

A large circular graphic composed of concentric rings. The outermost ring is a solid dark brown. Inside it is a white ring. The next ring inward contains a film strip image, showing various scenes including a person's face and architectural details. The center of the graphic is a white circle containing the festival's title.

THE
ARTISTS
FORUM | FESTIVAL OF THE
MOVING
IMAGE

PRESENTED BY THE ARTISTS FORUM
Oct 16 - Nov 22, 2025
New York City

THE ARTISTS FORUM FESTIVAL OF THE MOVING IMAGE: 2025 returns for its 10th year with new, innovative programming. This year's festival features 21 films created by independent filmmakers originating from 10 countries: Australia, France, Iran, Japan, Mexico, Portugal, Slovenia, South Korea, United Kingdom, and the US. Our 2025 Competition Theme is Access.

Opening Night Filmmakers Reception will be held Oct. 16th in Manhattan. Live Screenings will be held Oct. 17th at the Dolby Screening Room. The screening features 14 of the 21 selected films, followed by our annual Awards Ceremony.

The 14 films are: Anomie, Sleeping With Gus, The Tensile Strength of Air, The Auditor and The Apocalypse, Dilemma, Finding Peace in My Body, Sensible, Atom & Void, Hasta en La Luz, Haunted, Last Hoorah at GBaby's, Nadine, Pointee De Couture, The Stream XIV.

All 21 Official Selections can be viewed online from. Online Screenings for this years festival begin October 25 – November 22, 2025 and have been divided into 4 programs (See film synopses below).

PROGRAM I: IDENTITY ACCESS



Nadine - 11:58 mins (2024)

Writer/Director: Tash Ann (US)

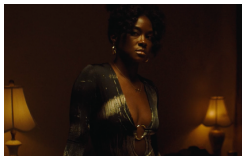
NARRATIVE SHORT– In 1950's Hollywood, an aging starlet's final performance becomes an act of rebellion when she discovers the studio system is discarding her after years of control and abuse.



Finding Peace in My Body - 19mins (2025)

Writer/Director: Todd Ford (US)

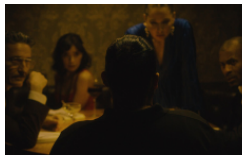
DOCUMENTARY SHORT – Finding Peace in My Body is a captivating story about Achim Howard becoming the positive male role model he is today. New York Premiere
New York State Premiere



Last Hoorah at GBaby's - 14:55 mins (2024)

Writer/Director: DeeDee Casimir (US)

NARRATIVE SHORT – After blowing through her cash inheritance, an aimless and apathetic art school grad must come up with five months of back rent or she risks eviction from her rent-controlled apartment in a gentrifying Brooklyn.



Sleeping With Gus - 9:08 mins (2025)

Writer/Director: Antony Raymond (US)

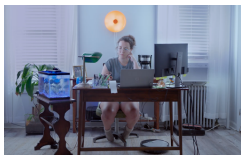
NARRATIVE SHORT – In a sleek, surreal restaurant teeming with flamboyant patrons, Gustavo, a soft-spoken young man, unwittingly becomes the center of a seductive and mysterious web of intrigue.



Stranded - 14:54 mins (2023)

Director: John Moschopoulos (UK)

DOCUMENTARY SHORT – The bus was their lifeline. How far will they go to get it back? **North American Premiere**

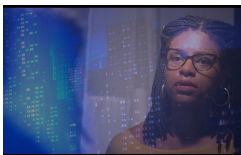


The Auditor and the Apocalypse - 7:53 mins (2024)

Writer: Genna Reed (US)

Director: Cinder Chou (US)

COMEDY SHORT – An overworked accountant misses the apocalypse to meet deadlines.

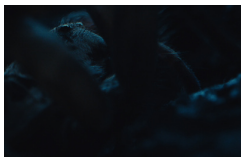


The Tensile Strength of Air - 16:03 mins (2025)

Writer/Director: Shayna Connelly (US)

NARRATIVE SHORT – After witnessing a suicide in public, Lauren re-evaluates herself in relationship to friends, family and career. **New York State Premiere**

PROGRAM II: DARK ACCESS



Atom & Void - 8:46 mins (2024)

Writer/Director: Gonalo Almeida (Portugal)

NARRATIVE SHORT – In Valya's burrow, a repeated rumbling disrupts her life and pushes her into the unknown. **New York State Premiere**



Dilemma - 13:56 mins (2025)

Writer: Matthew Samuels (US)

Director: Trevan Jay Hiatt

NARRATIVE SHORT – When friends find themselves trapped in a situation they can't escape, panic sets in, and their once-close bond begins to fray.



Haunted - 5:09 mins (2025)

Writer: Kamaria Williams (US)

Directors: Kamaria Williams & Shemeka Wright (US)

NARRATIVE SHORT – A queer Black person must confront a ghostly presence that threatens to shatter their reality unless they face the trauma they've tried to forget. **World Premiere**



The Knowing - 20:49 mins (2024)

Writer: Robert Philipson (US)

Director: Jonathan Rowan (US)

NARRATIVE SHORT – After learning that his ex-lover is dying of AIDS, Adam rushes to a DC hospital to be by his side. A shocking revelation is revealed. [New York State Premiere](#)



Anomie - 12:38 mins (2025)

Writer/Director: Nataša Prosenc Stearns (Slovenia)

EXPERIMENTAL – In a meditative, ritualistic atmosphere, a digital moving painting Anomie expresses a sense of drift, disintegration and instability resulting from a breakdown of standards and values. [North American Premiere](#)



HASTA EN LA LUZ / 15:34 mins (2025)

Writer/Director: Valeria A. Avina (Mexico)

