

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE PRESENTS FIRST MAJOR U.S. EXHIBITION DEVOTED TO THE MULTISENSORY WORK OF JOSÉ VAL DEL OMAR

March 10–October 1, 2023



[Press images for *Cinema of Sensations* are available here.](#)

Astoria, New York, February 24, 2023 — Museum of the Moving Image will present *Cinema of Sensations: The Never-Ending Screen of Val del Omar*, the first major gallery exhibition in the United States to feature the immersive cinematic installations of José Val del Omar, from March 10–October 1, 2023. Presented in collaboration with the Val del Omar Archive, the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, and the Max Estrella Gallery, the exhibition will explore the work of the visionary Spanish artist, filmmaker, and inventor who approached film as a multisensory, transcendent experience, and whose installations anticipated what later became known as “expanded cinema.”

Cinema of Sensations is organized by guest curator Almudena Escobar López with curatorial advisor and Director of the Val del Omar Archive Piluca Baquero, and Gonzalo Sáenz de Buruaga, President of the Val del Omar Archive as consultant.

With screening spaces devoted to Val del Omar's *Elementary Triptych of Spain* (1953–95) as its centerpiece, *Cinema of Sensations* will feature a selection of photographs, archival materials, films, and inventions that presage or influence the work of artists and filmmakers to this day, while also examining Val del Omar's creative evolution during a pivotal time in Spanish history. Among the themes explored are Val del Omar's ideas about pedagogy and human perception, his cosmic vision of the world, and his enduring interest in invention and experimentation. Visitors can expect to be fully immersed in the artist's groundbreaking works, with multiple senses engaged to create a dynamic experience that disrupts conventional relationships between viewer and screen.

Val del Omar's work will be shown alongside newly commissioned pieces by international contemporary artists Sally Golding, Matt Spendlove, and Tim Cowlshaw; Duo Prismáticas (Aitziber Olaskoaga & Pilar Monsell); Esperanza Collado; and Colectivo Los Ingrávidos, who interpret and draw on his work for inspiration.

"We are thrilled to introduce José Val del Omar's work to U.S. audiences, and to present new installations by contemporary artists who are inspired by his legacy of technical experimentation and aesthetic inquiry," said Barbara Miller, MoMI Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs.

"José Val del Omar was ahead of his time working with concepts of expanded cinema from the 1930s to the 1980s. He looked at the film experience as a spiritual one engaging all the senses, and there could not be a better time for people to discover his work as we emerge from years of living in COVID isolation," said curator Escobar López.

Cinema of Sensations is presented with major support from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Acción Cultural Española (AC/E), National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), and the Consulate General of Spain New York. Additional support provided by the Australian Consulate-General, New York; the Australia Council for the Arts; and ArtsACT.

This project is supported by a grant awarded to Museum of the Moving Image by Empire State Development and I LOVE NY/New York State's Division of Tourism through the Regional Economic Development Council initiative. Additional support was provided by the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

About Museum of the Moving Image

Museum of the Moving Image (MoMI) is the only institution in the United States that deals comprehensively with the art, technology, enjoyment, and social impact of film, television, and digital media. In its stunning facility in Astoria, New York, the Museum presents exhibitions; screenings; discussion programs featuring actors, directors, and creative leaders; and education programs. It houses the nation's largest collection of moving image artifacts and screens over 500 films annually. Its exhibitions—including the core exhibition *Behind the Screen* and *The Jim Henson Exhibition*—are noted for their integration of material objects, interactive experiences, and audiovisual presentations.

###

Image credit: Installation views of José Val del Omar's "Óptica Biónica" and Tetraprojector, c.1974–1982. From the 2018 exhibition "From Gutenberg to Faraday," courtesy of Max Estrella Gallery and Val del Omar Archive.

Press Contacts:

Tomoko Kawamoto, MoMI, tkawamoto@movingimage.us

Alex Cutler and Hayley Brinkman, Sunshine Sachs Morgan & Lylis, momi@ssmandl.com

MUSEUM INFORMATION

Hours: Thursday, 2:00–6:00 p.m. Friday, 2:00–8:00 p.m. Saturday–Sunday, 12:00–6:00 p.m.

General Museum Admission: \$20 adults, \$12 senior citizens (ages 65+) and students (ages 18+) with ID, \$10 youth (ages 3–17). Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. General admission is free every Thursday, 2:00–6:00 p.m.

Address: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street), Astoria (Queens), NY, 11106

Subway: M (weekdays only) or R to Steinway Street. W (weekdays only) or N to 36 Ave.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: movingimage.us

Membership: movingimage.us/join-and-support/become-a-member or 718 777 6877

Film Screenings: Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, and as scheduled. Unless noted, tickets are \$15 adults / \$11 students and seniors / \$9 youth (ages 3–17) / free or discounted for Museum members. Advance online purchase is recommended.

Please review visitor safety guidelines [here](#).

Follow the Museum on Facebook ([@MovingImageMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/MovingImageMuseum)), Twitter ([@movingimagenyc](https://twitter.com/movingimagenyc)), and Instagram ([@movingimagenyc](https://www.instagram.com/movingimagenyc)).

Museum of the Moving Image is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and has received significant support from the following public agencies: New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; New York City Council; New York City Economic Development Corporation; New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Governor and the New York State Legislature; Institute of Museum and Library Services; National Endowment for the Humanities; National Endowment for the Arts; and Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation). For more information, please visit movingimage.us.