





# WELCOME

**Welcome to the 40th edition of the VC FILM FEST** (also known as the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival). As the Festival continues its Renewal practices, we dedicate this Festival to **Steve Tatsukawa** (1949-1984), founding Executive Director and beloved community activist. We remember his impact, his humor, and positive influence he had on those around him. Through stories and shared memories, we ensure that his legacy resonates with future generations.

VC Film Fest honors our beloved elder cultural workers, linking them to present and emerging artists who continue to empower our communities and challenge perspectives.

Grounded in our VC Presents programs reflecting the Visual Communications' living values in our Archives, we celebrate VC Founders Duane Kubo & Eddie Wong, the community behind **STAND UP FOR JUSTICE: THE RALPH LAZO STORY**, and other stories that transcend time, space, and emotions. From the world premiere of **NOBUKO MIYAMOTO: A SONG IN MOVEMENT** to this year's **Armed With a Camera vol. 2024** and **Vision to Reel**, we present generations of storytellers. Imagining our futures through a rising generation of cultural bearers, we share this year's **Pacific Cinewaves** and **Indigenous NOW**. And in our growing practice of creating convergences with other BIPOC organizations who share our regenerative values, we present **Our Storytelling Power**, a shorts program from our Color Congress partners who embrace community participatory media in the same spirit as **Digital Histories**.

The **Democracy Series** looks into our global political experiences in the midst of another major election year in the United States. It is our hope to create dialogue, empathy, and understanding in a time when democracy and humanity is in peril.

Our gratitude to all of you who continue to believe in what we make happen, inspiring us to embrace the power of storytelling to create just futures.

**Welcome to your VC Film Fest.**

With gratitude,  
Visual Communications



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# PROGRAM SCHEDULE

## WED MAY 1

DEM 5:30 PM | 57 MINS VC ARCHIVES PRESENTS: CA LIBERATION\*  
 JANM 7:00 PM | 120 MINS CINEMA MUSICA: FESTIVAL LAUNCH PARTY

## THU MAY 2

UNION 5:00 PM | 114 MINS LA LIBERATION: VC x EWP\*  
 DEM 5:30 PM | 99 MINS AND SO IT BEGINS  
 JANM 7:00 PM | 110 MINS SHAKA, A STORY OF ALOHA\*  
 UNION 7:00 PM | 46 MINS ARMED WITH A CAMERA VOL. 2024  
 DEM 8:30 PM | 56 MINS NIKAH  
 JANM 9:30 PM | 68 MINS HEAVEN RAIN FLOWS SWEETLY\*

## FRI MAY 3

DEM 3:00 PM | 60 MINS MANZANAR TO TULE LAKE\*  
 DEM 5:00 PM | 60 MINS WE CARE\*  
 UNION 6:00 PM | 88 MINS #LIFE  
 ARATANI 7:00 PM | 91 MINS SMOKING TIGERS  
 JANM 7:00 PM | 88 MINS INDIGENOUS NOW!\*  
 DEM 7:30 PM | 105 MINS ISLAND IN BETWEEN + INVISIBLE NATION  
 UNION 9:00 PM | 71 MINS AFTERLIFE  
 JANM 9:30 PM | 81 MINS IN-BETWEEN THE LINES

## SAT MAY 4

DEM 10:00 AM | 62 MINS HOW TO SUE THE KLAN + LEADING\*  
 UNION 11:00 AM | 75 MINS DISSIDENTS  
 DEM 12:00 PM | 30 MINS STAND UP FOR JUSTICE: THE RALPH LAZO STORY\*  
 UNION 2:00 PM | 55 MINS OUR STORYTELLING POWER\*  
 UNION 4:00 PM | 61 MINS PACIFIC CINEWAVES: THE STORIES WE TELL  
 DEM 4:00 PM | 120 MINS EMPATHY & DEMOCRACY: A LIVE PODCAST | PART 4  
 ARATANI 6:00 PM | 73 MINS 120,000 LUMENS + NOBUKO MIYAMOTO: A SONG IN MOVEMENT  
 UNION 6:30 PM | 47 MINS PACIFIC CINEWAVES: ISLAND HOME  
 JANM 7:00 PM | 36 MINS REEL FOOD\*  
 DEM 8:00 PM | 100 MINS WAKHRI  
 JANM 8:30 PM | 96 MINS NOWHERE NEAR\*  
 UNION 9:00 PM | 61 MINS INKY PINKY PONKY - THE ODD ONE OUT

### FILM LEGEND

- C3:CONVERSE
- DOCUMENTARY FEATURES
- NARRATIVE FEATURES
- SHORTS PROGRAMS
- SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS
- VC PRESENTS

\*FREE/PAY WHAT YOU CAN PROGRAMS

## SUN MAY 5

DEM 11:00 AM | 86 MINS WE ARE MORE!  
 UNION 11:30 AM | 90 MINS AP ADVANCED PARENTING  
 JANM 12:00 PM | 60 MINS C3:CONVERSE PANEL  
 ARATANI 1:00 PM | 93 MINS DIGITAL HISTORIES 2024\*  
 JANM 1:00 PM | 60 MINS C3:CONVERSE PANEL  
 DEM 2:00 PM | 86 MINS ASHIMA  
 JANM 2:00 PM | 60 MINS C3:CONVERSE PANEL  
 UNION 2:30 PM | 86 MINS ABOVE AND BELOW THE GROUND  
 ARATANI 4:00 PM | 95 MINS HOME COURT  
 DEM 5:00 PM | 73 MINS MADINA  
 UNION 5:30 PM | 106 MINS SALLI  
 ARATANI 7:00 PM | 91 MINS PAPER MARRIAGE  
 JANM 7:00 PM | 75 MINS THE GARDENER\*  
 DEM 8:00 PM | 90 MINS US

## MON MAY 6

VC ONLINE – CHECK OUT OUR VIRTUAL CINEMA ONLINE  
 VCFILMFEST2024.EVENTIVE.ORG

## TUE MAY 7

DEM 5:00 PM | 117 MINS BREAKING THE CYCLE\*  
 UCLA 5:00 PM | 90 MINS ADMISSIONS GRANTED\*  
 DEM 8:00 PM | 110 MINS CHAPERONE

## WED MAY 8

DEM 6:00 PM | 31 MINS TEN TIMES BETTER  
 DEM 8:00 PM | 93 MINS DIDI

## THU MAY 9

LBAT 3:00 PM | 93 MINS AWC NOW!\*  
 LBAT 5:00 PM | 60 MINS ON DIFFERENT SHORES  
 LBAT 8:00 PM | 94 MINS KUWENTUHAN

## FRI MAY 10

LBAT 4:00 PM | 64 MINS JEWELLE: A JUST VISION\*  
 LBAT 6:00 PM | 85 MINS LOVE OUT LOUD  
 LBAT 9:00 PM | 87 MINS FROM VISIONS TO REEL: GROWING PAINS

### VENUE LEGEND

**ARATANI**  
 Aratani Theatre @ JACCC

**CENTRL**  
 CENTRL Office

**JANM**  
 Aratani Central Hall @  
 JANM

**LBAT**  
 Art Theatre of Long Beach

**DEM**  
 Democracy Center @  
 JANM

**UCLA**  
 Fowler Museum @ UCLA

**UNION**  
 Union Center for the  
 Arts: David Henry Hwang  
 Theater

For an updated schedule of programs and events, please visit [festival.vcmedia.org](https://festival.vcmedia.org)

# TICKETING & VENUES

All tickets are available for purchase on [festival.vcmedia.org](https://festival.vcmedia.org).

