

## Artists' Film International 2025: *Dream States*

- Artists' Film International 2025 presents *Dream States* - a programme of artist films from around the globe that dismantle reality and envision alternative futures, running from 3 March - 31 December 2025.
- Featuring 16 moving-image works, including a Forma co-commission by Turner Prize nominee Sin Wai Kin, and new films by Heesoo Kwon, Babu Eshwar Prasad and Anette Gellein.
- Curated by Forma with 16 arts organisations who present the programme across four continents - including a new partnership with Southwark Park Galleries, London and returning AFI partners Istanbul Modern, Türkiye and MCAD Manila, Philippines



Sin Wai Kin, *The Fortress*, 2024. Film still. Co-commissioned by Lahore Biennale Foundation and Forma. Supported by The British Council and Shane Akeroyd. Image courtesy the artist.

### **Artists' Film International 2025: *Dream States***

Worldwide presentations 3 March - 31 December 2025

[artistsfilminternational.com](http://artistsfilminternational.com)

*Dream States* – the 18th edition of Artists' Film International – commences on 3 March 2025 with a visionary programme of artists' moving image. Exploring dreaming as both a transformative state and a radical act, the films in *Dream States* challenge perceptions of reality and open pathways to alternative futures. Curated by Forma with 16 cultural institutions across four continents, this year's edition showcases a remarkable cohort of artists, each selected or commissioned by an AFI'25 partner. Presented in diverse formats, including exhibitions, festivals, and screenings, AFI'25 unfolds across the partners' venues

throughout 2025, guiding global audiences through mythic worlds, dystopian landscapes, fractured memories, and speculative possibilities.

At the intersection of personal consciousness and external realities, *Dream States* explores the emancipatory potential of dreams, altered states, and cinematic illusion. The programme foregrounds artists who disrupt linear time, blur fact and fiction, and navigate the boundaries between memory, myth, and fantasy to reimagine the world anew. Using an array of visual strategies, from analogue footage to CGI animation, layered archival materials, special effects and AI-generated imagery, these works harness moving-image to destabilise dominant perspectives. Reflecting upon shared histories, the artists' eclectic and surreal dreamscapes - utopian and dystopian, intimate and collective - position cinema as the crucible of dream-making and a vehicle for changemaking.

Highlights include: Turner Prize and Jarman Award shortlisted artist **Sin Wai Kin**'s new film *The Fortress* (2024), co-commissioned by Lahore Biennale Foundation and Forma, which examines the fragmented nature of human existence and critiques the notion of our singular, homogenized experience; CGI animated *In Leymusoom Garden: New Sun* (2024) by **Heesoo Kwon**, whose oneiric and unique visual language create memoryscapes of personal and community liberation; winner of the JCDecaux Audience Choice Award **Mykolas Valantinas** presents *Lullaby's Fault* (2023), a film that explores the interior of a fractured and incoherent psyche; **Ahmet Rüstem Ekici and Hakan Sorar**'s AI generated moving image work *The Pond* (2023) explores transformation, memory, and the connection between humans and nature; **Elinor O'Donovan**'s playful *Wild Geese 2: Wilder Geese* (2023) explores environmental existentialism, offering a tantalising dream-state existence where empathy might live; the black-and-white time-lapse video *Distopian Patterns* (2019) by **Isabelle Nouzha** depicts a 'waking nightmare'; **Anca Benera and Arnold Estefan**'s surreal film *Rehearsals for Peace* (2023) interweaves imagery of contemporised folklore traditions with military presence within a pastoral Transylvanian village; **Cocoy Lumbao**'s untitled film is a digitisation of 8mm analogue film captured by his parents in 1994, which uses nostalgia and memory as a form of a dream state; **Anette Gellein**'s *Dyke Dreams* (2024) takes the form of an erotic commercial that gradually transforms into a horror movie; and the visually layered and poetic film *Dear Chalam* (2024) by **Babu Eshwar Prasad** overlaps dreams and memories considering the potentialities of cinema as a vehicle for constant re-imagination. The full artistic programme will be announced on 3 March 2025.

