

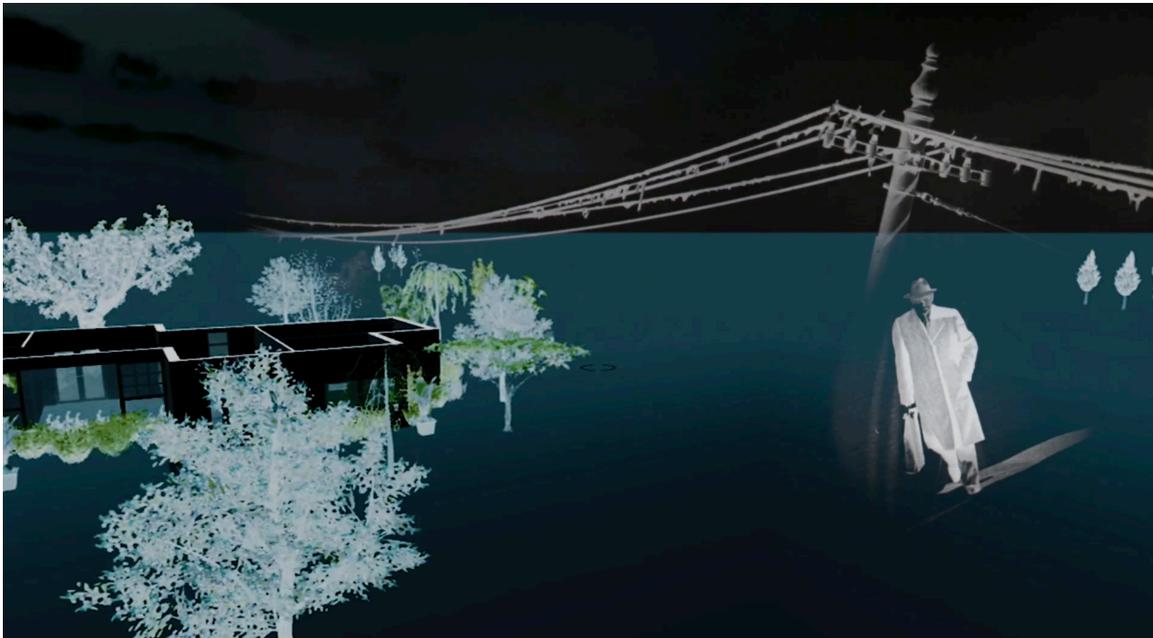
MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

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MoMI'S EXPERIMENTAL FILM SERIES 'PERSISTENT VISIONS' RETURNS THIS FALL WITH RETROSPECTIVES OF JANIE GEISER AND LEWIS KLAHR

Geiser and Klahr will be appearing at the Museum with their films

September–October 2023



Janie Geiser's *22 Light-years* (2021)

Astoria, New York, September 12, 2023 (revised) — Museum of the Moving Image is pleased to announce that Persistent Visions, its ongoing screening series pairing historical and contemporary experimental works, returns this fall with retrospective programs centering on the work of two American filmmakers whose careers each span nearly four decades: Janie Geiser and Lewis Klahr. From September 15–16, the Museum will present **Unraveling Realities: The Films of Janie Geiser**, which features the New York premiere of Geiser's recent series **Time, A Substance**, including films *Heliotrope*, *22 Light-years*, *Reverse Shadow*, *Absent Objects*, *Vaporetto*, and *Chameleon Law*; along with other recent work from the last decade, shown with the canonical films *The Red Book*, *The Fourth Watch*, and *Ultima Thule*.

Klahr's new feature ***The Blue Rose of Forgetfulness*** will have its New York City premiere as part of a retrospective program of some of his acclaimed stop-motion collage films, screening October 20–21.

Both artists will appear in person with their films.

The series is organized by guest curator Becca Keating and Associate Curator of Film Edo Choi.

Program overview and schedule are included below, with full program descriptions available [online](#) at **movingimage.us**. Tickets for each program are \$15 (with discounts for seniors, students, and youth) / free for Museum members at the Senior/Student level and above.

