



THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

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Still from Zineb Sedira *Dreams Have No Titles*, 2022. Courtesy of the artist.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

August 15, 2023

## **ARTIST FILM SERIES RETURNS TO MOCA GRAND AVENUE**

**Featuring works by Ai Weiwei, Ulysses Jenkins, Diane Severin Nguyen,  
Park Chan-kyong, Park Chan-wook, and Zineb Sedira**

**LOS ANGELES**—An active and dynamic platform for the presentation of artist films, The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) Artist Film Series returns to MOCA Grand Avenue on August 17 and runs through November 30, 2023. Inspired by film and video works in MOCA's renowned collection and centered in the cinema capital of the world, the series offers engaging and notable screenings and live programs with MOCA collection artists and beyond. This fall's series features works by Ai Weiwei, Ulysses Jenkins, Diane Severin Nguyen, Park Chan-kyong, Park Chan-wook, and Zineb Sedira.

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Presented in the Ahmanson Auditorium at MOCA Grand Avenue, screenings feature artists in dialogue with fellow artists, historians, and critics. These programs explore the critical issues of our time and our place with a special focus on experiments in long-form, narrative, or feature-length films.

To launch the series on August 17, **Ulysses Jenkins's** *Remnants of the Watts Festival, 1972-1973* (1980) showcases electrifying performances at the Watts Summer Festival, founded in 1966 (a year after the Watts Uprising) as a way to celebrate African American culture and heritage. Jenkins's film includes interviews with festival-goers and organizers who discuss Watts' often tenuous relationship with law enforcement. On September 7, **Diane Severin Nguyen's** *Tyrant Star* (2009), filmed in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, explores cultural fragmentation and reconnection; and *IF REVOLUTION IS A SICKNESS* (2009) loosely follows the character of an orphaned Vietnamese child who grows up to be absorbed into a South Korean pop-inspired dance group.

**Ai Weiwei's** *Chang'an Boulevard* (2004) runs continuously during regular museum hours from September 21-22. Composed of 608 one-minute segments and running over 10 hours long in duration, *Chang'an Boulevard* traces the forty-five kilometer long thoroughfare that extends east to west, bisecting the megalopolis of Beijing, China. The series continues on October 26 with **Park Chan-kyong** and **Park Chan-wook's** KT iPhone Project *NIGHT FISHING* (2011), a rare collaboration between the two brothers, shot entirely with an iPhone 4 and which received the prestigious Golden Bear Award. This short film revolves around a fisherman who catches a fish that turns into a young woman upon reaching the shore, weaving together their shared interest in reincarnation, the supernatural and the genre of horror. Finally, on November 30, through the archives of the Algerian Cinémathèque, **Zineb Sedira's** *Dreams Have No Titles* (2022) delves into the history of cultural and avant-garde film production in Algeria and its influence on postcolonial movements and the fight for liberation.

"For this season of the MOCA Artist Film Series, we are proud to present a diverse and thought-provoking lineup that transcends boundaries and challenges conventional storytelling. From Ulysses Jenkins's poignant exploration of cultural history in *Remnants of the Watts Festival 1972-73* (1980) to Zineb Sedira's award-winning Venice Biennale contribution *Dreams Have No Titles* (2022) weaving the artist's own biography with the legacy of Algerian cinema in the context of post-colonial liberation struggles, each film offers a unique perspective that resonates with the times we live in, while revisiting the recent past," said Clara Kim, Chief Curator & Director of Curatorial Affairs at MOCA. "We

invite audiences to join us in experiencing these remarkable works that inspire dialogue, reflection, and connection between people, cultures, and worlds."

General admission to MOCA is free courtesy of Carolyn Clark Powers.

Together Thursdays courtesy of Cliff and Mandy Einstein.

All screenings are free with advance reservations. Tickets for each screening will be released on a rolling basis and become available up to 21 days in advance. MOCA Members enjoy early access to ticketing reservations. For complete program and ticketing details, please visit [moca.org/artistfilmseries](http://moca.org/artistfilmseries).

The MOCA Artist Film Series is organized by Clara Kim, Chief Curator & Director of Curatorial Affairs, with Alitzah Oros, Public Programming Associate, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.

MOCA Artist Film Series is presented by **The Edward F. Limato Foundation**.

Additional support is provided by  and  

### **SCHEDULE OF FILM SCREENINGS:**

All screenings begin at 6pm unless otherwise stated and are free with advance reservations.

**Thursday, August 17, 2023**

**Ulysses Jenkins**

***Remnants of the Watts Festival, 1972-73, 1980, 60 min.***

In 1972 and 1973, Ulysses Jenkins and the collective from Venice, California known as Video Venice News documented the Watts Summer Festival—a major Black cultural event established in 1966 to commemorate the Watts Rebellion that jolted the Los Angeles community the year before. In addition to capturing an electrifying performance by the funk band War, this historically important tape examines the issue of covert surveillance that has long defined the relationship between the state and the Black community in America.

Jenkins will be present for a post-screening conversation with fellow artist Amitis Motevalli.

**Thursday, September 7, 2023**

**Diane Severin Nguyen**

***Tyrant Star*, 2009, 16 min.**

Filmed entirely in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, *Tyrant Star* prompts viewers to consider how cultural touchstones like songs and shared histories are fragmented and woven together in new ways over time. The work unfolds in three chapters, beginning with a view of the metropolis set to Ca Dao, or Vietnamese folk poems, before shifting to an aspiring YouTube star performing a cover of “The Sound of Silence” and concluding with footage of children at a Ho Chi Minh City orphanage. Although each chapter focuses on different voices and perspectives, they are linked by messages of grief and care that remain unheard or misunderstood and by reminders of pain, isolation, and trauma. Nguyen’s camera captures trash-strewn landscapes, quiet interiors, and fragmented bodies, highlighting subtle movements that suggest our surroundings are alive, swelling with the memories of the past.

