

After Robert Frank's death in 2019, film canisters and video tapes were discovered in storage places, containing footage of Frank's reflections on the world and his place in it, scraps of ideas, and stirrings of art. These moving images, only now being brought to light, offer insight into the home and work life of an artist who is foremost known for the photographs he took of the postwar United States. Partnering with the June Leaf and Robert Frank Foundation, Laura Israel, Frank's longtime film editor, and art director Alex Bingham have used these fragments to create a kind of moving-image scrapbook. Featuring projections across multiple screens, the installation conveys the intimacy and immediacy of Frank's observations of family, friends, and collaborators, as well as of domestic interiors and vistas of city and coastline. To capture this footage, which spans 1970 to 2006, Frank spent countless hours behind the viewfinders of various film and video cameras.

Like many artists, Frank kept diaries and scrapbooks, which provide a window into his interior life. Similarly, the raw footage used in this installation sheds new light on Frank's artistic process, stitched together by Israel and Bingham in a way that evokes his restless gaze and declamatory voice, at once comical and melancholy. He journeys between his homes in New York and Nova Scotia; the open roads of the United States and Canada; and urban landscapes, including those of Beirut, Cairo, Moscow, and his native Switzerland. Frank makes timeless the most fleeting of pleasures: a warm bath and a steaming tea kettle, a glimpse of his wife June Leaf in her studio, or the play of sunlight on his hand.

Organized by Joshua Siegel, Curator, Department of Film, and Lucy Gallun, Curator, Department of Photography, with Kaitlin Booher, Beaumont and Nancy Newhall Curatorial Fellow, Department of Photography.

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For related content and programs, visit moma.org/robertfrank.

This installation is presented in conjunction with the exhibition *Life Dances On: Robert Frank in Dialogue*, which is on view on Floor 3 through January 11.