



THE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 29, 2025

**ARTIST FILM SERIES RETURNS TO MOCA GRAND AVENUE ON MAY 24**

Featuring works by Sharon Hayes, Harmony Holiday,  
Genesis P-Orridge, and Billy Woodberry



Still from *And when I die, I won't stay dead*, 2016, dir. Billy Woodberry. Image courtesy of Grasshopper Film.

**LOS ANGELES**—The **MOCA Artist Film Series**, an active and dynamic platform for the presentation of artist films, continues at MOCA Grand Avenue on select Saturdays from May 24 through July 26, 2025. Originally launched in the spring of 2023 and presented by The Edward F. Limato Foundation, the Artist Film Series is inspired by film and video works in MOCA's renowned collection. The upcoming 2025 season features works by **Sharon Hayes**, **Harmony Holiday**, **Genesis P-Orridge**, and **Billy Woodberry**.

Taking place in the cinema capital of the world, these programs explore the critical issues of our time and place and focus on experiments in long-form, narrative, and feature-length films. The series features artists in dialogue with fellow artists, historians, and critics and takes place on Saturday afternoons in the Ahmanson Auditorium at MOCA Grand Avenue. The 2025 MOCA Artist Film Series is organized by Bennett Simpson, Senior Curator, with

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Alitzah Oros, Public Programming Associate.

Chief Curator & Director of Curatorial Affairs at MOCA, Clara Kim says, “We are immensely proud of the third consecutive year of the MOCA Artist Film Series, highlighting the power of storytelling and the narrative possibilities of video and film. We are ever grateful to The Edward F. Limato Foundation for their support in allowing MOCA to present another dynamic set of screenings and conversations.”

“This season’s lineup offers a look at intersections of artistic and personal invention,” said Bennett Simpson, Senior Curator at MOCA. “From Harmony Holiday’s lyrical meditation on Thelonious Monk to Billy Woodberry’s elegy for Beat poet Bob Kaufman, the films invite audiences to see history through an artist’s lens.”

All MOCA Artist Film Series screenings are free with advance reservations. Tickets for each screening are released on a rolling basis and become available up to 21 days in advance. [MOCA Members](#) enjoy early access to ticket reservations starting on Tuesday, April 29, 2025. For complete program and ticketing details, please visit [moca.org/artistfilmseries](https://moca.org/artistfilmseries).

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#### **SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SCREENINGS:**

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

All screenings take place in the Ahmanson Auditorium at MOCA Grand Avenue.

**Saturday, May 24, 2025, 3pm**

[Harmony Holiday](#)

[Abide With Me, 2024, 38 min](#)

[Free with RSVP](#)

*Abide With Me* (2024) is a short film that meditates on Black artistic identity before fame through a close look at the life of Thelonious Monk. At the age of seventeen, already serious about composing and playing piano, Monk left his home in Manhattan’s San Juan Hill to tour with an evangelist. From 1934–37 he played piano accompaniment to her faith healings. No one heard from him for three years. Found video recordings layered beneath Fred Moten’s voice-over of a text written by Holiday piece together these three years in the groundbreaking musician’s life prior to becoming a signed artist. The film opens outward from collaged archival material depicting the specificities of Monk’s life in less visible spaces. Holiday intersperses other clips of renowned artists like John Coltrane, Amiri Baraka, Lauryn Hill, Sun Ra, Tina Turner, Nina Simone, and Azealia Banks, not only on stage, but elsewhere in moments before and between performances when personality might slip a person’s grip—or, as Holiday’s film narrates, “where the white gaze does not know how to look.” Her conception of the “backstage” in this work materializes with a close look of a soon-legendary Monk in a nascent space of discovery, reinstating, as Holiday explains, “the hero’s journey of the Black performer as one that is defined by unseen glories, not spectacularized ones.”