Unraveling Realities: The Films of Janie Geiser

September 15–16

Janie Geiser is renowned for her unique blend of puppetry, animation, collage, and experimental cinema. The Museum will present a comprehensive selection of her work in three programs, each highlighting a different phase of her practice. The programs will include her early film *The Red Book* (1994), which is part of the National Film Registry, shown alongside her series *The Nervous Films*; and a presentation of her most recent works, some of which were completed during the first years of the pandemic, including the premiere of her newest film, *Heliotrope*. Geiser's complex visual compositions, juxtaposed with her multivalent soundtracks, rhythmically expose the materiality of her medium. These hauntingly beautiful works enter the realms of dreams, memories, mystery, identity, and loss, challenging perception, provoking introspection, and rewarding curiosity. Geiser has been pushing the boundaries of visual storytelling for decades, leading audiences on profound journeys that challenge their perceptions.

Janie Geiser will appear in person at all shows.

Janie Geiser Program 1: *The Nervous Films* + *The Red Book* and *The Fourth Watch*

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 6:30 P.M.

This program features *The Nervous Films* (2009–12), a series of five collage-based films made of found and natural objects, medical illustrations, photographs, extant footage, and other elements. They center on the body, childhood, memory, war, illness, and loss. Also included are *The Red Book* (1994) an elliptical, pictographic animated film that uses flat, painted figures and collage elements to explore the realms of memory, language, and identity from the point of view of a woman amnesiac; and *The Fourth Watch* (2000), set in the hours before dawn, when an endless succession of rooms is inhabited by silent film figures occupying flickering space in a midcentury house made of printed tin.

Program: **The Red Book** (1994, 11 mins.); **The Fourth Watch** (2000, 10 mins.); The Nervous Films (2009–12): **Ghost Algebra** (2009, 7 mins.), **Kindless Villain** (2010, 5 mins.), **The Floor of the World** (2010, 9 mins.), **Ricky** (2011, 11 mins.), and **Arbor** (2012, 8 mins.)

Janie Geiser Program 2: Time, a substance

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 8:00 P.M.

This program, titled after a phrase from Marianne Moore's poem "Black Earth," includes films that were made during the intense first years of the pandemic. The films evoke a sense of suspended time and the liminal space between life and death.

Memory, loss, and erasure surface and resurface in these works.

Program: **Ultima Thule** (2002, 10 mins.), **Reverse Shadow** (2019, 8 mins. New York premiere), **Absent Objects** (2020, 8 mins. New York premiere), **22 Light-years** (2021, 12 mins. New York premiere), **Vaporetto** (2021, 3 mins. New York premiere), **Chameleon Law** (2022, 7 mins. New York premiere), **Heliotrope** (2023, 7 mins. New York premiere)

Janie Geiser Program 3: Double Vision

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 4:00 P.M.

This series includes eight films made between 2013 and 2018 that investigate the photographic image. Found thrift-store images and rediscovered family photographs are forensically examined, reimagined, reframed, unmoored, and re-revealed in all of their documentary truth and fiction.

Program: **Cathode Garden** (2015, 8 mins.), **The Hummingbird Wars** (2014, 11 mins.), **Silent Sister** (2016, 6 mins.), **Kriminalistik** (2013, 5 mins.), **Look and Learn** (2017, 11 mins. New York premiere), **Fluorescent Girl** (2018, 2 mins. New York premiere), **Flowers of the Sky** (2016, 9 mins.), **Valeria Street** (2018, 11 mins.)

The Films of Lewis Klahr

October 20–21

MoMI's retrospective includes a selection of Klahr's most significant films, as well as the New York City premiere of his latest, *The Blue Rose of Forgetfulness*. Klahr is known for creating collage-style animations, utilizing cutouts from magazines, comic books, and other printed materials to create dreamlike and fragmented narratives that explore memory, nostalgia, and pop culture. Hollywood tropes, intoxicating soundtracks, and poetic narratives add to the kaleidoscopic lens through which he transforms forgotten images into thought-provoking visual tapestries.

