced.

New in the galleries: the core exhibition *Behind the Screen* includes a new exhibit, ***Clayography in Motion: Adam Elliot's Memoir of a Snail***, featuring original puppets from the film and 2D character cutouts allowing visitors to make their own short

animations (on view through March 30); and on the Schlosser Media Wall, the new Community Curation series features ***World Is Turning*** by Rodell Warner (on view through Jan. 30).

On January 24, in conjunction with the exhibition *Recording the Ride: The Rise of Street-Style Skate Videos*, the Museum will present the program Skate Video Essentials: Classic Skate Stories, featuring the genre-defining shorts *Skaterdater* (1965), *The Search for Animal Chin* (1985), and *Video Days* (1991) on the big screen. The exhibition closes on January 26.

OPPORTUNITY: Call for submissions for Marvels of Media Festival

The Museum's fourth annual festival, taking place March 27–29, 2025, is an opportunity to recognize the outstanding work by autistic media-makers, and features an exhibition, screenings, and panel discussions. Learn more and apply here by January 31, 2025.

[Learn more](#)

Highlighted programs are listed below. For a complete schedule, visit movingimage.org click here for a [month view](#)). Schedule is subject to change. **Additional programs may be added as they are confirmed.**

SCREENING SERIES

See It Big: Let It Snow

December 6, 2024–January 24, 2025

For this year's holiday season, the Museum's signature series See It Big celebrates snow and winter in all its forms. Whether it's the Torrance family barely surviving the snowbound Overlook Hotel or Charlie Chaplin battling the elements in the Klondike, Judy Garland trying to have a merry little Christmas or a group of scientists in the Antarctic desperate not to become a shape-shifting alien's lunch, there's something to freeze (or melt) the heart of any movie-lover. January titles: *Nanook of the North*, *The Thing* (35mm), *Runaway Train* (35mm), *The Shining*, *The Gold Rush* (35mm), *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, and *The Ascent*. [Series info](#)

Expanded Screens: The Video Essay

January 3–5

"The video essay or the videographic essay or the audiovisual essay represents a new cinematic avant-garde." Thus wrote Scott MacDonald in an influential 2022 article, using three different terms to describe films and videos that employ existing media for critical purposes. Each term signals a separate way of combining artistic experimentation, academic research, and essayistic reflection into a singular expression. This screening series presents a selection of video essays (four programs featuring a total of 32 works) from across the 21st century that offer a spectrum of the medium's possibilities, featuring authors who work in a self-defined space somewhere between film studies and

experimental filmmaking. Organized by guest curators Will DiGravio, John Gibbs, Evelyn Kreutzer, Kevin B. Lee, and Mara Oliva. [Series info](#)

Curators' Choice 2024

Dec 1, 2024–Jan 31, 2025

Thanks to a notably strong year for both cinema and television, the Museum's highly anticipated annual survey of some of our favorite releases from the last 12 months has rolled out in two batches, the first in December and the second in January. Curators' Choice focuses on work that premiered theatrically (or was initially broadcast) during 2024, while also making room for a few recent films still seeking distribution.

Throughout, we'll be welcoming filmmakers to discuss their work, including Annie Baker, Aaron Schimberg, Mohammad Rasoulof, and many more.

Newly added: ***No Other Land***, ***Universal Language***, ***The Girl with the Needle***, ***Green Border***, and ***Couples Therapy***. [Press release for The Second Batch](#) | [Series info](#)

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS AND OTHER SCREENINGS

***Nickel Boys* with director RaMell Ross in person**

Tuesday, January 7, 6:30 p.m.

Dir. RaMell Ross. 2024, 140 mins. U.S. DCP. With Ethan Herisse, Brandon Wilson, Hamish Linklater, Fred Hechinger, Daveed Diggs, Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor. A visually astonishing film that takes an uncompromising look at America's past with cleansing, clear eyes. From Colson Whitehead's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel. Part of Curators' Choice 2024. [Event info](#)

***The Seed of the Sacred Fig* with director Mohammad Rasoulof in person**

Wednesday, January 8, 6:30 p.m.