***Harmony Holiday* will be present for a post-screening conversation with moderator **Robin D.G. Kelley**.**

**Harmony Holiday** is a writer, dancer, and experimental filmmaker whose work surveys music, ancestry, death and rebirth, and celebrity. She is the author of 5 collections of poetry including *Maafa* (2022), and also curates an archive of griot poetics and a related performance and conversation series at LA’s 2220 Arts + Archives. At the core of her practice is a pursuit of visual and literary vocabularies that might best express the melancholic hope

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endemic to Black American social life. As Holiday navigates the depths of Black remembrance and loss, she sets her sights on the relationship between “the new”, “the archival,” and the spaces between them that defy linear time. She treats these energies as collectively improvising ensembles in which prose and poetry sit by turns comfortable and chaotic, next to images cribbed from Black artistic and private life. Most recently she has received awards from the Silver and Rabkin Foundations, and is completing a memoir *Love is War for Miles*, a biography of Abbey Lincoln, and a collection of poems.

**Saturday, June 7, 2025, 3pm**

**[Genesis P-Orridge](#)**

**[S/he is Still Her/e: The Official Genesis P-Orridge Documentary, 2024, 98 min](#)**

**[Free with RSVP](#)**

Genesis P-Orridge lived their art to the extreme. A pioneering musician, avant-garde artist, spiritual explorer, and gender revolutionary, Genesis has been featured in films and videos, but never the full story, never this intimate, until now. In this authorized but raw and personal documentary, award-winning director David Charles Rodrigues (*Gay Chorus Deep South*) documents the final year of P-Orridge’s existence as they grapple with mortality and, in the process, reveal the many sacrifices and ultimate payoffs of a life that transcended boundaries. Featuring William Burroughs, Brion Gysin, Timothy Leary, Alice Genese (Psychic TV), David J (Bauhaus/Love and Rockets), Nepalese monks, African witch doctors, and a special cameo by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, plus never-before-seen archival treasures, including performances from Throbbing Gristle and Psychic TV.

***Genesse P-Orridge joins director David Charles Rodrigues and artist Ron Athey for a post-screening conversation.***

**Genesse P-Orridge** is the CEO and Creative Director of The Estate of Genesis P-Orridge. In her role overseeing her father’s legacy, she considers herself a guardian. Since taking on this responsibility, she has co-edited *Nonbinary: A Memoir*, Genesis P-Orridge’s posthumously published autobiography, with Abrams Books. She served as an executive producer for *S/he Is Still Her/e: The Official Genesis P-Orridge Documentary*, in which she also appeared. Genesse was interviewed by *The New York Times* about her work on the exhibition *We Are But One* at Pioneer Works at Red Hook Labs, which focused on her father’s complex and expansive *Pandrogyné Project*. Her sculpture installation *Altared State*, dedicated to her father and honoring Genesis’s influence as a parent, was part of this exhibit and featured in *The New York Times*. She has also collaborated with clothing brands such as Pleasures and Online Ceramics, releasing limited collections inspired by Genesis’s life, art, and music.

**Saturday, June 21, 2025, 3pm**

**[Sharon Hayes](#)**

**[Ricerche: four, 2024, 120 min](#)**

**[Free with RSVP](#)**

*Ricerche: four, 2024* is composed of interviews with three groups of LGBTQIA elders, filmed in Philadelphia, PA, Dowelltown, TN, and in Los Angeles, CA. Through joyful, illuminating, and deeply moving conversations, participants reflect on their relationships to community, family, activism, sex, sexuality, and the shifting political landscape. While not all participants identify as elders, each speaks from deep, lived experience that shapes their understanding of the social, political, and economic promises and possibilities — as well as the obstacles — facing them and their communities. These conversations make an inspired proposition for the importance of intergenerational collaboration, dialogue and care. *Ricerche: four* is one part of a 4-part video series that steps off Pier Paolo Pasolini’s brilliant 1964 film, *Comizi d’Amore*, to stage a contemporary inquiry into the “sexual problem” in the US.