**Heesoo Kwon**, whose film was selected for AFI'25 by **Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions**, says:

*Dreaming and altered states of reality offer individuals and societies a profound space for transformation, healing, and self-discovery. They allow us to step beyond the limitations of the waking world, exploring the subconscious and unlocking hidden aspects of our identities, histories, and potential futures.*

*As an artist, a democratic, international film program like Artists' Film International is a vital platform for engaging in cross-cultural dialogue and understanding. It allows me to connect my work with a broader, more diverse audience and participate in meaningful conversations about shared experiences across borders.*

*Dream States* continues the collective effort of Artists' Film International to expand the possibilities of artists' moving image - challenging curatorial conventions, presentation formats, and the boundaries of interdisciplinary filmmaking. This year's edition builds on the momentum of AFI'24, amplifying the programme's impact and deepening conversations around the transformative potential of moving-image. The AFI partners are rejoined by **Istanbul Modern** and **MCAD Manila**, further strengthening the programme's global network, introducing an exhilarating line-up of diverse artistic perspectives. Forma's new partnership with **Southwark Park Galleries** will see the London premiere of Sin Wai Kin's *The Fortress*, co-commissioned by Forma and Lahore Biennial, alongside a three-month presentation of the full AFI'25 programme in summer 2025.

**Antonia Shaw, Head of Programmes, Forma** says:

*Forma is thrilled to be collaborating with 16 cultural institutions and teams around the world to co-curate and present the 18th edition of Artists' Film International.*

*In 2025, it feels more important than ever to support the work of artists driving change. Artists' Film International allows for limitless possibilities that push the boundaries of moving-image programming, platforming radical and courageous alternatives. Akin to the initiative's open, collaborative approach, 'Dream States' invites audiences to reimagine existing systems and realities. It's a chance to experience the work of extraordinary artists and reflect on what it means for individuals or whole communities to dream as regenerative practice or liberation.*

*We are particularly excited to premiere our latest commission by Sin Wai Kin at Southwark Park Galleries in London, who's thought provoking practice offers astute political and social commentary, exemplifying the range of works in AFI'25 that through moving-image probe inherited narratives and the instability of reality itself.*

Artists' Film International presentations will take place across the world throughout 2025, with the full programme announced on 3 March. Head to **artistsfilminternational.com** for programming updates.

**AFI'25 Co-curation and co-presentation partners:**

- argos centre for audiovisual arts, Brussels, Belgium
- Center for Contemporary Arts Afghanistan in eXiLe e.V., (CCAA in EXiLe), Frankfurt, Germany
- Crawford Art Gallery, Cork, Ireland
- Cultural Centre of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia
- Forma, London, UK
- Fundación Proa, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Bergamo (GAMEC), Bergamo, Italy
- Istanbul Modern, Türkiye
- Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE), Los Angeles, USA
- Museum of Contemporary Art and Design (MCAD) Manila, Philippines
- MMAG Foundation, Amman, Jordan
- Project 88, Mumbai, India
- Sapieha Palace, branch of the Contemporary Art Centre (CAC), Vilnius, Lithuania
- Soutwark Park Galleries, London, UK
- Tramway, Glasgow, Scotland
- Tromsø Kunstforening, Tromsø, Norway
- Video-Forum of Neuer Berliner Kunstverein (n.b.k), Berlin, Germany

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**Notes to Editors**

Press Information

For press enquiries please contact:

Jenny O'Neill, Publishing & Communications Manager  
jon@forma.org.uk

[Press images](#)

## About

**Artists' Film International** is a prestigious global film programme, originally founded in 2008 by Whitechapel Gallery and since its inception has seen 34 international venues collaborate. Since 2024 the programme has been convened by London based arts organisation, Forma. AFI is an alternative, lateral programme that exemplifies non-hierarchical, borderless and collaborative curatorial models. Responding to urgent global topics, the programme cultivates collective practice and cross-cultural dialogue, fosters the exchange of ideas and perspectives, and provides wide reaching visibility for artists.