NARRATIVE SHORT – Haunted by invisible terrors, a young Mexican child battles sleepwalking episodes and escalating trauma, forcing her fractured family to confront the darkness lurking inside their home — and themselves. [East Coast Premiere](#)

PROGRAM III: EXPERIENTIAL ACCESS



The Stream XIV - 8:17 mins (2025)

Director: Hiroya Sakurai (Japan)

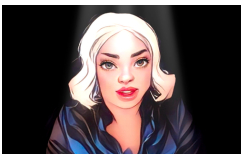
EXPERIMENTAL – Landscapes transform as wind blows through fields. Using wind chimes, one perceives the invisible presence through sound. Ripples of wind arising in the fields capture its presence visually. [New York State Premiere](#)



Performance No.19190301 - 40:09 mins (2024)

Writer/Director: Mingyu Kang (South Korea)

NARRATIVE FEATURE- A teenage boy and his grandmother, embark on an aimless journey that takes an unexpected turn when their broken-down car's TV transports them into Korea's history through a mysterious show. [North American Premiere](#)



Pointé de Couture - 19 mins (2024)

Writer/Director: Carol Higgins (US)

ANIMATED SHORT – When a dressmaker's labor is erased by the myth of a "Fairy Godmother," she reclaims her voice in a non-linear deconstruction of Cinderella that reveals who gains access to power and recognition. [North American Premiere](#)



Sensible - 8:08 mins (2024)

Writer/Director: Axel Chemin (France)

EXPERIMENTAL SHORT – “In the heart of emptiness, as well as in the heart of man, there are fires that burn.” – SENSIBLE invites us to experience a sensory and hypnotic journey through dance and the works of Yves Klein. **East Coast Premiere**

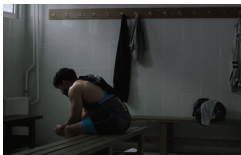


The Future is Virtual - 14:35 mins (2025)

Writer/Director: Michael Mackenzie (Australia)

ANIMATED SHORT – Luca despises the physical world and subscribes to a revolution that will disembody humanity into a pure virtual existence. But, when forced to see a government case-worker, a desire is revealed. **North American Premiere**

PROGRAM VI: IRANIAN ACCESS



A Good Day Will Come - 25:42 mins (2024)

Writer/Director: Amir Zargara (Iran)

NARRATIVE – Arash is a pro wrestler with dreams of representing his nation and winning medals. His country is in turmoil and people are suffering. He must decide between using his platform to stand up to tyranny or put his head down and remain silent.



Amida - 25:58 mins (2025)

Writer/Director: Majid Mirhashemi (Iran)

NARRATIVE – On the verge of gender transition, Qasem is invited by her brothers to a celebration where she is renamed Parvaneh. But the arrival of eldest brother Khandadash shatters the moment.



Spider-Zan - 12:46 mins (2024)

Writer/Director: Maryam Khodabakhsh (Iran)

NARRATIVE – Spider-Zan explores the transformative journey of Negar, a young woman in Iran, as she breaks free from traditional norms. **New York City Premiere**

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

THE ARTISTS FORUM 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 in New York City.

2025 THEME: ACCESS

This year, filmmakers were challenged to interpret our theme: ACCESS. This theme explores the systems of power that shape inclusion and exclusion in society. By examining the barriers, opportunities, and struggles for equity, autonomy, and belonging, artists are encouraged to question who gains access, who is excluded, and what the consequences are.

Through this lens, the theme highlights how historical and systemic legacies of power continue to impact individuals and communities. We seek works that challenge inequities, envision pathways to inclusion, and reflect on the transformative possibilities of expanding access in a rapidly evolving world.

ACCESS is part of our OVERARCHING THEME for 2024 - 2025:

Legacies of Power: Access, Identity, and the Forces That Shape Our World

This two-year exploration examines the enduring legacies of colonialism and imperialism in shaping modern systems of power, opportunity, and identity. From the emerging dynamics of techno-feudalism to the barriers and pathways of access, and the deeply ingrained biases of societal access, we invite artists to interrogate the structures that define our world. Through diverse perspectives, this overarching theme seeks to illuminate the forces that sustain inequality and inspire bold visions of inclusion and equity in a rapidly evolving global landscape.

Yearly Theme Submissions

Each year focuses on a distinct aspect of this theme: 2024 explored Techno-Feudalism, while 2025 delves into Access. Artists have been invited to submit works that align with the current year's focus, contributing to a dynamic and thought-provoking exploration of the forces shaping individual and collective experiences.

THANK YOU

2025 FESTIVAL JURY:

Mary Lou Belli, Henry Kanegsberg, Jonathan Taub, and Amos White V

FESTIVAL DIRECTOR:

Amos White V

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Amos White V, Henry S. Kanegsberg, Glynette Bowers Brown

FESTIVAL AMBASSADOR:

Adrianna David

FESTIVAL VOLUNTEERS:

Ayishatu Seidu, Cinder Chou, Moussa Dumbia, Todd Ford, Serge Nikiema, Nina Evans, Lihao Zhu

2025 FESTIVAL PARTNERS:

Beverley Prentice - Thomas, Bernie Anderson, Darin Hallinan, Rebecca Schmitt at Dolby. FilmFreeway. John Seaborne at Arlo Hotels. Esther Song at YOTEL New York Times Square. Chris Jenkins at Movement Pinback Buttons, Ricky Bradford at LV Swag Team



THE ARTISTS FORUM, now celebrating its 26th year, is a New York City based non-profit art services organization, specializing in events, juried competitions, and media for artists.

Our mission is to empower artists by providing accessible platforms to showcase innovative work while engaging culturally diverse audiences to new, inspiring, and life-enriching ideas.

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