



THE ARTISTS FORUM FESTIVAL OF THE MOVING IMAGE RETURNS FOR ITS FIFTH YEAR

OCT. 16 – NOV 14, 2020

Festival to Showcase 42 International Short Films

NEW YORK - October 2, 2020 - THE ARTISTS FORUM FESTIVAL OF THE MOVING IMAGE (#theartistsforumfilmfest) returns for its fifth year with new, innovative programming beginning **October 16 through November 14, 2020**. The festival is a competitive program, and provides an accessible platform for filmmakers to share their stories with the world's creative, media, and film communities.

For the first time, our festival will be available exclusively online. To expand our global reach, we are proud to announce that we have partnered with the international screening platform, **Smart Cinema USA**. The Smart Cinema USA app is accessible on cross-platform devices including iOS/Android mobile phones and smart TVs.

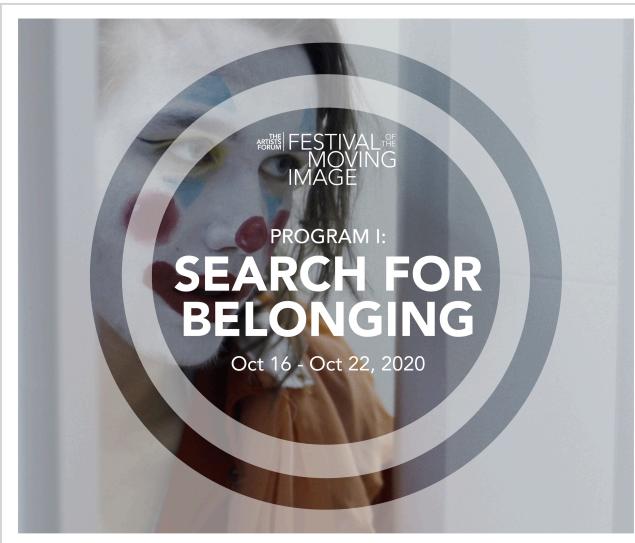
Smart Cinema USA is one of the most innovative virtual cinemas which dramatically increases the day-and-date theatrical releases of international films in North America.

“Since the very first day of our launch, our goal is to always showcase the best films to international audiences.” said Jack Gao, CEO of **Smart Cinema USA**. “We are honored that Smart Cinema USA has been selected by **THE ARTISTS FORUM** to be the exclusive platform during this global pandemic for this special event. We are committed to serve as the virtual cinema for new ways of exhibiting films.”

THE ARTISTS FORUM FESTIVAL OF THE MOVING IMAGE: 2020 will showcase **42** short films, created by independent filmmakers originating from **16** countries: [Australia](#), [Bangladesh](#), [Belgium](#), [Brazil](#), [Canada](#), [China](#), [France](#), [Iran](#), [Italy](#), [Japan](#), [South Korea](#), [North Macedonia](#), [Philippines](#), [Serbia](#), [United Kingdom](#), and the [United States](#). The festival requires that films present innovative vision and unique perspectives in 30 minutes or less.

Each year, the festival highlights a wide variety of categories, such as: *Narrative*, *Experimental*, *Documentary*, *Comedy*, *Dark Themes*, *Animation*, and *Music Video*. This year, the festival will also feature a special themed category: **New York Stories**.

The 2020 festival has been divided into **four** weekly programs:



PROGRAM I:
Search for Belonging



PROGRAM II:
Agent(s) of Chaos



PROGRAM III:
Tales of the Heart



PROGRAM IV:
Acute Stress Response

Visit theartistsforum.org for full program details.

Online screenings take place **October 16 - November 12, 2020**, ending with our annual awards ceremony on **November 14, 2020**. View the festival worldwide by downloading the **Smart Cinema USA** app on your smartphone.

"We are very excited about our fifth year entries," said festival director Amos White V. "As in years previous, **THE ARTISTS FORUM FESTIVAL OF THE MOVING IMAGE** will present a selection of original films from extraordinary filmmakers, including several premieres. We invite our audiences to "#discoveryourself" by exploring new interests through the art of cinema."

THE ARTISTS FORUM established its **FESTIVAL OF THE MOVING IMAGE** to provide an intimate alternative for both emerging and mid-career filmmakers outside of the traditional Hollywood community," states White, who is also the president and founder of **THE ARTISTS FORUM**. "We are committed to producing an unparalleled opportunity for independent filmmakers to be seen and heard in the formidable New York City and international arts and media markets."

THE ARTISTS FORUM INC., now in its 22nd year, is a New York City based non-profit arts service organization specializing in events, juried competitions, and media for artists. Its **FESTIVAL OF THE MOVING IMAGE** is the organization's flagship program.

THE ARTISTS FORUM FESTIVAL OF THE MOVING IMAGE: 2020 is funded in part by a grant from the **NYC & Company Foundation**.

Festival Partners: Smart Cinema USA, FilmFreeway
Media Sponsor: LinkNYC

For Tickets & Info on our festival, volunteering, partnering, and sponsoring:
theartistsforum.org

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