Dir. Mohammad Rasoulof. 2024, 168 mins. Iran/Germany/France. In Persian with English subtitles. DCP. With Soheila Golestani, Missagh Zareh, Mahsa Rostami, Setareh Maleki. A tense and gripping thriller as well as a politically radical, antipatriarchal drama, Rasoulof's film was shot in secret, away from the eye of the censorious Iranian government. Part of Curators' Choice 2024. [Event info](#)

***Anora* (in 35mm) with co-star Karren Karagulian in person**

Thursday, January 9, 6:30 p.m.

Dir. Sean Baker. 2024, 139 mins. U.S. 35mm. With Mikey Madison, Mark Eydelshteyn, Yura Borisov, Karren Karagulian, Vache Tovmasyan, Aleksei Serebryakov. Winner of the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival, this spellbinding, bullet-paced modern-day screwball comedy follows a young sex worker from the Brighton Beach section of Brooklyn named Ani (breakout Mikey Madison) whose life takes an unexpected turn when she goes home with a client at a club where she dances. Part of Curators' Choice 2024. [Event info](#)

***Somebody Somewhere* with creators, writers, and executive producers Hannah Bos and Paul Thureen in person**

Friday, January 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Dir. Jay Duplass. 2024, 30 mins. U.S. DCP. Set in Manhattan, Kansas, the Peabody Award-winning HBO Original comedy series follows Sam (Bridget Everett), whose return to her hometown forces her to contend with family, friends, and her relationship to herself. Screening Season 3, Episode 4: "What If It Spreads?" Part of Curators' Choice 2024. [Event info](#)

***Industry* with actor Ken Leung in person**

Friday, January 10, 8:00 p.m.

Dirs. Mickey Down, Konrad Kay. 2024, 62 mins. U.S. DCP. With Myha'la, Marisa Abela, Harry Lawtey, Ken Leung, Conor MacNeill, Sagar Radia, Kit Harington. Centered on the London office of behemoth international bank Pierpoint & Co, HBO's *Industry* follows a coterie of ambitious young bankers as they navigate the tempestuous world of high finance. Screening Season 3, Episode 7: "Useful Idiot." Part of Curators' Choice 2024. [Event info](#)

***Dahomey* with Mati Diop in person**

Saturday, January 11, 3:30 p.m.

Dir. Mati Diop. 2024, 67 mins. Benin/France/Senegal. In English and French with English subtitles. DCP. In this spellbinding reckoning with colonialism and restitution, African art works take on lives and voices of their own as they cross the sea for a homecoming. Part of Curators' Choice 2024. [Event info](#)

***Troma's Bring on the Damned!* followed by a Q&A with writer-director Brandon Bassham**

Saturday, January 11, 6:00 p.m.

Dir. Brandon Bassham. 2024, 114 mins. U.S. DCP. Writer-director Brandon Bassham conjures up the horror anthology from hell with five tales of madness and humor in the tradition of *Creepshow* and *Tales from the Crypt*. Part of Disreputable Cinema. [Event info](#)

Dourgouti Town

Sunday, January 12, 3:00 p.m.

Dir. Dimitris Bavellas. 2024. 88 mins. Greece. DCP. In Greek with English subtitles. With Haris Alexiou. This documentary traces the gentrification and virtual obliteration of Dourgouti, a residential district just south of the Acropolis. Part of Always on Sunday: Greek Film Series. [Event info](#)

***Janet Planet* with director Annie Baker in person**

Sunday, January 12, 6:00 p.m.

Dir. Annie Baker. 2024, 113 mins. U.S. With Julianne Nicholson, Zoe Ziegler, Elias Koteas, Will Patton, Sophie Okonedo. Baker's sublime directorial debut, set in summer 1991, is a singular cinematic experience, entering the specific world of a child as she slowly begins to come to terms with the reality around her. Part of Curators' Choice 2024. [Event info](#)

Chisholm '72: Unbought and Unbossed

January 17 & 20

Dir. Shola Lynch. 2004, 76 mins. Just a few years after becoming the first black woman elected to the United States Congress, and more than a decade before the Reverend Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton rose to the national stage, New York Democrat Shirley Chisholm sought to become the first African American to seek a major party's presidential nomination. Part of MLK Day 2025. [Event info](#)

Martin Luther King, Jr. Family Day 2025

Sunday, January 19, 2:00–5:00 p.m.