***IF REVOLUTION IS A SICKNESS*, 2021, 19 min.**

Set in Warsaw, Poland, *IF REVOLUTION IS A SICKNESS* loosely follows the character of an orphaned Vietnamese child who grows up to be absorbed into a South Korean pop-inspired dance group. Widely popular within a Polish youth subculture, K-pop is used by the artist as a vernacular material to trace a relationship between Eastern Europe and Asia with roots in Cold War allegiances. Spilling over from first-person narrative into near-abstraction and pop music video, Nguyen traverses the complicated beauty and multivalent forms of propaganda that underpin cultural (and self) image making.

Following the screening, Nguyen will be in conversation with MOCA Curator Anna Katz.

**Thursday, September 21 & Friday, September 22, 2023**

**Ai Weiwei**

***Chang’an Boulevard*, 2004, 10 hr. 13 min.**

An epic moving image work, *Chang’an Boulevard* traces the forty-five kilometer long thoroughfare that extends east to west, bisecting the megalopolis of Beijing. Dividing the distance into intervals, the artist recorded a sequence of single frames for one minute each. The film is composed of 608 one-minute segments, running over 10 hours long in duration. Serving as the capital of China for over 600 years, Beijing has a clear architectonic order in its urban planning. The film records

the city through the transformation of the urban landscape, capturing the rhythms of the city, its social structure, cityscape, planned economy, political center, commercial buildings, and industrial units—revealing the quotidian and everyday of China’s seat of government and power.

*Chang’an Boulevard* will screen continuously during regular museum hours from Thursday, September 21 until Friday, September 22. Ai Weiwei will be present for a post-screening conversation on **Thursday, September 21 at 6pm**, followed by a book signing of his *1000 Years of Joys and Sorrows: A Memoir* (2021).

**Thursday, October 26, 2023**

**Park Chan-kyong and Park Chan-wook**

**KT iPhone Project *NIGHT FISHING*, 2011, 33 min. 12 sec.**

Acclaimed film director Park Chan-wook (*Decision to Leave* and *Old Boy*) and artist, filmmaker and critic Park Chan-kyong come together for a special evening to discuss the lines between art and film, the state of moving image, and their shared interest in the social, cultural, and political context of South Korea as a point of inspiration for their art and filmmaking. KT iPhone Project *NIGHT FISHING* is a production of PARKing CHANce Films—a collaboration between the two brothers—shot entirely on an iPhone 4 camera. It was first presented at the 61st Berlinale International Film Festival in 2011 where it received the prestigious Golden Bear Award. The film is described as “a fairy tale about death and reincarnation, transmigration, and the sounds of music.”

The artists/filmmakers will be present for a post-screening conversation with an interlocutor to be announced.

**Thursday, November 30, 2023**

**Zineb Sedira**

***Dreams Have No Titles*, 2022**

Using autobiographical narrative, fiction, and documentary, Zineb Sedira’s *Dreams Have No Titles*—her sprawling, award-winning contribution for the French Pavilion at the 2022 Venice Biennale—addresses the history of avant-garde film production in Algeria during the 1960s and its impact on postcolonial movements and liberation struggles. In the film, Sedira mines Algeria’s cinema heritage through the archives of the Algerian Cinémathèque, touching upon post-independence cinema in France, Italy, and Algeria and the so-called “Third-World” values and aesthetics these films adhered to.

The artist will be present for a post-screening conversation with an interlocutor to be announced.

## **ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART (MOCA)**

Founded in 1979, MOCA is the defining museum of contemporary art. In a relatively short period of time, MOCA has achieved astonishing growth; a world-class permanent collection of more than 8,000 objects, international in scope and among the finest in the world; hallmark education programs that are widely emulated; award-winning publications that present original scholarship; groundbreaking monographic, touring, and thematic exhibitions of international repute that survey the art of our time; and cutting-edge engagement with modes of new media production. MOCA is a not-for-profit institution that relies on a variety of funding sources for its activities.

**Museum Admission:** General admission to MOCA is free courtesy of Carolyn Clark Powers. Special exhibitions at MOCA are \$18 for adults; \$10 for students with I.D. and seniors (+65); and free for children under 12 and jurors with I.D. Special exhibitions are free every Thursday from 5pm to 8pm. MOCA members always receive free admission to special exhibitions. **MOCA Artist Film Series:** All screenings are free with advance reservations. Tickets for each screening will be released on a rolling basis and become available up to 21 days in advance. MOCA Members enjoy early access to ticketing reservations. For complete program and ticketing details, please visit [moca.org/artistfilmseries](http://moca.org/artistfilmseries). **More Information:** For 24-hour information on current exhibitions, education programs, and special events, call 213-626-6222 or access MOCA online at [moca.org](http://moca.org).

## **CURRENT EXHIBITIONS:**

### **[Mapping an Art World: Los Angeles in the 1970s-80s](#)**

On view through March 17, 2024

MOCA Grand Avenue

### **[Long Story Short](#)**

On view through May 5, 2024

MOCA Grand Avenue

**UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS & PROGRAMS:**

**Wonmi's WAREHOUSE Programs**

**[KINK OUT: EPHEMERA](#)**

September 9-October 2, 2023

The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA

**Wonmi's WAREHOUSE Programs**

**[Moriah Evans, Remains Persist, 2023](#)**

October 28-29, November 2-4, 2023, 4–8pm

The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA

**[Olafur Eliasson](#)**

PST Art 2024

The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA

September 2024

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**MEDIA CONTACT**

Danielle Bias

Chief Communications Officer

[dbias@moca.org](mailto:dbias@moca.org)