

# LACMA

**INSTALLATION:** *AGNÈS VARDA IN CALIFORNIALAND*  
**ON VIEW:** NOVEMBER 3, 2013-JUNE 22, 2014  
**LOCATION:** BCAM, 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR



(IMAGE CAPTIONS ON PAGE 4)

Once called the "grandmother of the French New Wave," Agnès Varda (b. 1928 in Ixelles, Belgium; active in France) has been making beautiful and challenging narrative and documentary films for six decades. *Agnès Varda in Californialand* marks the first U.S. museum presentation of her works as a visual artist and features a new major sculptural installation, inspired by her time in Los Angeles in the late 1960s, alongside a selection of her photographs. This exhibition coincides with the museum's efforts with The Annenberg Foundation and The Film Foundation (an organization devoted to film preservation and restoration founded in 1990 by film director Martin Scorsese) to restore four films made by Varda in California, on the occasion of LACMA's 2013 Art+Film Gala: *Uncle Yanco* (1967), *Black Panthers* (1968), *LIONS LOVE (...AND LIES)* (1969), and *Mur Murs* (1981). The exhibition is part of LACMA's Art+Film initiative, a large-scale effort to consider the place of film within a museum context.

Varda is producing a new commissioned work for *Agnès Varda in Californialand* called *My Shack of Cinema (1968-2013)*, a structure familiar for those who have viewed her autobiographical film *The Beaches of Agnès*. *Cabane de l'échec (Cabana of failure)*, Varda's first cabana, was constructed with the print from her film *The Creatures* (1966), a commercial and critical flop. Varda chose to use the celluloid from the print as construction material, unspooling it from the reel and using it

to create the walls and roof. For *My Shack of Cinema (1968-2013)*, Varda has proposed to make a new cabana out of an old 35mm print of *LIONS LOVE (...AND LIES)*, the film that she shot with a wild cast of characters including filmmaker Shirley Clarke, Andy Warhol superstar Viva, and Jerry Ragni and Jim Rado, the creators of the musical *Hair*. The new cabana will create a place of reflection and repose, offering "another way for audiences to watch films." Also on view is a new wall installation with ephemera from *LIONS LOVE (...AND LIES)*.

*Agnès Varda in Californialand* marks the artist's return to California to reflect thematically and personally on the time she spent in Los Angeles in the late 1960s and early 1980s. Varda, her husband (the late filmmaker Jacques Demy) and their family were in Los Angeles during the tumultuous May 1968 street protests in Paris. Varda has described her fascination with Los Angeles as "a city of contrasts, contradictions, and freedom" as well as the challenges of making films on the margins of the studio system. Over the course of two short but intense periods of residence in Los Angeles, Varda made a variety of films concerning people living independently and against the mainstream, whether as political revolutionaries in Oakland (*Black Panthers*), hippie artists in Sausalito (*Uncle Yanco*), freewheeling libertines in the Hollywood Hills (*LIONS LOVE (...AND LIES)*), street artists in Los Angeles (*Mur Murs*), or a single-mother expat in the neighborhood of Venice (*Documenteur, an Emotion Picture*).

Some of Varda's most acclaimed films are *Cleo from 5 to 7* (1961); *Vagabond* (1985), winner of the Golden Lion Award at the Venice Film Festival; *Jacquot* (1991); *The Gleaners and I* (2000); and *The Beaches of Agnès* (2009), winner of the Cesar Award for best documentary. In 2010, Varda was given the prestigious lifetime achievement award, the *Carrosse d'Or*, at the Cannes Film Festival. Varda was recently announced as the guest artistic director for the 2013 American Film Institute (AFI) Fest, which takes place in Los Angeles, November 7-14, 2013. Varda is now also a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Varda's filmmaking roots are in photography, and she has turned frequently to the medium as subject matter for her films. The exhibition features a selection of photographs shot during Varda's time in California. These images, some taken while traveling through the state while others taken on

the sets of her films, transmit Varda's consistent fascination with exploring the permeable boundaries of documentary and fiction.