Previous AFI iterations have considered the ways in which solidarity can be enacted; how we care for one another; highlight the environmental crisis; explore the impact of technology; investigate the debate surrounding truth and fake news; and ponder on what it means to collaborate. In 2024, Artists' Film International saw films screened in four continents, with presentations spanning months of 2024.

[artistsfilminternational.com](http://artistsfilminternational.com) | [#afi25](https://twitter.com/afi25) [#artistsfilminternational25](https://twitter.com/artistsfilminternational25)

**Forma** is a contemporary art organisation, charity and National Portfolio Organisation, supported by the Arts Council England, that champions ideas and artists who address the social and political questions of our times. Through a discursive process, we nurture artists' creative vision and grow their ambition in order to develop collaborative projects that are career-defining and lead to new major opportunities around the world. We pride ourselves in being an organisation that artists want to work with. We offer commissioning, fundraising and production expertise, and as a non-gallery-based organisation we present projects in partnership with cultural institutions across the UK and Internationally.

Recent artists we have collaborated with include Oliver Frank Chanarin, Alberta Whittle, Lawrence Lek, Abbas Zahedi, Cécile B Evans, Sung Tieu, Amartey Golding, R.I.P. Germain, Sophie Hoyle, Benedict Drew, Josèfa Ntjam, and Himali Singh Soin.

[forma.org.uk](http://forma.org.uk) | [@formaartsmedia](https://twitter.com/formaartsmedia)

## Partners

**argos centre for audiovisual arts** facilitates the presentation, production, and study of critical audiovisual arts through archival and distribution services, exhibitions and various programmes, a screening space and a research library. argos considers the audiovisual arts as a way of looking at and understanding the world. Active since 1989, it fosters dialogue with a broad range of institutional and non-institutional partners, both in Brussels and beyond, to support a multitude of voices in society and to seek new ways to engage its audiences. Through its various activities, argos wants to understand the past, hold the present and shape the future of the audiovisual arts.

argosarts.org | @argos\_arts

**The Center for Contemporary Arts Afghanistan in eXiLe e.V. (CCAA)** was established in August 2004 as the first and only centre for contemporary art in Afghanistan and in 2006 established the only women's art centre in Afghanistan to further promote women empowerment as an integral part of the democratization process and for civilization. Its aim was also to give young people the chance to express and improve their artistic talent as individuals and as creative artists to implement a new way of looking at art for the Afghan society striving towards peace, justice, democracy, freedom of expression and individuality.

The establishment of CCAA over the past five centuries was in fact a new motion and movement towards visual arts in Afghanistan. In 2008 the first Contemporary Art and the first Women's Contemporary Painting Exhibition in Afghanistan was held by CCAA artists which was a turning point in the history of visual arts in Afghanistan. The establishment of CCAA and its Women's Art Centre was a major achievement - not only for Afghanistan but also for the international community in Afghanistan.

The CCAA worked closely with many international governmental organizations, which has accelerated the CCAA's growth and raised its profile both nationally and internationally; however, this brilliance also attracted the attention of fanatics and dark thinkers, finally, the CCAA continued its activities under the name of Studio of Contemporary Arts (SCA) at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Kabul University. In 2020 - meeting the existing needs and demands - the CCAA took up its activities under the name of (Ustad Breshna) as an art training centre, growing again with young talents within and from outside of the university's environment. It had just begun its activities and spread its announcements, but its activities were stopped once again when the Taliban re-entered the city and once again all the artists of the CCAA were under severe security threats.

