



THE
ARTISTS
FORUM | FESTIVAL OF THE
MOVING
IMAGE

PRESENTED BY THE ARTISTS FORUM
Oct 29 - Dec 12, 2021
New York City

WELCOME!

THE ARTISTS FORUM FESTIVAL OF THE MOVING IMAGE: 2021 returns for its sixth year with new, innovative programming. This year's festival will showcase **42** shorts and introduce **6** feature length films for its first time, highlighting our 2021 Competition Theme: **(THE) POLITICS OF EMOTION**.

Filmmakers were challenged to interpret our theme: **(THE) POLITICS OF EMOTION**. In this case, 'Politics' has a broader meaning than just government and can include much wider interpretations.

The 2021 Official Selections have been created by independent filmmakers originating from **20** countries: *Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Germany, Haiti, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and the United States*.

Virtual screenings for this year's festival are available online **October 29 – December 12, 2021**.

We've divided the selections into 5 programs of shorts and 1 program of 6 feature length films highlighting different aspects of our theme:

(The) Politics of Emotion I: **Defy**
(The) Politics of Emotion II: **Survive**
(The) Politics of Emotion III: **Oppression**
(The) Politics of Emotion IV: **Darkness**
(The) Politics of Emotion V: **LGBTQ+**
(The) Politics of Emotion VI: **Features**

Programs I – V's short films offer 7-day streaming, available on Vimeo for \$3.99 per program. **Program VI's** individual feature films also include 7-day streaming on Vimeo for \$3.99 per film. Our discounted **All-Access Festival Pass** – a total of 48 films – is \$34.99 for 30-day streaming.

Buy your tickets and festival passes here:
vimeo.com/ondemand/theartistsforumfilmfest

The festival's annual Closing Night Awards Ceremony will be held on **December 11, 2021**.

THE ARTISTS FORUM INC., now in its 23rd 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, and provides an unparalleled platform for emerging and mid-career filmmakers to share their stories with the world's creative, media, and film communities.

Festival links:
[2021 Film Fest Site](#), [2021 Official Trailer](#), [2021 Festival Sneak Peek](#)

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(THE) POLITICS OF EMOTION I: DEFY
9 Short Films - 124 mins ▶

Our first program presents films where people defy social norms, reclaim their agency, and take charge of their lives.



Cutstein - 10:46 mins (2020)
Writer/Director: Hamidreza Khosh-Bazan (Iran)
EXPERIMENTAL – Life of an editor who works for Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting and feels like Frankenstein, creating a monster. Imaging of all movie sequences have been done with a cell phone.



String of Life - 11:35 mins (2021)
Writer/Dir: Amir Shakiba & Alireza Khajehali (Iran)
DOCUMENTARY – A disabled woman saves her family from collapse. [New York State Premiere](#)



Home (The Gambia) - 5:55 mins (2020)
Editor/Director: Harry James Dwinell (US)
DOCUMENTARY – Home seeks to show the multi-faceted Gambian culture through images and testimonials gathered during my 2.5 year stay and explain why Gambian's proudly call this land home. [World Premiere](#)



Alezan - 7:53 mins (2021)
Writer/Director: Loïc Faquet (France)
EXPERIMENTAL – A woman in a wedding dress finds herself in a stable. As her intimacy is being disturbed, she starts wondering about the possibility to choose her own destiny. [US Premiere](#)



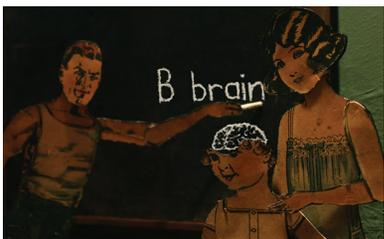
Haiku - 17:17 mins (2020)
Writer/Director: Martin Gerigk (Germany)
EXPERIMENTAL – A symphonic audiovisual project featuring two Japanese performers. Its experimental approach pays tribute to the extraordinary art of Japanese haiku poetry. [New York State Premiere](#)