All programs are subject to change and/or cancellation without prior notice.

Please arrive 30 minutes before the scheduled program. Seating cannot be guaranteed for ticket holders who arrive after the program begins. Empty seats may be resold; no refunds will be issued. **ALL SALES ARE FINAL.**

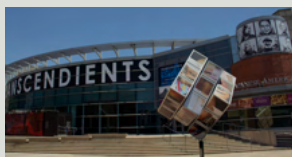
Questions? Contact us at [tickets@vcmedia.org](mailto:tickets@vcmedia.org) or call (213) 680-4462

General Admission: \$15

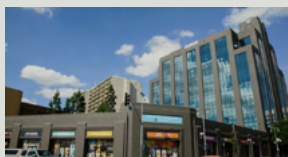
General Admission @ JACCC: \$20



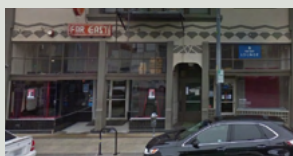
**ARATANI THEATRE @ JACCC**  
244 S San Pedro St  
Los Angeles, CA 90012



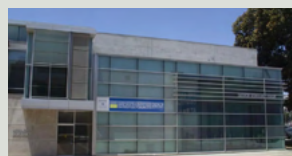
**ARATANI CENTRAL HALL @ JANM**  
100 N Central Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90012



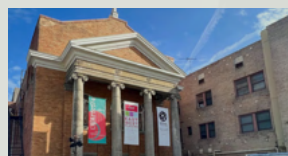
**CENTRL OFFICE**  
360 E 2nd St, Suite 800  
Los Angeles, CA 90012



**FESTIVAL HQ @ FAR EAST LOUNGE**  
353 E 1st St  
Los Angeles, CA 90012



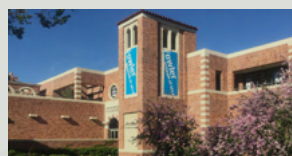
**DEMOCRACY CENTER @ JANM**  
100 N Central Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90012



**UNION CENTER FOR THE ARTS**  
120 Judge John Aiso St  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Little Tokyo  
140 YEARS

We welcome you to Little Tokyo as we celebrate 140 years. For more information about Little Tokyo 140th, visit [littletokyola.org/140](https://littletokyola.org/140)



**FOWLER MUSEUM @ UCLA**  
308 Charles E Young Dr N,  
Los Angeles, CA 90024



**ART THEATRE OF LONG BEACH**  
2025 E 4th St,  
Long Beach, CA 90814

# ABOUT OUR ART



The 40th Anniversary poster artwork aims to highlight and celebrate the VC Archives through an homage to Steve Tatsukawa, a foundational figure at Visual Communications, highlighting his impactful contributions as VC's founding Executive Director and beloved community activist. 2024 marks the 40th Anniversary of Steve's passing.

At the artwork's core is a portrait of Steve, holding a camera inspired by an old photograph of his, aptly capturing the essence of the festival. Life imitates art, and art imitates life. The filmmaker records the audience who looks back at the filmmaker, creating a fascinating loop of observation. It's a reminder that every frame we capture—whether on film or in memory—holds layers of meaning and emotion. The filmmaker's eye becomes a portal in this image,

bridging the gap between the mundane and the extraordinary. Surrounding Steve are symbolic elements representing various festival pillars: archives, film reels, community, theater, audience, and artists. This portrayal reflects the festival's immersive and celebratory nature, engaging and honoring its audiences through diverse offerings over the past 4 decades.

We've chosen an organic, textured style to mirror print media's tactile essence and expanded upon the idea of autonomy over distribution reminiscent of small press practices. Employing a duotone approach for Steve's portrait and an outline brush stroke style for surrounding illustrations, the artwork is divided into four segments - referencing the 4 decades of the festival, unifying the composition with colored shapes. A warm, muted color palette with vibrant accents imbues the piece with a soothing yet optimistic quality. The typography's aesthetic aligns with the organic, hand-drawn style of the line-work present in the illustration. By blending this organic font with a cleaner, geometric typeface, we achieve a cohesive editorial layout that balances tight focus with the roughness of the strokes. This combination creates a harmonious visual contrast, enhancing the overall presentation with a clean, sharp design - blending elements of the past with the present.

Subtle animation breathes life into the artwork, with smaller illustrations surrounding Steve featuring gentle, frame-by-frame animation loops. Additionally, Steve's portrait animates, with his hand moving to interact with the camera, adding a dynamic touch to the artwork.

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Supernova Design is a WOC-owned and operated studio based in Los Angeles that helps innovative brands and businesses tell their unique stories in playful and creative ways. Creative Director Asavari Kumar and her team worked to create the 40th-anniversary artwork for VC Media. The team collaborated under the art direction of Shaivalini Kumar and production by Sidharth Zutshi, with animation work by Katherine Dallimore and Lissette Diaz.



As POC artists, Supernova focuses on partnering with organizations and causes that share their core beliefs. They are particularly drawn to projects that focus on community and social responsibility.

[www.supernovadesign.net](https://www.supernovadesign.net)  
[@supernovadesigninc](https://www.instagram.com/supernovadesigninc)

# CINEMA MUSICA: FESTIVAL LAUNCH PARTY

Kickoff the Festival by celebrating the sonic and visual elements of cinema. Featuring music from the VC Archives and a selection of music videos and short films.

Wed, May 1 / 7:00 PM / JANM

## CINEMA MUSICA SHORTS

### ALWAYS IN MY HEAD

(Randal Kamradt, Malou Kamradt / USA / 2024 / 4 mins)

### ART OF WORK

(Patrick Cruz / USA / 2024 / 25 mins)

### HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

(Mukesh Vidyasagar, Anisha Adusumilli / USA / 2024 / 3 mins)

### KALYAN | کالیان

(Adnan Hussain / USA, Pakistan / 2023 / 7 mins)

### LULLABY / EKO

(Shin Kawasaki / USA, Japan / 2023 / 5 mins)

### NO CLOUDS IN MY SUMMER

(Jason Poon, Mood Infinite / USA / 2024 / 14 mins)

### SLOW DOWN - ALANMICHAEL FEATURING DAWN RICHARD

(Vanessa Marzaroli / USA / 2023 / 5 mins)

### UNDOCUFORCE BY SOULTREE

(Josef Akira / USA / 2023 / 2 mins)

# PARTIES & AFTERHOURS

The Festival aims to provide safe spaces for artists and communities to converge. In addition to cinematic presentations, parties and receptions contribute to joyful and festive connections. We hope that during this Festival, we create moments with each other, strengthening our collective power to uphold our stories.

### CINEMA MUSICA: FESTIVAL LAUNCH PARTY

(\$40; FREE for filmmakers and badgeholders)

Wednesday, May 1 | 7PM

JANM

100 N Central Ave

Los Angeles, CA 90012

### STAND UP FOR JUSTICE 20TH ANNIVERSARY

(invited Festival guests only)

Saturday, May 4 | 2PM

Far Bar

347 E 1st St

Los Angeles, CA 90012

### AWC HAPPY HOUR

(invited filmmakers and guests only)

Thursday, May 2 | 9:30PM

Far Bar

347 E 1st St

Los Angeles, CA 90012

### PACIFIC CINEWAVES HAPPY HOUR

hosted by Pacific Islanders in Communications

(invited filmmakers and guests only)

Saturday, May 4 | 3PM

CENTRL Office

360 E 2nd St, Suite 800

Los Angeles, CA 90012

### R3:CHARGE FILMMAKER WELCOME BRUNCH

(invited filmmakers and guests only)

Saturday, May 4 | 10AM

CENTRL Office

360 E 2nd St, Suite 800

Los Angeles, CA 90012

### THIS IS 40 @ SEÑOR FISH

hosted by Paramount Pictures

(invited filmmakers and guests only)

Sunday, May 5 | 4PM

Señor Fish

155 Main St

Los Angeles, CA 90012

# FESTIVAL MERCH

Gear up for the festival! Celebrate the 40th edition of the VC Film Fest with exclusive shirts and stickers! Purchase and pick-up at the guest services table. **Only available May 1-10, 2024.**

## SHIRTS

### 40th Festival Shirt (\$30)

Featuring this year's festival artwork with Steve Tatsukawa.