**Sharon Hayes** will be present for a post-screening conversation with participants from the film.

**Sharon Hayes** is an artist who works with video, performance, sound, and public sculpture to reveal the intersections of history, politics, and speech. Her work challenges reductive historical narratives and reactivates overlooked pathways for developing alternative understandings of today's political landscape. Hayes' practice engages in dialogue and collective resonance with a diverse range of actions, voices, and practices that resist normative behaviors, unjust social contracts, and rigid timelines—opening up new possibilities for how we live and relate to one another in the world.

Her work sustains a distinct and vital commitment to performance and to collaboration and is devoted to the radical possibilities of non-normative occupation of public space and in holding public space as a site for unpredictable and unregulated encounters. Hayes has had numerous solo exhibitions, including at the Andrea Rosen Gallery in New York (2014), the Tanya Leighton Gallery in Berlin (2013), the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York (2012), and the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia in Madrid (2012). Her work has also been exhibited at the Venice Biennale (2013), the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York. She is the recipient of many awards and grants, including a Pew Fellowship (2016), a Guggenheim Fellowship (2014), the Alpert Award in Visual Arts (2013), an Anonymous Was a Woman Award (2013), and the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Fellowship (2007). She currently teaches in the Weitzman School of Design at the University of Pennsylvania.

**Saturday, July 26th, 2025, 3pm**

[Billy Woodberry](#)

[And when I die, I won't stay dead, 2016, 89 min](#)

[Free with RSVP](#)

Legendary Beat figure Bob Kaufman considered poetry a key to human survival, an idea made all the more legitimate by the longevity it's granted: the things he saw, heard, tasted, felt, and, most of all, thought were preserved in his work. Embodying the spirit of those efforts, the new film from Billy Woodberry, director of the landmark *Bless Their Little Hearts*, is perhaps the closest we can come to knowing the man and his time.

The picture is alternately dense and fleet in its assemblage of archival footage and photos, interviews with contemporaries, and readings from the likes of Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis. *And when I die's* cumulative effect is to understand a familiar, over-exposed era with new eyes, thanks in no small part to the honest assessment provided by some of New York's Beat generation some half-century removed. Its soundtrack (with selections by the likes of Billie Holiday and Ornette Coleman) hums, the participants are lively in their recollection of the man and his words, and the pace of its montage is energetic — a whirlwind procession that will leave viewers with a vivid understanding of Kaufman and his work.

**Harryette Mullen**, poet and professor in the Department of English at UCLA, joins MOCA Senior Curator, **Bennett Simpson**, for a poetry reading and post-screening conversation.

**Billy Woodberry** is one of the leading figures of the LA Rebellion—the new wave of Black American independent cinema that emerged from UCLA's film school in the '70s and '80s. Woodberry created one of the movement's defining works with his neorealist masterpiece *Bless Their Little Hearts*, an aching portrait of an ordinary family buckling under marital and economic pressures. Since then, Woodberry has forged his own distinctive brand of archival documentary filmmaking in searching, politically trenchant works like *And when I die, I won't stay dead*

and his latest, *Mário*, a portrait of the Pan-African thinker and activist Mário Pinto de Andrade, founder of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA).

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

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

Founded in 1979, MOCA is the defining museum of contemporary art. In a relatively short time, MOCA has achieved astonishing growth: a world-class collection of nearly 8,000 objects, international in scope with deep holdings in Los Angeles art; 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 new modes of media production.

### **MUSEUM ADMISSION**

General admission to MOCA Grand Avenue is free courtesy of Carolyn Clark Powers. 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:**

[\*Ordinary People: Photorealism and the Work of Art since 1968\*](#)

MOCA Grand Avenue

Now through May 4, 2025

[\*MOCA Focus: Ana Segovia\*](#)

MOCA Grand Avenue

Now through May 4, 2025

[\*Olafur Eliasson: OPEN\*](#)

The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA

Now through July 6, 2025

[\*Diary of Flowers: Artists and their Worlds\*](#)

MOCA Grand Avenue

Now through January 4, 2026

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