In 2003, Varda was invited by curator Hans Ulrich Obrist to show her visual art at the Venice Biennale. Since then, her photography, installations, sculptures, and performance pieces have been exhibited at the Lyon Biennale, SMAK Ghent, Foundation Cartier for Contemporary Art in Paris, and CAFA Art Museum in Beijing.

### **Public Programming**

*Agnès Varda in Californialand* is accompanied by LACMA-organized film screenings October 25-26, 2013 of recent and newly restored films, presented by Varda in person, a retrospective series in December 2013, and a showcase of Varda's films alongside those of her Left Bank colleagues in May 2014.

### **The World According to Agnès Varda: Recent and Restored Work October 25-29**

#### **The Gleaners and I**

October 25 | 7:30 pm | In person: Agnès Varda  
2000, 82 min., color, 35mm.

#### **The Gleaners and I: Two Years Later**

October 25 | 9:40 pm  
2002, 60 min. color, digital | Followed by debut episode of *Agnès de ci de là Varda* (2011, 51 min., color, digital)

#### **Agnès de ci de là Varda: Episodes 3 & 4**

October 26 | 5 pm | Free admission | In person: Agnès Varda  
2011, 90 min., color, digital

#### **The Beaches of Agnès**

October 26 | 7:30 pm | In person: Agnès Varda  
2008, 110 min., color, 35mm. | Preceded by *Uncle Yanco* (1967, 22 min., color, 35mm) Restoration funding provided by the Annenberg Foundation, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) and The Film Foundation. Restored by Cineteca di Bologna at L'Immagine Ritrovata in association with Ciné-Tamaris and The Film Foundation.

#### **LION'S LOVE (...AND LIES)**

October 29 | 8 pm | In person: Agnès Varda  
1969, 110 min., color, 35mm. | Restoration funding provided by the Annenberg Foundation, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) and The Film Foundation. Restored by Cineteca di Bologna at L'Immagine Ritrovata in association with Ciné-Tamaris and The Film Foundation.

In addition, the filmmaker will participate in *Art on Screen: A Conversation with Agnès Varda* on November 3, 2013 at the Getty Center. For more information, please click [here](#).

**Credit**

This exhibition was organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The exhibition was supported in part by the Institut Français, the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, and Ciné-Tamaris (Paris).

**About LACMA**

Since its inception in 1965, LACMA has been devoted to collecting works of art that span both history and geography-and represent Los Angeles's uniquely diverse population. Today, the museum features particularly strong collections of Asian, Latin American, European, and American art, as well as a contemporary museum on its campus. With this expanded space for contemporary art, innovative collaborations with artists, and an ongoing Transformation project, LACMA is creating a truly modern lens through which to view its rich encyclopedic collection.

**Location and Contact:** 5905 Wilshire Boulevard (at Fairfax Avenue), Los Angeles, CA, 90036 | 323 857-6000 | lacma.org

**Hours:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 11 am-5 pm; Friday: 11 am-8 pm; Saturday, Sunday: 10 am-7 pm; closed Wednesday

**General Admission:** Adults: \$15; students 18+ with ID and senior citizens 62+: \$10

**Free General Admission:** Members; children 17 and under; after 3 pm weekdays for L.A. County residents; second Tuesday of every month; Target Free Holiday Mondays

**Image captions:**

**(Left)** Agnès Varda's short film *Uncle Yanco*, 1967, © cine-tamaris

**(Center)** Black Panthers' meeting for Huey Newton's freedom, Oakland 1967, © Agnès Varda

**(Right)** *Viva! - Rado - Ragni* in Agnès Varda's *LIONS LOVE (...AND LIES)*, 1968 © Max Raab/Agnès Varda

**Press Contact:** For additional information, contact LACMA Communications at press@lacma.org or 323 857-6522.

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