## STICKERS

VC Artwork Sticker (\$3)



VC Film Fest Sticker (\$2)



VC Logo Sticker (\$2)



### VC x Japangeles Shirt (\$40)

Designed in collaboration with Japangeles.



# ARMED WITH A CAMERA VOL. 2024

In its twenty-first season, the Armed With a Camera (AWC) Fellowship for Emerging Media Artists develops the next generation of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander artists to connect our communities through the stories of the VC Archives.

Thursday, May 2 / 7:00 pm / Union Center for the Arts / 46 mins



IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:



Elizabeth Sung Memorial Scholarship Fund



## BALIK/BAYAN

Paula Kiley / USA / 2024 / 7 mins

A balikbayan box company owner explores the ways in which balikbayan boxes shaped his perception of the U.S., shedding light on the sacrifices made in pursuit of the "American dream" and the intangible losses that accompany it.

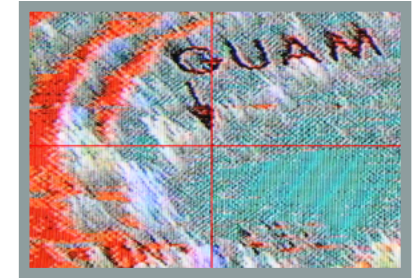
## DIGITAL CAMOUFLAGE

Alfred Bordallo / Guahan, USA / 2024 / 18 mins

A Multi-Channel Video Art Installation juxtaposing vignettes of CHamoru existence within and against imperialism.

*Preceded by DAUGHTER OF GUAM*

(Alfred Bordallo / Guam / 2024 / 4 mins)



## BEYOND BORDERED HISTORIES

Zaynah Waseem / USA / 2024

Beyond Bordered Histories is an intercultural audio-visual multimedia exhibit using archival photographs and moving images to explore the intricate narratives of belonging to a diasporic community.

*Preceded by FROM KARACHI, WITH LOVE*

(Zaynah Waseem / USA / 2024 / 6 mins)

## KE ALA

Bryson Nihipali / USA / 2024 / 10 mins

"Ke Ala" traces the story of a Native Hawaiian family spread out between the Hawaiian islands and the US continent. Featuring both VHS and high-resolution footage, the film acts as an intimate family portrait and explores themes of remembrance and connection, considering the ways we carry the memories of those who have come before us and maintain strong bonds with our loved ones.



## COME TOGETHER

Honestine Pa'ala-Fraser / USA / 2024 / 7 mins

Inspired by the 1978 documentary "Omai Fa'atasi: Samoa Mo Samoa," a teenage girl growing up in a strict Samoan household lives the same day everyday cooking, cleaning, and taking care of her siblings until she joins a community organization that helps her realize her full potential.

## SANSEDAI | 三世代

Kayli Kimura / USA / 2024 / 11 mins

Through intimate conversations over old photobooks and home movies from the 1930s, SANSEDAI (三世代) explores themes of identity and belonging as it follows the filmmaker's 92-year-old grandmother's journey growing up during war, migrating to a country that was once deemed an enemy, and what it means to be Japanese-American.



# DIGITAL HISTORIES 2024

Digital Histories is a creative community of Asian-American aunts and uncles turned documentary filmmakers. Supported by Visual Communications, these filmmakers hone their craft through immersive camera and editing workshops, engaging Zoom classes, and a supportive environment that fosters connection and collaboration. Together, they embark on a mission to tell the untold stories of the AAPI experience. Experience the power of storytelling at DIGITAL HISTORIES: CLASS OF '24—featuring an unprecedented lineup of 15 world premieres!

Sunday, May 5 / 1:00 pm / Aratani Theatre @ JACCC / 93 mins  
FREE PROGRAM



## ANCESTORS

Emilio J. Virata, Jr. / USA / 2024 / 4 mins  
Ancient ties and connections across generations are explored in these reflections on ancestry.



## BORN IN A CONCENTRATION CAMP

David and Mark Kuroda / USA / 2024 / 2 mins  
Executive Order 9066 required all Japanese on the West Coast to be incarcerated in camps, surrounded by barbed wire and gun towers. This short film shows the early life of the first baby born in Amache, Colorado.



## CHRONICLES OF A SANSEI ROCKER

Cory Shiozaki / USA / 2024 / 6 mins  
Former musician and 3rd generation Japanese American, fulfilling an item on his "bucket list" writing a book of his memoirs of the coming of age during the tumultuous 60's and 70's.

## CITIZEN SOLDIER

Cathy Uchida / USA / 2024 / 5 mins  
Documentary of a Japanese immigrant's journey to Vancouver, Canada and the French front lines of WWI



## EAT, SLEEP, POOP, AND PASS GAS

Fran Ito / USA / 2024 / 5 mins  
January 2024 Fran Ito celebrated her 92nd birthday. It's a miracle that she is still here on earth enjoying life with family and friends in the midst of life threatening health issues. God is good!



## G -TOWN SOUL LEGENDARY FOOD FROM GARDENA

Stony Furutani / USA / 2024 / 7 mins  
A story about a Japanese American family history in the city of Gardena, California and how after decades the roots are still strong within the family as well as with a longtime family favorite manju shop located in the same city of Gardena.



## IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO LIVE YOUR DREAM

Tracy Quan-Nichols / USA / 2024 / 7 mins  
As a child, Parker Dean loved to paint. This passion remained with him throughout his life. He had a successful career but it left him with no time for his art. See how he made decisions in his life that brought joy to both him and his community.

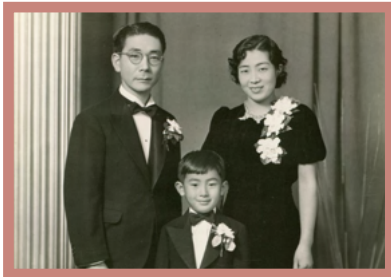




## JIM MATSUOKA WILL NOT BE RUSHED

Robert Shoji / USA / 2024 / 5 mins

In this remembrance of Los Angeles-based activist Jim Matsuoka, watch his powerful testimony at the 1981 Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians hearings.



## LOVE WITHOUT WORDS

Bryan Takeda / USA / 2024 / 5 mins

In Japanese culture, love is expressed in subtle ways. Upon reflection, a son expresses his gratitude and love for his father without words.



## NEVER GO HUNGRY AGAIN!

Bernice Ng / USA / 2024 / 7 mins

A daughter embarks on a journey to unravel her mother's past in China, igniting a collaborative project to pen her mother's life story. Amidst challenges, they confront the mother's harrowing past of hunger and abuse, yet celebrate her resilience and triumphs. From adversity to prosperity in America, her indomitable spirit inspires the family's next generations.