Rimi - 13:05 mins (2021)
Writer/Director: Nischhal Sharma (India)
NARRATIVE – Rimi, a housewife stuck in a mundane domestic life, finds herself on the threshold of leaving everything behind when a desire awakens in her after encountering the young, attractive Riya. [New York State Premiere](#)



Confluence - 15:00 mins (2020)
Director: ETA (US)
DOCUMENTARY – A meditation on Asian American ancestry and queer identity experiences. Filmed during moonroom's 2019 PHASE – a showcase series celebrating APIDAHM in LA. [East Coast Premiere](#)



The Ephemeral Orphanage - 15:00 mins (2020)
Director: Lisa Barcy (US)
ANIMATION – Tattered paper dolls daydream alternate realities and explore the lives of their strict and secretive caregivers. Created with authentic paper dolls found in a 1920's newspaper. [New York State Premiere](#)



I Elect: Power Every Four Years
26:32 mins (2020)
Writer: Bill Spring (US)/Director: Ricky J. Martinez (US)
NARRATIVE – A call-to-action for anti-racism, the power of voting, a personal side of COVID, and aims to raise awareness about voter suppression. [New York State Premiere](#)



(THE) POLITICS OF EMOTION II: SURVIVE

8 Short Films - 99 mins ▶

This program focuses on survival in its many forms - spirituality, the ecology, and psychological stresses relating to the pandemic and other factors.



The Stream XI - 7:50 mins (2020)
Writer/Director: Hiroya Sakurai (Japan)

EXPERIMENTAL – In XI, I consider why waterways are created. Its flow is necessary for crop cultivation and commerce. Waterways circulate goods and act as transportation and societal information networks. [New York State Premiere](#)



This Mortal Plastik - 21:18 mins (2021)
Writer/Director: Jess Irish (US)

DOCUMENTARY – A personal dive into the world's most impersonal substance – plastics. Amid lockdown, a bereaved mother journeys to better understand the landscape of single-use synthetics.



What God Wants - 6:25 mins (2020)
Director: Mykhailo Bogdanov (Ukraine/US)

DOCUMENTARY (Student) – A young, successful Chicago lawyer questions if his work is meaningful enough. He decides to follow his call to become a priest. Only then does he discover his true purpose. [New York State Premiere](#)



Krunk - 3:35 mins (2020)
Writer/Director: Francesco Siro Brigiano (Italy)
MUSIC VIDEO – Cellist Allesio Pianelli's first music video – A dreamlike journey in intimate Sicily. [New York City Premiere](#)



Survivors - 6:30 mins (2020)
Writer/Director: Carlos Gómez-Trigo (Spain)
COMEDY – Natural selection says that only those who adapt will survive. What if humans have become stupid?



Call Waiting - 12:36 mins (2021)
Writer/Director: CJ Barnes (US/Australia)
DARK THEMES – When an operator on an overnight shift at a call centre gets increasingly bizarre phone calls, she must determine what the caller wants, or someone may die. [North American Premiere](#)



I May Be Wrong - 8:29 mins (2020)
Writer/Director: David Giardina (US)
COMEDY – What happens when a singer is urged by his 1930's pals to perform in a splashy show during pandemic hysteria. [New York City Premiere](#)



Wrath - 32:07 mins (2020)
Writer/Director: Meg Case & Brad Porter (US)
DARK THEMES – Amidst a mandatory quarantine, a young woman living in isolation battles growing paranoia and deteriorating mental health as her fear of the outside world drives her deeper inwards. [North American Premiere](#)



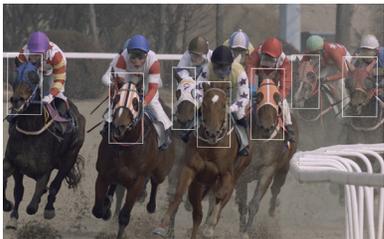
(THE) POLITICS OF EMOTION III: OPPRESSION
 9 Short Films - 107 mins ▶

In this series, individualism is suppressed and societal pressures make it almost impossible to overcome, begging the question "Is it all worth it?"



