

# The Museum of Modern Art

## FILM, PERFORMANCE, AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Held in conjunction with *Joan Jonas: Good Night Good Morning* (March 17–July 6, 2024)

Performance

### **Joan Jonas and Jason Moran: A Lecture Demonstration**

March 26, 7:00 p.m.

The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 1

Collaboration is a central tenet of Joan Jonas's practice. For close to 20 years, she has performed with one of her most crucial collaborators: the celebrated pianist and musician Jason Moran, bringing his improvisational sounds into new performances and installations alike. Their interdisciplinary work together highlights the importance of feedback, improvisation, and music history across generations of artists.

Jonas and Moran present *A Lecture Demonstration*, a dialogue in which they describe their process and perform excerpts of their works together over the last two decades, including such landmark productions as *Reanimation* (2010/2012/2013), *The Shape*, *The Scent*, *The Feel of Things* (2004), and *They Come to Us Without a Word* (2015). *A Lecture Demonstration* is a video and sonic feedback between the two artists—an unscripted conversation, with Moran at the piano and Jonas on stage, performing with projected images from Jonas's archive, props from her studio, and original audio recordings. Through space and sound, the narrative of their practice unfolds, revisiting years of collaboration, process, and close connection between a pair of artistic giants.

For more information, please visit [moma.org/calendar/events/9416](https://moma.org/calendar/events/9416).

Public Program

### **Joan Jonas: Ask a friend to give you a sentence**

April 16, 7:00 p.m.

The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2

In the spirit of Joan Jonas's long-time collaborative engagement with music, dance, and literature, this evening gathering will celebrate new questions and new creative responses to the artist's practice. The evening's title is taken from Jonas's poem "Broken Symmetry," written in November 2010 as a performance exercise for her students at MIT, where she instructed readers to "ask a friend to give you a sentence." This text was later used in a performance with Jason Moran and the Bandwagon in 2012; Moran, a frequent collaborator of Jonas's, commented that this methodology of exchange is precisely how jazz works.

This evening will consist of short creative offerings generated in response to a sentence provided by Joan Jonas. We'll begin with an introduction by Jonas, followed by contributions from musician David Michael DiGregorio, scientist David Gruber, poet Susan Howe, performance artist Ralph Lemon, and scholar André Lepecki.

For more information, please visit [moma.org/calendar/events/9428](https://moma.org/calendar/events/9428).

**MoMA**

11 West 53 Street  
New York, NY 10019

Film Series

**Carte Blanche: Joan Jonas**

April 25–30

The Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters 1 and 2

Joan Jonas's lifetime of insatiable movie watching, soaking up classics and newfound discoveries alike, has had a profound impact on the shape and themes of her own moving images, art, and performance work. This Carte Blanche program features films selected by Jonas from MoMA's collection, presented alongside a number of her own rarely screened video works. Taken together, they make vividly evident that, from the earliest days of her experimentation with the new medium of video, Jonas has absorbed and translated the conventions of cinema into her own polyvalent practice.

"I used the language of film in my performances," Jonas has observed, "the idea of editing, the cut, the montage." This is especially so with respect to classic Japanese cinema, particularly the work of Yasujiro Ozu (*Early Spring*, 1956), whose humor and pathos, rhythms and compositions were a guiding spirit for Jonas's performance work. (She even named her beloved dog "Ozu" in tribute to the filmmaker.) Classic European and Soviet cinema were a near-daily part of Jonas's movie diet in the 1960s and '70s, as represented in this series with an eclectic mix that includes Federico Fellini's *Nights of Cabiria* (1957), Marcel Carné's *Children of Paradise* (1945), and Esfir Shub's revolutionary documentary *The Fall of the Romanov Dynasty* (1927). Moreover, in a nod to her fascination with the wonders and strangeness of the natural world and the human body, Jonas has chosen to present *Tropical Malady* (2004) by the contemporary Thai filmmaker Apichatpong Weerasethakul.

For more information, please visit [moma.org/calendar/film](http://moma.org/calendar/film).

Film Program

**Modern Mondays: An Evening with Joan Jonas**

April 29, 7:00 p.m.

The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2

The artist joins us for a screening of videos from her work *They Come to Us Without a Word*, which represented the United States at the 2015 Venice Biennale. Organized around Jonas's long-standing engagement with themes of wildlife, mirrors, and wind, the videos in this work comprise fragments of ghost stories inspired by the oral traditions of Cape Breton in Nova Scotia, Canada. To make the videos Jonas worked with children, who performed against a video backdrop, largely of landscapes from Cape Breton, where Jonas has partially lived and worked since 1970. Alongside these videos, Jonas will present excerpts that express her longstanding interest in the natural world and the impact of humans on vulnerable ecosystems. A conversation with the artist follows the screening.

For more information, please visit [moma.org/calendar/events/9422](http://moma.org/calendar/events/9422).

Performance

**Joan Jonas: Out Takes**

May 16 and 17, 7:00 p.m., May 19, 3:00 p.m.

The Marie-Josée and Henry Kravis Studio

Layering sound, video, and narration, *Out Takes* began from Jonas's explorations of unused footage from the artist's archive, exemplifying her longstanding practice of reworking elements of previous artwork in her subsequent pieces. In this performance, Jonas interacts with videos excerpted from her works *In the Trees* (2015) and *Moving Off the Land II* (2019) alongside previously unreleased footage recorded over the past 30 years, including scenes of forests and coastlines, and appearances by Jonas's dogs Zina and Ozu. Other prominent features of the work include sequences of the artist's friends and neighbors, as well as the lush natural surroundings of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Jonas's longtime summer home.

This performance of *Out Takes* (2019/2024) will incorporate new material developed exclusively for its presentation at MoMA. Jonas will be accompanied by performer Lucy Mullican, with live music by composer Ikue Mori on keyboards.

For more information, please visit [moma.org/calendar/exhibitions/5645](https://moma.org/calendar/exhibitions/5645).

Performance

**Joan Jonas: *Mirror Piece I & II***

June 25 and 26 at 12:00 and 3:00 p.m.

June 28, 29, and 30 at 12:00 and 3:00 p.m.

The Donald and Catherine Marron Family Atrium

The Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden

12:00 p.m. performances take place in the Sculpture Garden.

3:00 p.m. performances take place in the Marron Family Atrium.

In the late 1960s, Joan Jonas's early performances utilized mirrors as props for transforming the perception of space and as devices for exploring representation, doubling, and the hierarchies of gender. *Mirror Piece I & II* (1969/2024) reprises Jonas's groundbreaking early *Mirror Piece* works, updated and reconstructed from the notes and photographs of *Mirror Piece I* (1969) and *Mirror Piece II* (1970).

In these works, a cast of performers face an audience carrying mirrors and panes of plexiglass in synchronized, choreographed motions. The audience, performers, and surroundings are reflected and fragmented in the moving mirrors as the piece unfolds, blurring the boundary between spectator and participant. As Jonas recalls, "The mirror was a metaphor for me. A device to alter the image and to include the audience as reflection, making them uneasy as they view themselves in public." This rare presentation of one of Jonas's most celebrated works will activate MoMA's public spaces.

For more information, please visit [moma.org/calendar/events/9420](https://moma.org/calendar/events/9420).

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