## SEE YOU DEN

Don Bannai / USA / 2024 / 5 mins

Music is a common ground we all share. For fifty years Alan Furutani and the groups Visions and Fujazz have provided a common language for our community. Emerging out of the Asian American Movement his music had root elements in the spirit of Coltrane, the heart of Laura Nyro and would add the samba of Brazil.

## SPECIAL CAMP

Teresa Takaki Matsushima / USA / 2024 / 5 mins  
Special Camp, for the Asian American developmentally disabled, celebrates its 50th year in 2024.



## STORIES TOLD, SECRETS KEPT

Patty Fong / USA / 2024 / 7 mins

Many Chinese family immigration stories are entwined within the United States exclusion era. Some of the laws almost entirely banned Chinese from entering the country. Wing and Young Shee Leong implemented complicated measures in order to start their life in the United States. Their story was a secret until now.



## THE CARRY ON STORY

Mitchell Matsumura / USA / 2024 / 5 mins

Carry On was a garage band in Los Angeles during the Asian American dance era 1965-1985. The era was a right of passage and undoubtedly the best times of our lives. Carry On was the most popular band of the era. They performed at hundreds of dances held at dance halls and ballrooms. This is their story.



## THE FABULOUS ROCKY FELLERS

Florante Ibanez / USA / 2024 / 3 mins

Before there were the Osmonds, Cowbills family bands or even the Jackson 5, the Rocky Fellers toured internationally, had the #16 Billboard 100 hit "Killer Joe" and appeared on national TV show, with Jack Benny, and Diana Shore in the 1950s-60s.





# C3:CONVERSE

## WELCOME TO C3:CONVERSE!

Sunday, May 5, 2024 | 12PM  
Japanese American National Museum

C3 is a space for creative communities and industry leaders to converge through panels and conversations.

C3 connects industry professionals to create dialogues on the ever-changing media landscapes as we build a collective vision for our creative communities

For schedule and panel descriptions, visit [festival.vcmedia.org/2024/c3](http://festival.vcmedia.org/2024/c3)



C3 IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:

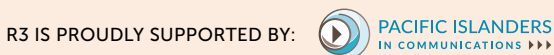


# R3:VOLVE

Saturday, May 4, 2024 | 10AM - 3PM  
CENTRL Office

An evolution of the 2023 Festival's R3:NEWAL series, this year's R3 revolves around artists and filmmakers through intimate roundtable conversations. (Festival artists and invites only)

For more information, visit [festival.vcmedia.org/2024/r3](http://festival.vcmedia.org/2024/r3)



# REEL LIFE

These Festival artist installations and experiences create interactive engagements for us to connect.

## EMPATHY & DEMOCRACY: A LIVE PODCAST | PART 4

Spaces—public, sacred, natural—are necessary to reflect and dream new ways forward. This four-part live podcast and pop-up art series will follow the seasons of the year and include an exploration of our fears and hopes for democracy.

Sat, May 4 / 4:00PM / Democracy Center @ JANM  
FREE PROGRAM



## MANZANAR, DIVERTED A/R

The Manzanar, Diverted Augmented Reality gives viewers the chance to experience the breathtaking beauty of Payahūnādū, "the land of flowing water," also known as the Owens Valley, where the Manzanar concentration camp was situated in a 360 degree environment, using VR headsets.

Part of the *Manzanar to Tule Lake* program  
Fri, May 3 / 3:00PM / Democracy Center @ JANM  
FREE PROGRAM



## MANZANAR, DIVERTED VISUAL SOUND BATH

The Manzanar, Diverted visual sound bath immerses viewers in the world of Payahūnādū, "the land of flowing water," also known as the Owens Valley, where the Manzanar concentration camp was situated.

Part of the *Manzanar to Tule Lake* program  
Fri, May 3 / 3:00PM / Democracy Center @ JANM  
FREE PROGRAM



## WISH TREES FOR PEACE

At the 40th VC Film Festival, the filmmaking team behind "A Town Called Victoria" presents a community art installation. Several olive "Wish Trees" are installed at select festival venues, with small messages tied to the branches.

May 1-8 / JANM  
FREE PROGRAM



# NARRATIVE FEATURES

Each Narrative Feature brings in a perspective from all over the globe; pockets of imagination created to make you laugh, cry, or jump out of your seat. Meet a widowed school teacher in Pakistan who becomes a viral sensation overnight when she accidentally unleashes her unabashed opinions on social media. Then fall in love with the couple that has to convince everyone that their love is real. Then travel back in time to 2017, where Uyghur people are being arrested without people knowing why.



## CHAPERONE

Zoë Eisenberg / USA / 2024 / 110 mins

Alienated by friends and family for her lack of ambition, 29-year-old Misha finds a dangerous acceptance in a bright 18-year-old athlete who mistakes her for a fellow student.

Tues, May 7 / 8:00PM / Democracy Center @ JANM



## INKY PINKY PONKY

Ramon TeWake, Damon Fepuleai / New Zealand / 2022 / 61 mins

A new fakaleiti student at St Valentines High causes a stir, as rugby players, gender fluidity, Island mums and transphobia converge in this high school romance like no other.

Sat, May 4 / 9:00PM / Union Center for the Arts



## MADINA

Aizhan Kassymbek / Kazakhstan, Pakistan, India, USA / 2023 / 73 mins

Madina, a single mother whose day-to-day routine is a battle for survival with lack of confidence in the present and lack of hope in the future.

Sun, May 5 / 5:00PM / Democracy Center @ JANM



## NIKAH

Mukaddas Mijit, Bastien Ehouzan / The Uyghur Region, France / 2024 / 56 mins

2017, Uyghur Region. Dilber, a 27-year-old woman who is still single, has to endure pressure from her family to get married. Her friend Gulnur, who lives in Paris and with whom she shares her daily life by phone, then offers her a solution.

Thurs, May 2 / 8:30PM / Democracy Center @ JANM

## PAPER MARRIAGE

Jeff Man / USA / 2024 / 91 mins

A young professional seeking an U.S. green card enlists the help of a directionless slacker to stage a marriage. The two strangers have less than a year to convince everyone, including themselves, that they are a real couple.

Sun, May 5 / 7:00PM / Aratani Theatre @ JACCC



## SALLI

Chien-Hung Lien / Taiwan, France / 2024 / 106 mins

An online romance with a foreigner takes a lonely middle-aged chicken farmer to an unknown land. Despite everyone saying it is a romance scam, she wants to prove that her love indeed exists.

Sun, May 5 / 5:30PM / Union Center for the Arts

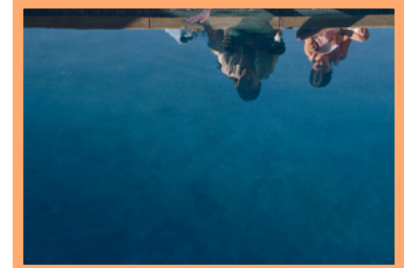


## SMOKING TIGERS

So Young Shelly Yo / USA / 2023 / 91 mins

Over one summer spent at an elite academic bootcamp, a lonely Korean-American teenager hides her true identity to fit in with her new friends, only to discover the bittersweet pains of adulthood.

Fri, May 3 / 7:00PM / Aratani Theatre @ JACCC



## WAKHRI

Iram Parveen Bilal / USA, Pakistan / 2024 / 100 mins

A widowed school teacher becomes a viral sensation overnight when she accidentally unleashes her unabashed opinions on social media. This newfound fame comes with its own challenges as she must navigate archaic mindsets and secret identities while raising her ten-year-old son in a world where women's right to having a voice and owning space, physical or online, is a constant challenge.

