

# MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

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## MoMI presents a weekend with renowned film scholar Tom Gunning featuring screenings and discussions

Program celebrating Gunning's new book includes films by Peggy Ahwesh, Stan Brakhage, D. W. Griffith, Hal Hartley, Ken Jacobs, Lewis Klahr, and Fritz Lang

April 26 & 27, 2025



Pictured: Ken Jacobs's *Blonde Cobra* (1963)

**Astoria, New York, April 1, 2025** — Professor and writer Tom Gunning has changed the way we think about film history and the future of the medium, starting with his seminal 1986 essay “The Cinema of Attractions.” His work has profoundly influenced generations of scholars, artists, and film lovers. On the occasion of his new book, *The Attractions of the Moving Image: Essays on History, Theory, and the Avant-Garde*, edited by Daniel Morgan, Museum of the Moving Image presents [A Weekend with Tom Gunning: The Attractions of Cinema](#), on April 26 and 27, with Gunning present at all four programs, including a conversation between Gunning and Morgan accompanied by short films; followed by screenings of Fritz Lang's *M*, Hal Hartley's *Flirt*, and a program of avant-garde films by Peggy Ahwesh, Stan Brakhage, and Ken Jacobs. The weekend will also include a panel discussion presented by *Film Comment*.

“Tom Gunning, who is now a Professor Emeritus at the University of Chicago, has deep ties to New York, as an NYU Cinema Studies PhD, and then a professor at Brooklyn College and Purchase College. This weekend at MoMI will be a great New York celebration of his work,” said series guest programmer David Schwartz.

Copies of *The Attractions of the Moving Image* (2025, University of Chicago Press) will be available for purchase in the MoMI Shop and there will be a book signing with Gunning and Morgan on Saturday afternoon, April 26, after the first program in the series.

The events at MoMI will be followed by an evening with Gunning and Ernie Gehr at Anthology Film Archives on April 28, and a program at Light Industry on April 29.

The full lineup is below and posted online at [movingimage.org/series/tom-gunning](https://movingimage.org/series/tom-gunning).

#### SCHEDULE FOR ‘A WEEKEND WITH TOM GUNNING,’ APRIL 26 & 27

All films take place at Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35 Ave, Astoria, New York, 11106. Advance tickets are available online at [movingimage.org](https://movingimage.org).

### **The Cinema of Attractions**

#### **Conversation and Screening with Tom Gunning and Daniel Morgan**

Saturday, April 26, 3:30 p.m.

“The essay ‘The Cinema of Attractions’ transformed the study of early cinema—and of film history more broadly—and it continues to be treated as vital to historical and theoretical studies of the medium,” writes Daniel Morgan in the introduction to his new collection of Tom Gunning’s writing. In this program, Gunning and Morgan will talk about the impact and legacy of Gunning’s notion of a cinema that is “less a way of telling stories than a way of presenting a series of views to an audience.” The program will include screenings of some of the key films written about in the book. Book signing in the MoMI Shop follows the program.

Includes:

***How It Feels to Be Run Over*** (Cecil Hepworth, 1900, 1 min. Digital)

***Conway Castle—Panoramic View of Conway on the L. & N.W. Railway*** (William K.L. Dickson, 1898, 2 mins. Digital)

***Hooligan in Jail*** (Billy Bitzer, 1903, 1 min. Digital)

***The Lonedale Operator*** (D. W. Griffith, 1911, 17 mins. 16mm)

***Untitled 1977*** (Ernie Gehr, 1977, 4 mins. 16mm)

***Doctor’s Dream*** (Ken Jacobs, 1978, 23 mins. 16mm)

***Monogram*** (Lewis Klahr, 2019, 9 mins. Digital)

***Mothlight*** (Stan Brakhage, 1963, 3 mins. 16mm)

***First Hymn to the Night – Novalis*** (Stan Brakhage, 1994, 3 mins. 16mm)

### **M**

#### **Introduced by Tom Gunning**

Saturday, April 26, 6:30 p.m.

Dir. Fritz Lang. 1931, 110 mins. Germany. 35mm. With Peter Lorre. Tracking the search for serial killer Hans Beckert (Lorre) in a haunted cityscape, Fritz Lang's most celebrated film is at once a late-Weimar era milestone and a vivid precursor to film noir, with the chilling use of a musical phrase whistled offscreen to announce that a murder is imminent. In his definitive study *The Films of Fritz Lang: Allegories of Vision and Modernity*, Gunning writes of *M* that "the studied ambiguity and ambivalence of its themes, the power of its images and sound guarantee it a place in film history and film criticism no matter how much canons are abjured or the idea of masterpieces viewed with suspicion."

### ***Flirt***

**Introduced by Tom Gunning and followed by a panel discussion with Gunning, *Film Comment* co-editors Devika Girish and Clinton Krute, and David Schwartz**

Sunday, April 27, 3:00 p.m.

Dir. Hal Hartley. 1996, 85 mins. US. DCP. With Bill Sage, Dwight Ewell, Miho Nikaido, Parker Posey, Martin Donovan. Hartley's experimental narrative tells a simple story of love and loss in three cities (New York, Berlin, Tokyo), repeating the same situations but with subtle shifts. Tom Gunning writes, "*Flirt* dissects the paradoxes of repetition and transformation, creating a film that is at once an experiment (hence a discovery), a demonstration (hence a proof) and a game (hence an entertainment). Rarely has a filmmaker let us into the processes of inspiration provided by formal choices so candidly. Before our very eyes Hartley shows the way an image and a sound, a character and an environment, a story and a situation, all transform each other through rearrangement and juxtaposition. But *Flirt* is no classroom lecture, no laboratory distillation. Like all of Hartley's films, *Flirt* is filled with passion, humor, regret, mystery and, ultimately, miracle." Followed by a panel discussion presented by *Film Comment*, with co-editors Devika Girish and Clinton Krute, Tom Gunning, and David Schwartz.

### **Films by Ken Jacobs, Stan Brakhage, and Peggy Awash**

**Introduced by Tom Gunning**

Sunday, April 27, 6:00 p.m.

This program of avant-garde film by Peggy Ahwesh, Stan Brakhage, and Ken Jacobs is inspired by three of the essential pieces in Tom Gunning's new book *The Attractions of the Moving Image*: a profound and previously unpublished essay "Transport of Joy: A Meditation on the Medium of Stan Brakhage"; "Films That Tell Time: The Paradoxes of the Cinema of Ken Jacobs," written for the catalogue accompanying a retrospective at Museum of the Moving Image in 1989; and "Towards a Minor Cinema: Fonoroff, Herwitz, Ahwesh, Lapore, Klahr, and Solomon," which identified an important trend in the avant-garde of the 1980s.

Includes:

***Visions in Meditation #2: Mesa Verde*** (Stan Brakhage, 1989, 16 mins. 16mm)

***The Chinese Series*** (Stan Brakhage, 2003, 2 mins.)

***Blonde Cobra*** (Ken Jacobs, 1963, 33 mins. 16mm)

***Perfect Film*** (Ken Jacobs, 1986, 22 mins. 16mm)

***Martina's Playhouse*** (Peggy Ahwesh, 1989, 20 mins. 16mm)

### **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](http://movingimage.org).

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**Advance PDF copies of Tom Gunning's book *The Attractions of Cinema* are available upon request.**

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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).