We take this opportunity to acknowledge the 20 young artists of CCAA - 14 of whom are women - who have been evacuated by the German government. Most of them have settled in Frankfurt. In 22/11/2023 CCAA

in eXile received the formal registration as an international organization based in Frankfurt, Germany. Since that CCAA in EXiLe had many activities in Germany and Italia in particular.

facebook.com/ccaa\_in\_exil | @ccaa\_in\_exile

**Crawford Art Gallery** is a National Cultural Institution of the Republic of Ireland. Through its exhibitions, learn & explore programmes, and its collection of over 3000 works, Crawford Art Gallery is committed to fostering recognition, critical assessment, and acknowledgement of contemporary and historical Irish and international art.

crawfordartgallery.ie | @crawfordartgallery

**Cultural Centre of Belgrade** Established in 1957 as an informational and cultural hub, the Center has since expanded to generate and present the artistic content reflective of cultural activity in Serbia and Europe. Numerous programs organised through the Cultural Center of Belgrade remain the most significant cultural manifestations of both the capital and entire country such as October Salon, Belgrade International Week of Architecture, World's Poetry Days, Days of Organ etc. Integral part of CCB is the cinema - DKC the oldest active cinema in Belgrade which was awarded in 2023 for Best Programming by Europa Cinema.

kcb.org.rs | @kulturni\_centar\_beograda

**Fundación Proa** At Fundación Proa we serve as a pivotal cultural institution in Buenos Aires, offering an annual programme of temporary exhibitions, seminars, courses, conferences, concerts and performances. Since our inception, we have been dedicated to showcasing significant artistic movements of the 20th and 21st centuries, across mediums such as photography, video, design, electronic music, and special projects. Our three-storey building features four exhibition halls, a multimedia auditorium, a specialised bookstore, a terrace restaurant, and open spaces for public engagement. Committed to fostering educational initiatives and cultural exchange programmes, we actively engage with the community through our education team and collaborations with local schools and educational entities. Additionally, we oversee the cultural program of the Techint Organization globally, collaborating with Tenaris to support artistic residencies, workshops, and an experimental space for emerging artists, aiming to enhance their visibility and creative development. Through these endeavours, Fundación Proa enriches the cultural landscape, facilitating meaningful interactions between artists, audiences, and the wider community, and contributing to the cultural vitality of Buenos Aires and beyond.

proa.org | @fundacion\_proa

**The Galleria d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea di Bergamo** was opened in 1991. A virtuous model of shared public-private management, the museum is located in the spaces once occupied by the fifteenth-century Monastery of the Dimesse and Servite, the restoration of which was entrusted to Studio Gregotti Associati International between the late eighties and the nineties. Over the years, diversified planning has transformed it into a versatile space that draws many types of visitors with its targeted activities. With its 1,500 square meters of exhibition space, GAMEC welcomes contemporary art in all its forms. Temporary, personal and collective exhibitions by international artists, and an intense calendar of fringe activities designed for different types of users are among the strong points of the Gallery's cultural policy. It is a dynamic place for debate, analysis, and cultural integration, and one evolving daily. Thanks to both donations and acquisitions, the Gallery has built the collection of modern and contemporary art of the city of Bergamo, which includes works by Italian and international authors of the twentieth century, and works by contemporary artists.

gamec.it | @gamec\_bergamo

**Istanbul Modern** Türkiye's first museum of modern and contemporary art, mediates the sharing of Türkiye's artistic heritage on a global scale and brings together creative productions from various geographies. To create a space for the diversity of artistic expressions, the museum collects, preserves, exhibits, documents, and studies modern and contemporary artworks. It supports art production, access to art, and collaborations through exhibitions, programs, and events. With a vision to build a sustainable art ecosystem and inclusivity, the museum fosters dialogue with art for audiences of all ages. Museum exhibitions and educational programs strengthen the dialogue between artists and audiences by making use of technological tools and enables a multifaceted experience.

The museum collection, bringing together works by artists from Türkiye and different regions, examines the interactions and transformations in art history through thematic or chronological selections. Exhibition galleries host retrospectives and thematic group exhibitions featuring modern and contemporary artists as well as providing space for projects across various disciplines or commissions to up-and-coming artists. The Photography Gallery showcases the historical evolution of photography and the reflections of art movements. Istanbul Modern broadens its scope through educational and social projects, film programs, and activities within the museum library, cinema, and shop.

istanbulmodern.org | @istanbulmodern

**Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE)** LACE is the longest-running contemporary artist space in Los Angeles, California supporting emerging artists, curators, and cultural workers. LACE both champions and challenges the art of our time by fostering artists who innovate, explore, and risk. We move within and beyond our four walls to provide opportunities for diverse publics to engage deeply with contemporary



art. In doing so, we further dialogue and participation between and among artists and those audiences.

welcometolace.org | @welcometolace

**The Museum of Contemporary Art and Design (MCAD) Manila** is a not-for-profit institution that is considered as the professional face of De La Salle – College of Saint Benilde for its courses on art and design.