Sat, May 4 / 8:00PM / Democracy Center @ JANM



# DOCUMENTARY FEATURES

Documentary storytelling allows us to better connect to each other; a relational bridge built on shared lived experiences. This year's lineup introduces us to an loway and Wampanoag, African American and Cape Verdean, femme lesbian; travels us to discover the Shaka hand sign's origin, meanings and why it's the secret to paradise; and takes us to Taiwan, Philippines and beyond. Join us in a cinematic learning experience to better understand each other so that we can navigate life together.



## ABOVE AND BELOW THE GROUND

Emily Hong / Myanmar, Thailand, USA / 2023 / 86 mins  
In Myanmar's first and only country-wide environmental movement, Indigenous punk rock pastors and women activists protect a sacred river from a Chinese-built megadam through protest, prayer, and Karaoke music videos.

Sun, May 5 / 2:30PM / Union Center for the Arts



## ADMISSIONS GRANTED

Hao Wu, Miao Wang / USA / 2024 / 90 mins  
In a landmark Supreme Court case pitting Asian American plaintiffs against Harvard University, activists on both sides wrestle with hard truths about race and equality, as the fate of affirmative action hangs in the balance.

Tues, May 7 / 5:00PM / Fowler Museum @ UCLA  
FREE PROGRAM



## AND SO IT BEGINS

Ramona S. Diaz / Philippines, USA / 2024 / 99 mins  
Amidst the traditional pomp and circumstance of Filipino elections, a quirky people's movement rises to defend the nation against deepening threats to truth and democracy. In a collective act of joy as a form of resistance, hope flickers against the backdrop of increasing autocracy.

Thurs, May 2 / 5:30PM / Democracy Center @ JANM



## ASHIMA

Kenji Tsukamoto / USA / 2023 / 86 mins  
A year in the life of 13-year-old elite rock climber Ashima Shiraishi as she balances fame, career, and trying to be a regular kid.

Sun, May 5 / 2:00PM / Democracy Center @ JANM

## BREAKING THE CYCLE

อำนาจ ศรีพธา อนาคต  
Aekaphong Saransate, Thanakrit Duangmaneeporn / Thailand / 2024 / 117 mins

Breaking The Cycle captures the political awakening among Thais after the rise and fall of Thanathorn, a young politician who calls to end the cycle of coups d'etat in the 2019 election.

Tues, May 7 / 5:00PM / Democracy Center @ JANM  
FREE PROGRAM



## DISSIDENTS

Yi Chen / USA / 2024 / 75 mins  
An artist's sculpture is burnt down, a protester is charged with a criminal case, and a democracy movement is violently attacked. In the United States, three Chinese dissidents fight for democracy against a superpower through art, petition, and grassroots organizing, but not even exile is safe.

Sat, May 4 / 11:00AM / Union Center for the Arts



## HEAVEN RAIN FLOWS SWEETLY 天雨流芳

Shasha Li / USA, China / 2023 / 68 mins  
After wildfires force her to leave her home in Oregon, filmmaker Shasha reconnects with the rituals and the landscapes of her maternal tribe in Himalayan China.

Thurs, May 2 / 9:30PM / JANM  
FREE PROGRAM



## HOME COURT

Erica Tanamachi / USA, Cambodia / 2024 / 95 mins  
Home Court traces the ascent of Ashley Chea, a Cambodian American basketball prodigy whose life intensifies amid recruitment, injury, and triumph throughout her high school career.

Sun, May 5 / 4:00PM / Aratani Theatre @ JACCC



# DOCUMENTARY FEATURES



## INVISIBLE NATION

Vanessa Hope / USA, Taiwan / 2023 / 85 mins  
In this urgently timely and insightful portrait of Taiwanese politics, director Vanessa Hope, with unprecedented access to Taiwan's first female president Tsai Ing-wen, documents the perilous path that Taiwan must walk between China and the West.

*Preceded by **Island in Between**  
(S. Leo Chiang / USA, Taiwan / 2023 / 20 mins)  
Fri, May 3 / 7:30PM / Democracy Center @ JANM*



## JEWELLE: A JUST VISION

Madeleine Lim / USA / 2022 / 64 mins  
JEWELLE: A Just Vision, shines a hope-filled spotlight on the Lambda award-winning novelist, activist, and philanthropist, Jewelle Gomez, an loway/Wampanoag Native American, and Cape Verdean/Black lesbian Femme elder.

*Fri, May 10 / 4:00PM / Art Theatre of Long Beach  
FREE PROGRAM*



## NOBUKO MIYAMOTO: A SONG IN MOVEMENT

Quyên Nguyen-Le, Tadashi Nakamura / USA / 2024 / 60 mins  
NOBUKO MIYAMOTO: A SONG IN MOVEMENT is a sweeping documentary that follows the life of visionary artist-activist Nobuko Miyamoto and her work that changed Asian America forever.

*Preceded by **120,000 Lumens**  
(Scott Oshima / USA / 2024 / 13 mins)  
Sat, May 4 / 6:00PM / Aratani Theatre @ JACCC*



## NOWHERE NEAR

Miko Revereza / USA, Philippines / 2023 / 96 mins  
A poetic memoir through the lens of a stateless person returning to an estranged homeland. The film is a years-long diary towards understanding the causes of migration to the United States, though ultimately this odyssey deviates far from the expected course.

*Sat, May 4 / 8:30PM / JANM  
FREE PROGRAM*

## SHAKA, A STORY OF ALOHA

Alexander Bocchieri / USA / 2024 / 110 mins  
Aloha. Mahalo. Hang loose! From Japan's temples to Brazil's beaches to Hawaii's epic North Shore waves, embark on a global quest to unravel the mystery of the Shaka gesture. Discover its origin, meanings and why it's the secret to paradise.

*Thurs, May 2 / 7:00PM / JANM  
FREE PROGRAM*



## THE GARDENER

Derek Shimoda / USA / 2024 / 75 mins  
A whimsical immigrant forges a deep-rooted bond with nature when life gives him a bitter one.

*Sun, May 5 / 7:00PM / JANM  
FREE PROGRAM*



## TEN TIMES BETTER

Jennifer Lin / USA / 2024 / 31 mins  
Prodded by his refugee mother to be "ten times better" in white America, George Lee is an 89-year-old blackjack dealer in Las Vegas who battled hardship and racism to become an Asian American pioneer in ballet and on Broadway.

*Wed, May 8 / 6:00PM / Democracy Center @ JANM*



## WE CARE

Risa Morimoto / USA / 2024 / 60 mins  
We Care features four Asian American families – The Shahanes in Cedar Park TX, the Herts in Los Angeles, the Simtumuangs in New Jersey, and the Woos in Hemet, CA as they share their personal experiences, struggles and self-discoveries caregiving for aging family members.

*Fri, May 3 / 5:00PM / Democracy Center @ JANM  
FREE PROGRAM*



# SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Pay special attention to our Special Presentations as we revisit stories from our heritage, history, and identities, and discover how they still hold true to the stories we try to tell today.



## DÌDI | 弟弟

Sean Wang / USA / 2024 / 93 mins

In 2008, during the last month of summer before high school begins, an impressionable 13-year-old Taiwanese American boy learns what his family can't teach him: how to skate, how to flirt, and how to love your mom.

Wed, May 8 / 8:00PM / Democracy Center @ JANM



## LA LIBERATION: VC x EWP (114 MIN)

Watch Artbound episodes L.A. REBELLION: A CINEMATIC MOVEMENT and EAST WEST PLAYERS: A HOME ON STAGE, and relive the early moments of Visual Communications and East West Players.