Lewis Klahr will appear in person at all shows.

Lewis Klahr Program 1

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 6:30 P.M.

This selection of works from the first half of Klahr's career features some of his best-known titles made between 1987 and 2004. All titles except *Daylight Moon* will be presented in 16mm.

Program: **Altair** (1994, 8 mins.), **Pony Glass** (1997, 15 mins.), **Downs Are Feminine** (1993, 10 mins.), **Her Fragrant Emulsion** (1987, 10 mins.), **Two Hours to Zero** (2004, 8 mins.), **Daylight Moon** (2002, 13 mins.).

The Blue Rose of Forgetfulness

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 8:00 P.M.

Dir. Lewis Klahr. 2022, 63 mins. New York City premiere.

"My latest feature-length series of collage films, *The Blue Rose of Forgetfulness*, is a compilation of six films created between 2015 and 2021. Focused primarily around thematics of love, it is both porous and dense, a cinema of shifting moods and engagements that offers a tactile exploration of elliptical narrative. Like a waking dream, what can be clearly described in words is less significant than what can be felt."
—Lewis Klahr

Lewis Klahr Program 3

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 3:30 P.M.

The films in this program explore the surreal, while reflecting on the intersection of personal identity and pop culture giving way to the complex landscapes of the human condition. Featuring soundtracks from the Shangri-Las, Bruce Springsteen, and the Velvet Underground, these films highlight romantic entanglements, loss, nostalgia, and memory. All titles will be presented in digital formats.

Program: **April Snow** (2010, 10 mins.), **Wednesday Morning Two A.M.** (2009, 6 mins.), **Ambrosia** (2014, 4 mins.), **City Film** (1992, 17 mins.), **Nimbus Smile** (2009, 8 mins.), **Nimbus Seeds** (2009, 8 mins.), **False Aging** (2008, 15 mins.).

About the filmmakers:

Janie Geiser is a Guggenheim Fellow, a Doris Duke Artist Award recipient, and a Creative Capital awardee. Her films are in the collections of MoMA, the New York Public Library's Donnell Media Center, CalArts, and BAMPFA. The Red Book is part of the National Film Registry of the Library of Congress. The Academy of Motion Pictures Archive has selected her work for preservation, and *The Fourth Watch* (2000) was selected by Film Comment as one of the top ten experimental films of its decade.

Lewis Klahr's films have been included in the Whitney Biennial three times and screened extensively in the United States, Europe, and Asia. His work is in MoMA's permanent collection, as well as various private collections. Klahr was the Wexner Center for the Arts 2010 Media Arts Residency Award Winner, the 2013 Brakhage Vision Award winner, a 1992 Guggenheim Fellow and has also received funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Jerome Foundation, and Creative Capital.

Museum of the Moving Image (MoMI) is the only institution in the United States that deals comprehensively with the art, technology, enjoyment, and social impact of film, television, and digital media. In its stunning facility 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 largest 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 the MoMI, visit movingimage.us.

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Press contact: Tomoko Kawamoto, tkawamoto@movingimage.us

MUSEUM INFORMATION

Hours: Thurs, 2:00–6:00 p.m. Fri, 2:00–8:00 p.m. Sat–Sun, 12:00–6:00 p.m.

Museum Admission: \$20 adults, \$12 senior citizens (ages 65+) and students (ages 18+) with ID, \$10 youth (ages 3–17). Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. General admission is free every Thursday, 2:00–6:00 p.m.

Film Screenings: Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, and as scheduled. Unless otherwise noted, tickets: \$15 adults, \$11 students and seniors, \$9 youth (ages 3–17), free or discounted for Museum members (depending on level of membership). Advance purchase is available online.

Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.

Subway: M or R to Steinway Street. N or W to 36 Ave or Broadway.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: movingimage.us

Membership: movingimage.us/join-and-support/become-a-member or 718 777 6877

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). For more information, please visit movingimage.us.