MCAD is a leading contemporary art museum, recognized for outstanding exhibitions that reflect global perspectives in contemporary art whilst being firmly anchored to local contexts of the Philippines. Its mandate as a non-collecting institution allows MCAD to focus on developing a curatorial and educational program that encourages audiences to engage with art and culture, its practice and production, as well as its presentation and interpretation.

As an organisation positioned within the De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde educational institution, MCAD seeks to be both reflexive and responsive to social and political issues. Working with established and emerging artists from the Philippines and around the world, MCAD is a space where the power of art and ideas becomes visible. Committed to engaging the widest publics possible, from our stakeholders and artists to our immediate local community, we continually seek to develop programs that are innovative and inclusive. Our core belief that art should be free to all informs all our programs that address a cross-section of social classes and engage with a wide range of knowledges.

mcadmanila.org.ph | @mcadmanila

**MMAG** is a contemporary art foundation that strives to contribute to the future of art practice and pedagogy in its region by drawing on historical encounters and contextual issues alike. Through art, it works to facilitate opportunities to shape responsible approaches to learning, knowledge-making, sharing, and modes of dialogue. Its campus includes multifunctional areas for creating and living, and shared studios such as an art library, a screening room, a dark room, a glass studio and a sound studio. By offering a space for residencies, workshops, public programs and exhibitions, it has established itself as an essential gathering place for artists and art practitioners from the city and beyond.

mmagfoundation.org | @mmagfoundation

**Project 88** inhabits 4000 square feet of what was formerly a century old metal printing press in Colaba, Mumbai, restored and renovated by Rahul Mehrotra. It has a roster of some of the most thoughtful and exciting artists working in the Indian subcontinent today. If you want to know what constitutes the future of contemporary art in South Asia, Project

88 is the place from where you could begin your exploration of tomorrow's terrain.

From its inception in 2006 and under the adventurous directorship of Sree Banerjee Goswami, Project 88 have developed a context for the exhibition of experimental and ambitious work in all media by artists whose practice have strong conceptual foundations. A second generation gallerist, Sree grew up with art in Kolkata where her mother Supriya Banerjee founded Galerie 88, Kolkata, in 1988, working with illustrious artists such as M.F. Hussain, Ram Kumar, Akbar Padamsee, Meera Mukherjee, Ganesh Pyne, Somnath Hore, K.G. Subramaniam, etc.

Project 88 remains committed to the discovery and nurturing of emerging talent, even as it works with cutting-edge, intelligent, internationally known mid-career artists from South Asia and elsewhere. The gallery regularly participates in various art fairs, including Frieze London and New York, ARCO Madrid, Art Basel Hong Kong, Art Dubai and India Art Fair. Many of its artists are in major international collections and are featured regularly in the most prestigious biennales and museum shows. The future of the art landscape is being shaped here.

project88.in | @project88mumbai

**Sapieha Palace, branch of the Contemporary Art Centre (CAC), Vilnius** Resurrected from the ruins, the Sapieha Palace aims to become a vibrant and lively place on the cultural map of Vilnius. The curation of the Sapieha Palace has been entrusted with Contemporary Art Centre, the largest contemporary art institution in the Baltic States. Like the CAC, the Sapieha Palace is not a museum and thus will not amass a permanent art collection. Rather, its activities seek to reflect the constantly changing reality and position history as always intertwined with the present. The new custodians of the palace are keen to ensure that exhibitions, concerts and other events weave contemporary art with works of the past. Today, the Sapieha Palace embraces the values of creativity, attention to heritage, coherence, openness and internationality. The team's goal is to eventually transform the Sapieha Palace into an international cultural space, fostering respect for history and creating the conditions for an original dialogue between cultural heritage and contemporary art.

sapiegurumai.lt | @sapiegurumai

**Southwark Park Galleries** is an interdisciplinary arts organisation set across two distinctive venues – including a Grade II Listed deconsecrated church – and a garden in the heart of Southwark Park, London. Through our locally relevant and internationally significant programme of exhibitions, performances and public engagement, our mission is to connect people using the intersection of art, nature and culture to facilitate meaning and wellbeing across communities.