American - 3:17 mins (2020)
 Writer/Director: Julian Hall (US)

NARRATIVE – American is a 3 minute 17 seconds short film that takes a brisk, yet provocative look at what people fight for and their perspective for choosing "their" fight. [World Premiere](#)



Orbital Squares - 18:00 mins (2020)
 Writer/Director: Moojin Brothers (South Korea)

EXPERIMENTAL – Technology obsessively searches for physical objects using inefficient eyes. Artists create virtual facial recognition systems, inviting viewers to assess data from its squares.



Seva - 15:46 mins (2019)
 Writer/Director: Rippin Sindher (US)

DOCUMENTARY – From 9/11 to the Oak Creek Temple massacre, Sikhs combat xenophobia and hate groups practicing selfless service known as seva. They fight to force accurate FBI reporting.



Seven Fishes - 10:25 mins (2021)
 Writer: Ali Keller (US)/Director: Jaclyn Gramigna (US)
 NARRATIVE – So wrapped up in creating the perfect Feast of the Seven Fishes, an Italian American family can't see one of them doesn't intend to stay.



Mickey Hardaway - 19:23 mins (2020)
 Writer/Director: Marcellus Cox (US)
 NARRATIVE – A young sketch artist visits a well renowned psychiatrist as his life begins sprawling out of control after years of physical and verbal abuse has taken a toll on him. [New York City Premiere](#)



In Plane English - 1:00 min (2020)
 Director: Brian Plonka (US)
 EXPERIMENTAL – A marriage hits the rocks. Repulsiveness, clearly pontificated, at 30,000 feet. [New York City Premiere](#)



Lower Grand - 10:00 mins (2020)
 Writer/Director: Jeff Dorer (US)
 DOCUMENTARY – This film chronicals Great Recession recovery via the secret life of a street known to most from media. Depending which side you're on, its portals are windows on the upper crust of American society or its lower depths. [North American Premiere](#)



Five Minutes The End - 13:18 mins (2021)
 Writer/Director: Ramtin Kouchaki Hassankiadeh (Iran)
 NARRATIVE – A woman endures many hardships during her life from her husband, family, and unjust laws. Now she's found out she's pregnant. What will she do to prevent her child from being born in Iran? [World Premiere](#)



A New World - 15:14 mins (2021)
 Writer/Director: Slav Velkov (Bulgaria)
 NARRATIVE (Student) – A working-class man has to choose between staying in the room where he lived all his life or defying the mysterious figure that holds him captive.



(THE) POLITICS OF EMOTION IV: DARKNESS
9 Short Films - 83 mins ▶

Films in this program present a harsh look at our world and ourselves - hoping, but not always actualizing a positive outcome.



Rock. Paper. Scissors. - 9:30 mins (2021)
Writer: John Alexander Fraser (UK)
Director: Dmitry Torgovitsky (Russia/US)
EXPERIMENTAL – A man wakes up in a world where people communicate by playing rock paper scissors. He seeks to solve this mystery.
[World Premiere](#)



Firefalls - 12:45 mins (2020)
Writer/Director: Ariel Neo (France)
EXPERIMENTAL – Firefalls explores the reality of our world and depicts the devastation caused by humans on Earth and asks how long can mankind run away from the apocalypse it birthed itself?
[New York City Premiere](#)



The Clown Statue - 10:00 mins (2020)
Writer/Director: Joseph Maddalone (US)
DARK THEMES (Student) – A teenager babysitting for a family finds a disturbing clown statue in the corner of a room. She quickly learns there's more to the statue than meets the eye.
[World Premiere](#)



Planet M in Outer Space - 5:25 mins (2021)
Writer/Director: Peter Meng (US)
EXPERIMENTAL – This early film was found buried (intentionally?) in MGM's Archives. Historians restored and unwittingly shared it publicly. The film reveals a sinister alien plot to overtake Manhattan.



