

The Museum of Modern Art

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART ANNOUNCES REOPENING FILM PROGRAMS

Fall 2019 Throws Open the Vaults of MoMA's Film Collection to Highlight Home Movies and Amateur Films, Pay Homage to Founding MoMA Film Curator Iris Barry, and More

NEW YORK, May 1, 2019—The Museum of Modern Art's Department of Film announces a selection of fall 2019 programs that will open with the newly expanded MoMA on October 21, 2019 in The Debra and Leon Black Family Film Center in The Ronald S. and Jo Carole Lauder Building. Celebrating the Museum's 30,000-strong film collection, the reopening slate reflects the diversity and artistic range championed by MoMA film curators for over eight decades. The Yoshiko and Akio Morita Galleries host ***Private Lives Public Spaces***, a major exhibition of home movies and amateur films. Programming in the Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters will pay homage to the Department of Film's founding history and celebrate the collection through a kaleidoscope of thematic and historical perspectives. These programs will include explorations of the Museum's first film series, early iterations of the Hollywood studio system—and indie films' existence outside of that system, and feminist and queer experiences on film. On Fridays this fall, continuous, open film screenings will offer a lively, unique moviegoing experience for all Museum visitors.

Opening on October 21, *Private Lives Public Spaces* will be the Museum's first large-scale exhibition of home movies and amateur films drawn exclusively from its collection. This gallery presentation of largely unseen, privately produced works will explore the connection between artist's cinema, amateur movies, and family filmmaking since the 1923 introduction of small-gauge film stock heralded the unofficial birth of affordable home moviemaking. The Museum's archival holdings of the genre represent a remarkable range of creativity by artists, celebrities, world travelers, and the public at large. This presentation of moving image work offers a renewed perspective on the creative strategies that amateur filmmaking shares with experimental and avant-garde cinema of the 20th century. In conjunction with the gallery installation, MoMA's Department of Education will stage a Home Movie Day comprising three Library of Congress National Film Registry programs.

The establishment of the MoMA Film Library (now the Department of Film) on June 25, 1935, was a catalyst for the study of motion pictures as an art form in the United States. The purpose of the Film Library was to “trace, catalog, assemble, exhibit and circulate to museums and colleges single films or programs of films”—methodologies the Department of Film adheres to more than 80 years after its establishment by Iris Barry, MoMA's first film curator. The expanded Museum's inaugural film screening series will revisit Barry's founding film program, known as *A Short Survey of the Film in America*. Each of the selections in this series were among MoMA's early film acquisitions—the building blocks of the Film Library's emergent collection.

Inspired by the early days of movie-going, the Department of Film will present continuous screenings of short films, rarely seen trailers, and full-length feature films from MoMA's collection in the Titus 1 Theater every Friday from October 25 through December 27, 2019. Each Friday a single thematic screening program will run continuously during Museum hours; visitors will be free to float in and out of the theater, watching as much or as little of the program as they please, and no separate film ticket is required.

MoMA

EXHIBITION ORGANIZATION:

Private Lives Public Spaces

Organized by Ron Magliozzi, Curator, Brittany Shaw, Curatorial Assistant, Katie Trainor, Collections Manager, Peter Williamson, Preservation Officer, and Ashley Swinnerton, Collection Specialist, Department of Film.

Theater Programming

Organized by the Department of Film.

SPONSORSHIP:

Support for the exhibition is provided by the Annual Film Fund.

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