Thurs, May 2 / 5:00PM / Union Center for the Arts  
FREE PROGRAM

### L.A. REBELLION: A CINEMATIC MOVEMENT

(Bryant Griffin, Kitty Hu / USA / 2023 / 57 mins)

### EAST WEST PLAYERS: A HOME ON STAGE

(Yu Gu / USA / 2023 / 57 mins)



## MANZANAR TO TULE LAKE (60 MIN)

Take a sonic and visual journey from Manzanar to Tule Lake, through the works of VC Film Fest alums Ann Kaneko & Sharon Yamato. The Manzanar, Diverted visual sound bath immerses viewers in the world of Payahūnādū, "the land of flowing water," also known as the Owens Valley, where the Manzanar concentration camp was situated.

Featuring *One Fighting Irishman*

(Sharon Yamato, Evan Kodani / USA / 2023 / 30 mins)

Fri, May 3 / 3:00PM / Democracy Center @ JANM

FREE PROGRAM

# VC PRESENTS

VC's legacy is built upon what sets us part and what we do best: and that is our VC Archives and our Filmmaker development programs dedicated to emerging voices (AWC) and our beloved elders (DH).

## AWC NOW! (93 MIN)

Celebrate 20+ years of AWC through the works of our recent Fellowships. We are proud to present AWC Vol. 2023 and AWC Vol. 2024.

Thurs, May 8 / 3:00PM / Art Theatre of Long Beach  
FREE PROGRAM



## STAND UP FOR JUSTICE: THE RALPH LAZO STORY

John Esaki / USA / 2004 / 30 mins

20th Anniversary Celebration. Based on the true story of 16 year-old Mexican/Irish-American Ralph Lazo who chose to go to the Japanese-American internment camps during World War II with his Japanese-American friends.

Sat, May 4 / 12:00PM / Democracy Center @ JANM  
FREE PROGRAM



## VC ARCHIVES PRESENTS: CA LIBERATION (57 MIN)

Join VC Founders Duane Kubo & Eddie Wong as we look back at their early works at Visual Communications and how their work laid the foundation for our community-based media. Watch CRUISIN' J-TOWN and PIECES OF A DREAM, and enjoy a conversation between Duane & Eddie.

Wed, May 1 / 6:00PM / Democracy Center @ JANM  
FREE PROGRAM

### CRUISIN' J-TOWN

(Duane Kubo / USA / 1975 / 25 mins)

### PIECES OF A DREAM (4K RESTORATION)

(Eddie Wong / USA / 2024 / 32 mins)



# SHORTS PROGRAMS

Our Shorts Programs range over a wide scope of stories and expressions. From stories of distinctly local flavors to tales from faraway worlds, our selection of shorts offer a variety of urban, rural, and alternative perspectives.



## AFTERLIFE (71 MIN)

The rear-view mirror reflects the past, so let's focus on the road ahead. To a place that acknowledges and accepts grief. Resilience will be our respite.

Fri, May 3 / 9:00 PM / Union Center for the Arts

## DAISY IS GONE | 选择你的完美宠物

(Ziyao Liu / China / 2024 / 13 mins)

## FRAGMENTED

(T.L. Quach / USA / 2024 / 16 mins)

## HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY | TÄUELSIZDIK KÜNIŇIZBEN

(Camila Sagyntkan / Kazakhstan / 2023 / 17 mins)

## I LOVE YOU, YOUR KAMO

(Isaac Kau / USA / 2022 / 7 mins)

## INTO THE EMERALD SEA | エメラルドの海へ

(Asuka Lin / Japan / 2024 / 22 mins)

## LA COFFIN SCHOOL

(Erin Li / USA / 2011 / 5 mins)

## QUEERFULLY DEPARTED

(Trent Nakamura / USA / 2023 / 11 mins)



## AP ADVANCED PARENTING (90 MIN)

Parenthood is akin to a roller coaster, with its highs and lows, moments of happiness, sorrow, and everything in between. It encompasses healing from a hate crime as a family, while hoping for a brighter future for the children. Moreover, it involves facing the fallout of intergenerational trauma. These facets of parenthood reveal the wide spectrum of experiences within it.

Sun, May 5 / 11:30 AM / Union Center for the Arts

## A CAPSULE FOR ROBIN

(Lalithra Fernando / USA / 2023 / 13 mins)

## ASIAN BITCHES SPEAK

(Janet Chen (Ma) / USA / 2024 / 17 mins)

## OF SILENCE AND SONG

(Dai Leyi / USA / 2023 / 14 mins)

## OVER EASY

(Jiyeon Kim-Myung / USA / 2023 / 13 mins)

## ROCK THE CRADLE

(Asis Sethi / Canada / 2023 / 12 mins)

## THE BOXER AND THE ASTRONAUT

(Jake Muñoz Consing / Phillipines / 2024 / 17 mins)

## FROM VISIONS TO REEL: GROWING PAINS (87 MIN)

Witness the journey of identity and self-discovery unfold in these stories of growing up, where the path is anything but easy.

Fri, May 10 / 9:00 PM / Art Theatre of Long Beach

## ACCIDENTALLY INTENTIONAL

(Kevin Rahardjo / Indonesia / 2023 / 14 mins)

## CROSSROADS

(Libby Chun / USA / 2023 / 15 mins)

## DIANA | 黛安娜

(Luo-Bing Pan / USA / 2024 / 15 mins)

## KOI

(RJ Siu / USA / 2024 / 22 mins)

## LADKE

(Sruchi Patel / USA / 2024 / 15 mins)

## THỜI THƠ ẤU (CHILDHOOD)

(Vi Tuong Bui / USA / 2023 / 7 mins)



## HOW TO SUE THE KLAN + LEADING (62 MIN)

Sat, May 4 / 10:00AM / Democracy Center @ JANM

## FREE PROGRAM

## HOW TO SUE THE KLAN

(John Beder / USA / 2024 / 35 mins)

## LEADING

(Grace Lee / USA / 2024 / 27 mins)



# SHORTS PROGRAMS



## IN-BETWEEN THE LINES (81 MIN)

These frames in motion ask us what's in the space in-between the lines? Stories of love, loss, and the ties that bind it all back together.

Fri, May 3 / 9:30 PM / JANM

### A SHADOW'S GLOW

(Josh Mizrahi, Cole Fourqurean / USA / 2023 / 6 mins)

### ALL THE TIME

(Dominic Zulueta, Anya Zulueta / Philippines / 2023 / 8 mins)

### BIRD DRONE

(Radheya Jegatheva / Australia / 2023 / 9 mins)

### BUCKETS CITY

(Dave Quion / USA, Philippines / 2023 / 7 mins)

### FORTUNE COOKIE

(Fu Yang / USA, Taiwan / 2023 / 4 mins)

### HALO HALO

(Loren Elise Chun / USA / 2023 / 6 mins)

### PERFECT CITY: THE BRAVEST KID

(Shengwei Zhou / USA, China / 2023 / 6 mins)

### SPORTS DAY | 運動會

(Jessica Wu / USA / 2023 / 4 mins)

### TEA STORY

(Celina Lung / USA / 2023 / 10 mins)

### THE 7TH NIGHT: MAOMAO REVISITS | 猫猫的头七

(ahLoong / Malaysia / 2023 / 4 mins)

### THE NECTAR INSTEAD

(Yoo Lee / USA / 2023 / 4 mins)

### THIS IS A STORY WITHOUT A PLAN

(Cassie Shao / USA / 2023 / 8 mins)

### WALK WITH THE DEVIL

(Zuye "Joey" Liu / USA, China / 2023 / 4 mins)

### WEATHER FORECAST: AUGMENTED!

(Pei-Lun Hsieh / USA, Taiwan / 2024 / 4 mins)

## INDIGENOUS NOW! (88 MIN)

From the voyagers of Hawai'i to Nusa Ina, to the coast of Chumash Indian homelands these documentaries explore journeys committed to keeping their ancestral legacy alive. They are the original storytellers of their lands, we are grateful to be able to share their continued stories today.