Widow's End - 4:42 mins (2019)
Writer/Director: Jil Guyon (US)
EXPERIMENTAL – The perils of a woman's isolation and climate instability meet in this split screen video set against the backdrop of a volcanic red rock quarry in southern Iceland.



Sebastapol - 5:05 mins (2020)
Director: Marco North (US)
MUSIC VIDEO – Self-directed music video supporting their debut album.



City of Silence - 15:00 mins (2020)
Director: Nicolle Marquez (US)
DOCUMENTARY – An elder man copes with a double aftermath: a ravaged island and the passing of his wife. [New York State Premiere](#)



The War Within - 14:59 mins (2020)
Writer/Director: Javid Farahani (Iran)
NARRATIVE – A bitter, paralyzed man trades dollars from home. He hopes for a US/Iran war so his values will soar. The profit would make him rich and pay for a leg operation. Then, there's his wife... [East Coast Premiere](#)



Behind the Glass - 5:00 mins (2021)
Writer/Director: Pedro de la Llave (Spain)
ANIMATION – Mario thinks he is in control, knows what he's doing, and looks down on people on the other side of the glass. But, what Mario doesn't know is that the glass itself is not on his side.



(THE) POLITICS OF EMOTION V: LGBTQ+
7 Short Films - 108 mins ▶

Filmmakers from all walks of life share stories about themselves or commentaries on their communities as seen through their artistic lens.



Hide or Seek - 19:45 mins (2021)
Writer/Director: Brian Newell (US)
DARK THEMES – Andrew introduces his boyfriend to childhood friends by playing a nostalgic, terrifying game of Hide and Seek. The game turns deadly when he discovers someone hiding in the shadows...



Autoimmune - 12:25 mins (2020)
Writer/Director: Marcos Serafim (Brazil/US)
EXPERIMENTAL – An entity speaks troubling, distorted understandings of HIV, queerness, and disease, gaining agency over data, altering archival images, and animating figures to speak.
[East Coast Premiere](#)



Masisi Wouj - 22:00 mins (2021)
Director: Zé Kielwagen, Marcos Serafim (Brazil), Steevens Simeon (Haiti)
DOCUMENTARY – Haitian artist and activist Sanba Yonel creates a queer tribute to the Lwa, Vodou gods and goddesses who once inspired a revolution.
[New York State Premiere](#)



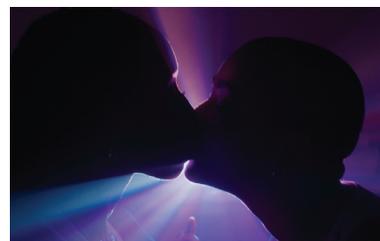
Griffica - 11:30 mins (2021)
Writer/Director: C.J. Arellano (US)
NARRATIVE – A man suspects his all-too-perfect boyfriend is a demon in disguise.



Organ Play - 6:47 mins (2019)
Writer/Director: Jiang Feng (Taiwan)
EXPERIMENTAL – What is sex and the sexual-sensual body? This film presents empathic tactile and aural experiences with sensual choreography to re-imagine and re-define human sexuality.



Dear Elsa: 10 Letters + 10 Experiments
30:00 mins (2020)
Director: Amanda Madden (US)
EXPERIMENTAL – Through a series of experiments, filmmaker Amanda Madden attempts to embody and communicate with the ghost of radical artist Baroness Elsa von Freytag-Loringhoven.
[East Coast Premiere](#)



To You My Love - 4:55 mins (2021)
Writer/Director: Olivia Gastaldo (US)
EXPERIMENTAL – To You My Love investigates the visual poetry of a love letter.
[New York State Premiere](#)



FESTIVAL OF MOVING IMAGE
 (THE) POLITICS OF EMOTION VI
FEATURES
 OCT 29 - DEC 12, 2021

(THE) POLITICS OF EMOTION VI: FEATURES
 6 Feature Films - 10 hrs 31 min: ▶

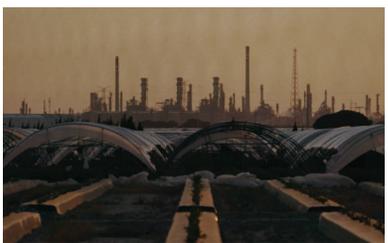
This program consists of both documentaries and narrative films, exploring various aspects of our festival theme.