Join us in celebrating the birthday of civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a talk, tours, digital media-making activities, and more. Visitors are invited to join a thoughtful conversation with teen advocates about conflict resolution with MoMI community partner Urban Upbound; create animations and immersive, virtual reality drawings; join a Museum tour; or participate in a scavenger hunt discovering the connections between moving image history and Black people's fight for freedom during the Civil Rights Movement. Free with Museum admission. [Event info](#)

Skate Video Essentials: Classic Skate Stories

Friday, January 24, 7:30 p.m.

This screening program, presented in conjunction with MoMI's exhibition *Recording the Ride: The Rise of Street-Style Skate Videos*, features three early classics that helped define the skate video genre. [Event info](#)

***A Different Man* with Aaron Schimberg in person**

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

Dir. Aaron Schimberg. 2024, 112 mins. U.S. DCP. With Sebastian Stan, Renate Reinsve, Adam Pearson. The winner of the Gotham Award for Best Picture, the latest from New York filmmaker Aaron Schimberg is a throwback to American independent films of yesteryear, a whip-smart, laceratingly funny genre crossbreed. [Event info](#)

***Couples Therapy* with executive producer Josh Kriegman in person**

Friday, January 31, 7:00 p.m.

Now in its fourth season, *Couples Therapy* continues to operate at the vanguard of both nonfiction television and our cultural awareness of the therapeutic process. Screening two episodes. [Event info](#)

INSTALLATIONS AND EXHIBITIONS

Recording the Ride: The Rise of Street-Style Skate Videos

Through January 26

Recording the Ride features videos and artifacts from the formative years of the skate video in the late 1980s and the 1990s. These kinetic videos introduced a new visual aesthetic that influenced pop culture and filmmaking in the '90s and beyond. Exhibition sponsor: New Balance. [Exhibition info](#)

The Jim Henson Exhibition

Ongoing

This exhibition offers a dynamic exploration of Jim Henson's groundbreaking work for film and television and his transformative impact on culture. It features a broad range of objects from throughout his remarkable career and reveals how Henson and his team of builders, performers, and writers brought to life the enduringly popular worlds of *The Muppet Show*, the Muppet movies, *Sesame Street*, *Fraggle Rock*, *The Dark Crystal*, and *Labyrinth*. [Exhibition info](#)

Behind the Screen

Ongoing

The Museum's core exhibition explores how moving images are made, marketed, and shown and features more than 1,400 objects from the MoMI collection, integrated with audiovisual material and computer-based interactive experiences. The latest addition: ***Clayography in Motion: Adam Elliot's Memoir of a Snail***, featuring original puppets from the film and interactive stations where visitors can create their own short animations using 2D cutouts of characters. [Exhibition info](#)

Rodell Warner: World Is Turning

Through January 30

Trinidadian artist Rodell Warner brings together his most cherished moving image works, spanning 2013 to the present. Warner's moving image experiments over 10+ years become a living archive; a collage of single-color GIFs and a 3D volumetric fan that isolates individual animations in full color. He is the second of three artists in our Community Curation series, presented in partnership with the Tezos Foundation. Visitors can also collect a free fragment minted on Tezos at the MoMI x Tezos station or online at movingimage.org/world-is-turning-fragment. [Exhibit info](#)

Waxwing

Through April 10

Visitors can play the unique arcade game *Waxwing*, developed by Common Opera, in the Museum lobby. The game subverts the traditional light gun by reimagining it as a literal source of light, shifting the focus from violence to an exploration of aspirations and the human condition. [Exhibit info](#)

Find all current MoMI exhibitions [here](#).

About Museum of the Moving Image

Founded in 1985, MoMI celebrates the history, art, technology, and future of the moving image in all of its forms. Located 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 most comprehensive 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 MoMI, visit movingimage.org.

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[Press images are available here.](#)

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).