Fri, May 3 / 7:00 PM / JANM

### FREE PROGRAM

### HÖKŪLE'A: FINDING THE LANGUAGE OF THE NAVIGATOR

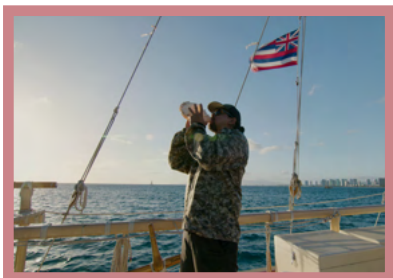
(Ty Sanga / USA / 2023 / 41 mins)

### NUSU INA

(Anne Jan Sijbrandij / Netherlands, Indonesia / 2023 / 34 mins)

### SPEAKING WITH ANCESTORS

(Richard E. Haywood / USA / 2023 / 13 mins)



## KUWENTUHAN (94 MIN)

Another balikbayan box has arrived! Let's savor every pasalubong. Don't forget to FaceTime the film fam and enjoy these tales that pay homage to the scoundrels, free-thinkers, and matriarchs of the Philippine diaspora, here, there, and everywhere.

Thurs, May 9 / 8:00 PM / Art Theatre of Long Beach

### ALL THIS WASTED SPACE

(Cris Bringas / Philippines / 2023 / 16 mins)

### APARTMENT 605

(Bianca Catbagan / USA / 2023 / 7 mins)

### BUZZCUT

(Kiersten Villanueva / USA / 2023 / 12 mins)

### KILIG!

(Kacey Layson / USA / 2023 / 6 mins)

### LOLA

(Grace Hanna / USA / 2024 / 12 mins)

### MOSQUITO LADY

(Kristine Gerolaga / USA / 2023 / 14 mins)

### PAMILYA

(Miles Blacket / United Kingdom / 2023 / 15 mins)

### VS

(Jole Sanchez / USA / 2024 / 12 mins)

## #LIFE (88 MIN)

Life really be life'in, sometimes. From blind dates to unexpected reunions, to family dramas and personal identity explorations. Can you believe we made it this far?

Fri, May 3 / 6:00 PM / Union Center for the Arts

### 8AM & 8PM

(Sanjna Bharadwaj / USA / 2024 / 18 mins)

### LET LOVE FLOW - AN OH MYH DATING HELL STORY

(Ryan Fukuda / USA / 2024 / 22 mins)

### NO ESCAPE

(Leena Kurishingal / USA / 2024 / 10 mins)

### SO, THAT HAPPENED

(Neha Aziz / USA / 2024 / 10 mins)

### SQUEEGEE BOY

(Chung-Wei Huang / USA / 2024 / 15 mins)

### STRANGE | ストレンジ

(Ken Ochiai / Japan / 2023 / 15 mins)



# SHORTS PROGRAMS



## LOVE OUT LOUD (85 MIN)

Soulmates and old flames. BFFs and FWBs. Girlfriends, boyfriends, and themfriends. These stories are about those outside the box, and the love that brings them inside our circle.

Fri, May 10 / 6:00 PM / Art Theatre of Long Beach

### AIKĀNE

(Daniel Sousa, Dean Hamer, Joe Wilson / USA / 2023 / 14 mins)

### ANYWHERE THE WIND BLOWS | 風繼續吹

(Jay Liu / USA / 2024 / 18 mins)

### BABY GAY

(Arielle Frances Bagood / USA / 2024 / 9 mins)

### BEST FIENDS

(Jonathan De Guzman II / USA / 2024 / 6 mins)

### DOG, BRUH!

(Katja! / USA / 2022 / 6 mins)

### GRAPEFRUIT

(Jessica Liu / USA / 2024 / 7 mins)

### I WANNA BECOME THE SKY

(Jess X. Snow, traci kato-kiriyama / USA / 2023 / 12 mins)

### WHEN THE HOUSE LIGHTS COME ON | ABUTAN MAN

### TAYO NG HOUSE LIGHTS

(Apa Agbayani / Phillipines / 2023 / 14 mins)



## ON DIFERENT SHORES (60 MIN)

Just like the ocean, it is our stories and similar lived experiences that connect us. This program will be cinematic journey to cultural lessons in Hawai'i, to a legendary musician and activist in Seattle, and beyond.

Thurs, May 9 / 5:00 PM / Art Theatre of Long Beach

### HOMESTEAD

(Justin Pascua / USA / 2023 / 14 mins)

### REACH OUT

(John Haas / USA / 2024 / 29 mins)

### RECLAIM

(Geeta Gandbhir, Justyn Ah Chong / USA / 2024 / 27 mins)

## OUR STORYTELLING POWER (55 MIN)

Working with allies from Color Congress and beyond, this documentary lineup will feature Asian, Black, and Latine communities from New York, Philadelphia, Rio Grande Valley, and San Diego, and will embody a multicultural solidarity that amplifies the combined storytelling power that can impact all of our lives.

Sat, May 4 / 2:00 PM / Union Center for the Arts

FREE PROGRAM

### LA NUEVA FLOR

(Emmanuel Enriquez / USA / 2023 / 10 mins)

### STAYING PUT: STORIES OF CHINATOWN'S RESISTANCE

(Ailin Cao, Jintong Jiang, Raymond Shi, Dallas Teng, Rosalie Yang, Selena Yip / USA / 2018 / 11 mins)

### THE GRASS ISN'T ALWAYS GREENER: MIGRANTS IN THE WORKPLACE

(Arianny Gallardo, Daniel Sanchez Diaz, Edickson Espinosa, Franchesca Thomas, Francis Genao, Giosmar Garcia, Hajjasow Cisse, John Michel, Jose Paucar, Mathias Flores Uchuypoma, Mously Thiam, Nyla Collado, Quesly Gonzalez, Sajidur Rahman, Talyah Golding / USA / 2024 / 22 mins)

### THE BOTANICAL GARDENS: AN URBAN OASIS

(Glenda Vallejo, Amy Soyosa, Jose Balderas / USA / 2022 / 10 mins)



## PACIFIC CINEWAVES: THE STORIES WE TELL (61 MIN)

We are grateful to present another edition of Pacific Cinewaves Shorts; celebrating stories that connect generations and lands. Join us on a trip to a football field in American Samoa, to Aotearoa (New Zealand) to meet a young boy and his grandfather, to the Marshallese community of Arkansas, and to the garden of the last monarch of Hawai'i, Queen Lili'uokalani.

