

**Los Angeles Filmforum presents**  
**Filmforum 50, program 7: "Vision of the Fire Tree"**  
**Films by Stan Brakhage and Phil Solomon**  
**Live performance by Ulrich Krieger, Michael Pisaro-Liu, and Eyvind Kang**  
**Sunday, February 1, 2026, 8:00 pm**  
**At 2220 Arts + Archives**

Los Angeles Filmforum is the city's longest running organization dedicated to weekly screenings of experimental film, documentaries, video art, and experimental animation. 2026 is our 51st year. [www.lafilmforum.org](http://www.lafilmforum.org)

A very special evening, with classic films by Stan Brakhage and Phil Solomon with live performance by beloved LA composers and musicians, **Ulrich Krieger**, **Michael Pisaro-Liu**, and **Eyvind Kang**. All films will be screened in 16mm.

The program opens with *Vision of the Fire Tree*. It is, as Brakhage writes, "like a fire in the mind" that "seeks that 'tree' along a line of metaphorical synapse."

Landing in the *Cat of the Worm's Green Realm*, cats, flames, worms, leaves, sunlight, and tiny creatures thrive in a fantastical world refracted by octagonal prisms—a mysterious, luminous, and boundless visual feast beneath an autumn-hued sky.

*Desert* gazes directly at the dazzling sun. Yellow sand and mirages.

Dried red and yellow rose petals, black and white calligraphic lines, hieroglyphic pinks, greens, and blues. *The Persian Series #6-12* is a symphony of bold and delicate emotions, the power of lines and shapes clashing and merging, yet appearing and disappearing like ghosts—indistinct, ultimately...

The program concludes with Phil Solomon's *Clepsydra*, in which a water-clock rescues us from the lost flames, taking us back to the origin of the universe through the heavy black-and-white noise, where perhaps the "tree" resides.

We wish to acknowledge that these films were originally created in silent film format by the artist, and our performance reflects this, demonstrating our deep understanding and respect for Brakhage's artistic vision. This event celebrates the 50th anniversary of Los Angeles Filmforum, paying tribute to art films and bringing together these musicians who are also devoted fans of Brakhage. This live performance is authorized and approved by Stan Brakhage's widow, Marilyn Brakhage.

Curated by Cherlyn Hsing-Hsin Liu

**About the Musicians:**

**Ulrich Krieger**

[Ulrich Krieger](#) is a German composer and saxophonist living in Southern California. Krieger's recent focus lies on the experimental fringes of contemporary rock culture, in the limbo where

noise, metal, silence, electronic music, improvisation and experimental chamber music meet – not accepting stylistic boundaries. Beside his solo work he performed extensively with his groups Metal Machine Trio and Text of Light. He collaborated and performed with Lou Reed, Merzbow, Carl Stone, John Zorn, Lee Ranaldo, Christian Marclay, Faust, Phill Niblock, Berlin Philharmonics, Ensemble Modern, Musikfabrik, PARTCH Ensemble, and many more. His compositions are widely performed internationally. Krieger studied classical/contemporary saxophone, composition, electronic music, and musicology in Berlin and New York. He is professor for composition and rock music at CalArts.

### **Michael Pisaro-Liu**

[Michael Pisaro-Liu](#) is a guitarist and composer and a long-time member of the Wandelweiser collective. While, like other members of Wandelweiser, Pisaro-Liu is known for pieces of long duration with periods of silence, over the past two decades his work has branched out in many directions, including work with field recording, electronics, improvisation and large ensembles of very different kinds of instrumental constitution. Pisaro-Liu is the Director of Composition and Experimental Music the California Institute of the Arts.

### **Eyvind Kang**

[Eyvind Kang](#)'s recent albums are Azure (with Jessika Kenney, 2023), Sonic Gnostic (2021) and Ajaeng Ajaeng (2020). They have performed with musicians including Bennie Maupin, Bill Frisell, Laurie Anderson.

### **Screening:**

#### ***Vision of the Fire Tree by Stan Brakhage***

1991, 16mm, color, silent, 4 min.

It will first be shown as a silent film, as originally intended.

"Vitality, the human race is dying. It is like a great uprooted tree with its roots in the air. We must plant ourselves again in the universe." - D.H. Lawrence

This little film, like a fire in the mind, seeks that "tree" along a line of metaphorical synapse.

#### ***Vision of the Fire Tree by Stan Brakhage***

1991, 16mm, color, Live Performance, 4 min.

This film will be screened again, accompanied by live performance.

#### ***Cat of the Worm's Green Realm by Stan Brakhage***

1994, 16mm, color, Live Performance, 14:00

#### ***Desert by Stan Brakhage***

1976, Super 8 to 16mm, color, Live Performance, 10:00

"I want it understood that this 'summary' is written for identification purposes only and that it is not intended as a statement by the artist on his work. It is my belief that statements by the artist, particularly in print, aesthetically speaking, would better have been included in that work in the first place.

"If a film is a work of moving visual art, it is its own subject and subject only to itself. The extent to which a film can be described is the extent to which it is deficient as a work of visual art. If the 'summary of the subject' of a film can be interpreted as that which is intended to inspire perception in the viewer, rather than as that which attempts to describe the film for the viewer, then (the title) is my 'summary of the subject.'"

***The Persian Series #6-12 by Stan Brakhage***

1999, 16mm, color, Live Performance, 25:00

***Clepsydra by Phil Solomon***

1992, 16mm, B&W, Live Performance, 14:00

Clepsydra is an ancient Greek water clock (literally, "to steal water"). This film envisions the strip of celluloid going vertically through a projector as a sprocketed waterfall (random events measured in discreet units of time), through which the silent dreams of a young girl can barely be heard under the din of an irresistible torrent, an irreversible torment.

"Solomon has evolved his technique so that in his latest work ('Clepsydra' - 'waterclock') the textures are constantly changing and are often appropriate to each figure in metaphoric interplay with each figure's gestural (symbolic) movement. He has, thus, created consonance with thought as destroyer/creator - a Kali-like aesthetic 'There is a light at the end of the tunnel' (Romantic); and it is a train coming straight at us: ... (and, to balance such, perhaps, with a touch of Zen) ... it is beautiful!" - Stan Brakhage

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Los Angeles Filmforum screenings are supported by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Department of Arts & Culture, the Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles. This activity is supported in part by the California Arts Council, a state agency. Learn more at [www.arts.ca.gov](http://www.arts.ca.gov). We also depend on our members, ticket buyers, and individual donors.

Coming soon:

Feb 8 – *Step Across the Border*, by Nicolas Humbert and Werner Penzel, with Fred Frith in person! At 2220 Arts + Archives

Feb 12 – Co-presenting "The Love Tapes" by Wendy Clarke, at the Philosophical Research Society

Feb 15 - Filmforum 50, program 8: An Evening with Morgan Fisher, At 2220 Arts + Archives

Memberships available, \$40 Student \$75 Individual, \$125 Dual, or \$225 Silver Nitrate

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