Established in 1984, we have a thriving reputation as a test site for experimental practice by commissioning artists at a critical stage to make their most ambitious work. Our public engagement and community work welcomes everyone. Our location means we can provide a rare civic offer of vital green and open cultural space for our park neighbours and beyond. In 2024 we celebrated our 40th anniversary, committing to strengthen our local, national and international partnerships, and amplify our purpose of making creativity central in building a more engaged and inclusive society.

Southwark Park Galleries is the operating name of the Bermondsey Artists' Group, a registered charity (no. 1073851) and Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

[southwarkparkgalleries.org](https://southwarkparkgalleries.org) | [@southwarkparkgalleries](https://www.instagram.com/southwarkparkgalleries)

**Tramway** is a renowned international arts venue with an interdisciplinary spirit whose mission is to enrich and inspire our communities by providing ambitious, innovative and culturally relevant contemporary visual art and performance.

Through a dynamic year-round programme of free art exhibitions, engagement activity, and festivals, dance and live art we aim to stimulate meaningful dialogue between artists and audiences, responding to the urgent cultural, social and political issues of our time.

The programme curation encourages creative experimentation and bold, innovative approaches to our unique venues, culminating in some of the most ambitious presentations of work across Scotland and the UK.

[tramway.org](https://tramway.org) | [@glasgowtramway](https://www.instagram.com/glasgowtramway)

**Tromsø Kunstforening** is a space for contemporary art, exhibiting new, experimental art and artists. Starting in 1924, we continue to present boundary-pushing exhibitions, projects in public space, performances and workshops that are open to all. The program includes international and emerging artists, with special attention to projects that are rooted in the region of Northern Scandinavia and Sápmi. We are home to several artist-run initiatives like the bookshop Mondo Books, the screening space Kinobox and the Materialbanken for Kreative Prosjekter which allows you to donate and collect materials for reuse in exchange for your stories about the materials delivered or picked up.

[tromsokunstforening.no](https://tromsokunstforening.no) | [@tromsokunstforening](https://www.instagram.com/tromsokunstforening)

**Neuer Berliner Kunstverein (n.b.k.)** is a site of contemporary art and discourse production. The institution was founded in 1969, with the goal of presenting contemporary fine art to a broader public, and of inviting that public to actively participate in cultural processes. With the collection Video-Forum, n.b.k. makes available to the public over 1,700

international works of video art. Founded in 1971 as an artists' initiative, the Video-Forum is the oldest and one of the biggest public video art collections in Germany and Europe. Since its funding it has been expanded constantly through co-productions and yearly purchases. The holdings of the Video-Forum can be watched in a dedicated space. Presentations and screenings based on the collection introduce current and historical developments in video art to the public and generate discussion around them.

[nbk.org](http://nbk.org) | [@neuerberlinerkunstverein](https://www.instagram.com/neuerberlinerkunstverein)

**FORMA**

Artists' Film International 2025 is convened by Forma, and co-curated and co-presented with sixteen arts organisations from across the globe.

**ARGOS**  
centre for audiovisual arts



**Gailearai Ealaine Crawford**  
Crawford Art Gallery

**GAMEc**



**KULTURNI CENTAR BEOGRADA**

**LACE**  
Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions



**n.b.k.**

**PROA**

**project 88**



**TRAMWAY**



**Arts Council England** is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in Let's Create that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from the Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision.

[artscouncil.org.uk](http://artscouncil.org.uk) | [@aceagrams](https://www.instagram.com/aceagrams)



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