Sat, May 4 / 4:00 PM / Union Center for the Arts



### IN EXILE

(Nathan Fitch / USA, Marshall Islands / 2023 / 11 mins)

### KAI HALI'A (SEA OF MEMORY)

(Angelique Kalani Axelrode / Kingdom of Hawai'i / 2024 / 9 mins)

### LEA TUPU'ANGA | MOTHER TONGUE

(Vea Mafile'o / New Zealand / 2024 / 17 mins)

### THE QUEENS FLOWERS

(Ciara Leina'ala Lacy / USA / 2024 / 12 mins)

### THE SHAUN NUA PROJECT

(Jess Speight, Jake Zielinski / American Samoa / 2023 / 6 mins)

### TUIA NGĀ HERE

(Kura Turuwheua, Heriata Rurehe / Aotearoa / 2024 / 12 mins)



# SHORTS PROGRAMS



## PACIFIC CINEWAVES: ISLAND HOME (47 MIN)

An additional Pacific Cinewaves Shorts offering, this program is anchored by 2 different explorations of home. Follow the summer journey of a 15-year-old on Rapa Nui; who is torn between his father's dreams of him becoming a folk artist and his own personal connection to the sea. Then travel to 1790 Hawai'i, to meet an elite warrior who must leave his family behind to embark on a deadly mission to report on the bloody war waged by Kamehameha against Maui.

Sat, May 4 / 6:30 PM / Union Center for the Arts

## KŪKINI

(Mitchel Merrick / Kingdom of Hawai'i / 2024 / 26 mins)

## MARAHORO

(Sofia Rodríguez Pizero / Chile / 2024 / 16 mins)



## REEL FOOD (45 MIN)

Cinematic explorations of some of the more delicious things of life.

Sat, May 4 / 7:00 PM / JANM

FREE PROGRAM

## COOK IT YOURSELF

(N.J. Nakamura / USA / 2016 / 4 mins)

## DUDE, WHERE'S MY DOUBLES?

(Kevin Ramlal / USA / 2023 / 17 mins)

## ROOTS + WINGS: PARISA PARNIAN

(Lisa Yadao, Michelle Sampior, Irene Yadao / USA / 2024 / 9 mins)

## SAMEER AND THE GIANT SAMOSA

(Faroukh Virani / USA / 2016 / 6 mins)

In collaboration with:



## US (90 MIN)

They made stories of us, being one on mountaintops. Fled the city after us, along the way they gave our props. Honor amongst thieves, but its way turns the pages. And it's contagious, being part of us.

Sun, May 5 / 8:00 PM / Democracy Center @ JANM

## BEFORE DAWN, KABUL TIME | لپاک تقو هب عولط

(Tara Motamedi / USA / 2022 / 14 mins)

## BRONX PARK THUNDER

(Shaun Vivaris / USA / 2024 / 16 mins)

## NEITHER ON THE MOUNTAIN, NOR IN THE FIELD | ТООДО ЭМЕС, ЖЕ ОЙДО ЭМЕС

(Gulzat Egemberdieva / Canada, Germany, Kyrgyzstan / 2022 / 15 mins)

## SHOT CLOCK

(King Lu / USA / 2024 / 15 mins)

## THANK YOU NEVER COME AGAIN

(Bryan Sih / USA / 2024 / 20 mins)

## WINDHORSE

(Sunil Gurung / Nepal / 2023 / 10 mins)



## WE ARE MORE! (86 MIN)

WE ARE MORE! takes all of your assumptions and throws them out the window. The father who'll let nothing stand in his way to fight for his daughter. The artist who overcomes feeling divided in their identity. The politician who defies all expectations. These are just a few of the short documentary stories in this collection that take you on a journey of resilience, hope, and the human capacity to overcome the limitations presented in the world.

Sun, May 5 / 11:00 AM / Democracy Center @ JANM

## ART 21: CHRISTINE SUN KIM

(Chiemi Karasawa / USA / 2023 / 14 mins)

## DUCKWORTHY

(M.G. Evangelista / USA / 2023 / 7 mins)

## I WOULD'VE BEEN HAPPY

(Jordan Wong / USA / 2023 / 9 mins)

## KOWLOON!

(Mona Xia, Erin Ramirez / USA / 2024 / 16 mins)

## MERCY

(Xinyue Wu / USA, China / 2024 / 15 mins)

## PLASTIC - A LOVE LETTER TO THE ESTRANGED

(Va'a Magalogo / New Zealand / 2023 / 15 mins)

## RALPH & BUG

(Christine Thomas Yoon / USA / 2023 / 18 mins)



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THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS, FUNDERS, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS!  
THE 40TH VC FILM FEST WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT!

# UPCOMING VC SCREENINGS

Look forward to more film screenings after the VC Film Fest!



## DIGITAL HISTORIES @ GARDENA VALLEY JCI

Join us at Gardena Valley JCI for AAPI Heritage Month in May, where we will be presenting seven diverse short films from our Digital Histories artists! A panel discussion and Q&A session with the filmmakers will take place after the screening. Registration is required to attend. General admission is only \$15! Learn more at [bit.ly/dhgardena](https://bit.ly/dhgardena)  
Sat, May 18 / 2:00PM / Gardena Valley JCI



## DIGITAL HISTORIES @ THOUSAND OAKS

VC is partnering with Ventura JACL to showcase a selection of shorts films from our Digital Histories Program along with Paul Daisuke Goodman's No No Girl at the Thousand Oaks Grant R. Brimhall Library Community Room. This event is free and open to the public. Learn more at [bit.ly/vcjacl](https://bit.ly/vcjacl)  
Sat, May 18 / 1:00PM / Thousand Oaks Grant R. Brimhall Library



## AWC VOL. 2023 & HITO HATA @ HOMA

VC is partnering with the Honolulu Museum of Art (HoMA) to celebrate the culture, creativity, and diversity of our community during Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. VC will be presenting the 4K Restoration of HITO HATA: RAISE THE BANNER and all six films from Armed With a Camera Vol. 2023. Learn more at [bit.ly/homaawc](https://bit.ly/homaawc) and [bit.ly/homahitohata](https://bit.ly/homahitohata)  
May 23-26 / Honolulu Museum of Art



## CITY CITY @ ACADEMY MUSEUM

Directed by Duane Kubo and produced by Visual Communications in 1974, City City is an experimental narrative that explores the City of Los Angeles through an abstract view of a contemporary city and the people who inhabit it.  
Fri, Aug 23 / Academy Museum

# ABOUT VC ARCHIVES



Home to one of the largest photographic and moving image archives on Asian Pacific experiences in America, the VC Archives holds over 750,000 photographic images, 1,500+ titles in the media library, 500+ films and video productions, and 250+ hours of oral histories.



750,000+

Photographic Images



1,500+

Titles in the Media Library



500+

Films and Video Productions



250+

Hours of Oral Histories

The VC Archives serves as an integral part of our documentary-based production activities as we have documented various Asian American social movements and communities in California.

**VISIT ARCHIVES.VCMEDIA.ORG TO LEARN MORE!**



VC ARCHIVES

# ABOUT VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS



Founded in 1970 with the understanding that media and the arts are powerful forms of storytelling, **Visual Communications** creates cross-cultural connections between peoples and generations. Our mission is to develop and support the voices of Asian American & Pacific Islander filmmakers and media artists who empower communities and challenge perspectives. Created by a group of artists and filmmakers to organize and empower communities through media, Visual Communications is the first media arts organization in the nation dedicated to the honest and accurate portrayals of the Asian American & Pacific Islander peoples and communities.

We are home to the VC Archives, one of the largest photographic and moving image collections on Asian Pacific experiences in America.

Visual Communications' programs include: the annual **VC Film Fest** and year-round screenings and exhibitions, the **Armed With a Camera** Fellowship for Emerging Media Artists, and the **Digital Histories** media production and storytelling program for older adults.

**WANT TO LEARN MORE? VISIT VCMEDIA.ORG**



**VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Connecting Communities Through Media Arts

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