Directed By - 1hr 30 mins (2021)
 Writer: Steve Race & Michael K. Race (US)
 Director: Steve Race (US)
 DOCUMENTARY FEATURE - A behind the scenes look at the 72nd Academy Awards live telecast from 2000.



Externo - 1hr 23 mins (2020)
 Writer: Leandro Taub (Argentina/US)
 Dir: Jonathan Taub, Leandro Taub (Argentina/US)
 NARRATIVE FEATURE - A revolutionary businessman tries to conquer the world with \$2,000.



Hinterland Hideout - 57:03 mins (2020)
 Writer/Director: Dirk Hoyer (Germany/Estonia)
 DOCUMENTARY FEATURE - Spain's Huelva region is rough-edged with many environmental challenges. But, two immigrants from different lands set out separately to make this place their home. [World Premiere](#)



Making an Exoneree - 3hr 27 mins (2021)
 Writer: Cindy Dorfmann (US)
 Director: Rob Dorfmann & Cindy Dorfmann (US)
 DOCUMENTARY FEATURE - 16 Georgetown undergrads re-investigate five wrongful conviction cases to successfully help free an innocent man. [New York City Premiere](#)



Ruins - 1hr 16 mins (2020)
 Writer/Director: Jay Mohan (India/US)
 NARRATIVE FEATURE - Nine years after an infection that destroyed most of humanity, survivors search the debris to find clues of what really transpired. [New York City Premiere](#)



Silenced Tree - 1hr 57 mins (2020)
 Writer/Director: Faysal Soysal (Turkey)
 NARRATIVE FEATURE – Hayati is a small-town literature teacher and one-hit-wonder author who can't let go of his past. After witnessing a murder he questions if standing by is as big a sin as doing it? [North American Premiere](#)

SPECIAL THANKS

FESTIVAL JURY:

Ashley Gerst, Martha Gorzycki, Henry Kanegsberg, Cary Patrick Martin, Lee Milby, Djordje Radovanovich, David Ranghelli, Cherie Song, José Carlos Teixeira, Anthony von Seck, Amos White V, Vitkor Witkowski

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR:

Amos White V

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Aaron Leventman

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MEDIA SPONSOR:

Danny Otten at LinkNYC

FESTIVAL PARTNERS:

Film Freeway, Vimeo On Demand, Printed by nyprintinggraphics.com

FESTIVAL SUPPORTERS:

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WEB DEVELOPMENT:

Serge Aristide Nikiema

GRAPHIC DESIGN INTERNS:

Colette Angel, Allison Bynum, Jackson Chen, Vaishali Kriplani, Nicky Zhong

VIDEO INTERNS:

Nezih Bouali, Harry Dwinell, Andie Espinosa, Charles Valdez

SOCIAL MEDIA INTERNS:

Samantha Aberbach, Elizabeth Starace

STRATEGIC DESIGN INTERN:

Avni Surana

UNIVERSITY PARTNERS:

NYIT: Amy Bravo, Luzia Ogureck, Dr. Birasnav Muthraj, Dr. Deborah Y. Cohn, Jessica Boudouris.
The New School: Marisa LoBianco, Austin Cartagena, Kevin Bukreev, Stavroula Koinis

THE ARTISTS FORUM's programs are supported by artists, arts enthusiasts, and members of the philanthropic community concerned about the education, motivation, and well-being of the under-served artist. We encourage you to **support our mission** by pledging your tax-deductible donations today.

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