

Los Angeles Filmforum presents
***Sanctuary Station*, by Brigid McCaffrey**
Thursday May 22, 2025, 7:30 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. 2025 is our 50th year. www.lafilmforum.org

In person discussion following the screening with director Brigid McCaffrey and Tuni Chatterji

Los Angeles Filmforum is delighted to welcome back artist and filmmaker Brigid McCaffrey for the Los Angeles premiere of her newest work, *Sanctuary Station*.

Sanctuary Station traces a series of encounters with women and youth who have cultivated intrinsic attachments to the various life forms inhabiting the redwood forests and remote terrains of northwestern California. Oscillations between the desire for solitude and the need for collaboration recur through an album-like progression of personal stories and actions. These encounters are framed through the poems of Mary Norbert Korte (1934-2022), an ex-nun who built her own cabin deep in the forest, adjacent to a former logging railroad. Korte's life and work bear witness to the daily phenomena of internal and external experience. Depictions of ongoing forest defense movements, collective and personal rites of mourning, and intimate everyday routines evoke cycles of life unfolding within this intricately interwoven environment.

Brigid McCaffrey is a Los Angeles-based artist and filmmaker whose work documents environments and people in states of flux. Her films explore extremes of autonomy and coexistence experienced by individuals who have distinct relationships with the land. Often taking shape as nuanced portraits, the films respond to the physical and emotional changes of their subjects while fusing representations of self and place.

She has exhibited at venues such as the Hammer Museum, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, the Harvard Film Archive, and the Whitechapel Gallery, and in film festivals including Ambulante, Frontiera Festival, Images Festival, New York Film Festival, and the Rotterdam International Film Festival, among others. Her work was presented by Ballroom Marfa for Artist's Film International, the Flaherty Seminar, and the Pesaro Film Festival. McCaffrey was named a Guggenheim fellow in Film & Video in 2019.

Tuni Chatterji is a Los Angeles-based artist and filmmaker whose work explores the phenomena of the natural world through cinematic experience. Her feature-length poetic documentary, *Okul Nodi*, developed during a Fulbright Fellowship in Bangladesh, centers on Bhatiyali, the boat songs of Bengal. Her work has been screened internationally in museums, film festivals, universities, and art spaces. Tuni has served on the board of Los Angeles Filmforum since 2017.

Screening:

Sanctuary Station

Directed, Filmed, Edited by Brigid McCaffrey

2024, 16mm to digital, b&w, sound, 69 min.

“In *Sanctuary Station*, McCaffrey specifically explores spiritualism and eco-activism within communities of women. The gorgeously shot high-contrast black-and-white film opens with a series of tracking shots through a sun-streaked forest and across a wooden train track, before finally landing on a sign that reads, “Save Old Growth.” We have arrived at our destination. Here is the matriarch’s (Körte’s) house, full of knickknacks, photographs, and patched quilts bathed in light. Körte reads aloud a poem while the camera explores her small house and then reflects aloud on the writing of the poem in non-diegetic voice over. “Mother Superior used to say, ‘Feelings don’t count! Feelings don’t count!’” Körte reminisces, “and I understand and side with what she was trying to say which was, ‘No matter how you feel, you do the do.’” Later, a small group of environmentalists walks down a road branding signs that read, “Save the Oaks.” The group is small but mighty, lightly beating drums, laughing, and, finally, holding hands. If their cause doesn’t move you, McCaffrey shows (rather than tells) why their politics matter. After the protest, McCaffrey cuts to a long shot of a forest, utterly silent and still. The frame holds for several beats, luxuriating in the majesty of the impressive trees. A bird trills somewhere in the cloudless ether. This is the “do” of which Mother Superior spoke—participating in the making of, and looking at, the world.” -- Hannah Bonner, *The Brooklyn Rail*, <https://brooklynrail.org/2025/03/film/another-spell-of-light-unstable-rocks-sanctuary-station/>

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. We also depend on our members, ticket buyers, and individual donors.

Coming soon:

May 25 – Co-presenting Nam June Paik Satellite Spectaculars at the Philosophical Research Society

June 1 – *Turang*, by Bachtar Siagian US Premiere!

June 8 (Sunday, 1:00 pm) - *Bab El Shams (Gate of the Sun)* by Yousry Nasrallah - classic epic film of Palestine

June 14 (Saturday) - Co-presenting Brazilian handmade films presented by Tetsuya Maruyama at Whammy Analog

June 15 (Sunday) - Co-presenting *Water and Power*, by Pat O'Neill, at the Philosophical Research Society

June 22 (Sunday) - Co-presenting *Los Angeles Plays Itself*, by Thom Andersen, at the Philosophical Research Society

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

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