

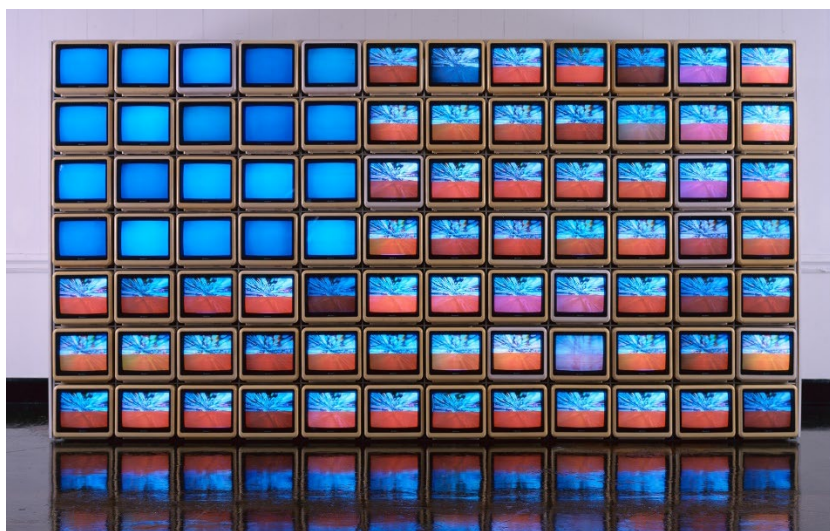


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Fort Worth, TX  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 6, 2022

The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth Announces  
**I'LL BE YOUR MIRROR: ART AND THE DIGITAL SCREEN**  
On View February 12–April 30, 2023



The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth presents the landmark *I'll Be Your Mirror: Art and the Digital Screen*, a thematic group exhibition that examines the screen's vast impact on art from 1969 to the present. This exhibition surveys more than sixty works by fifty artists over the past five decades. The artists included examine screen culture through a broad range of media such as paintings, sculpture, video games, digital art, augmented reality, and video. Organized by Curator Alison Hearst, *I'll Be Your Mirror: Art and the Digital Screen* will be on view at the Modern February 12 through April 30, 2023.

Screens affect nearly every aspect of life today. Their pervasiveness has bred a 24/7 breaking news cycle, the looming corporate-sponsored virtual-reality “Metaverse,” unlimited accessibility and content, and an ease in how ideas and images are distributed, undoubtably shaping culture in profound ways. This exhibition starts in 1969—the year of the televised Apollo moon landing and the launch of the internet’s prototype, ARPANET—as this was the watershed year where collective connectivity through screens was first mobilized in modern society. This era forged what the media theorist Marshall McLuhan presciently deemed in the 1960s a “global village,” a place where distance is collapsed and people from across the world readily interact. Following this trajectory, contemporary life is hybrid and increasingly mediated through screens. These flat and finite surfaces embody more than what meets the eye—they hold up a mirror to society and contribute to forming meaning in life and mainstream culture.

*I’ll Be Your Mirror: Art and the Digital Screen* is organized into nine key themes:

**liminal space:** From the late 1960s to the late 1990s, several artists were working alongside the early major technological developments of the screen: Gretchen Bender, Nancy Burson, Harold Cohen, Vuk Ćosić, Peter Halley, Frederick Hammersley, Lynn Hershman Leeson, Eduardo Kac, Tatsuo Miyajima, Nam June Paik, Lillian F. Schwartz, and Andy Warhol. These artists’ works are highlighted in this section for their innovative processes.

**connectivity:** Screens connect us with incredible ease to friends, colleagues, a network of other users and players, apps, news, and streaming services. We share—and are shared with—through screens. As culture courses through society via these means, screens are at the axis of most of our interactions, and these connections are a topic interrogated by many artists, including Cory Arcangel, Liss LaFleur, Eva and Franco Mattes, Cassie McQuater, Jacolby Satterwhite, Frances Stark, and Wickerham & Lomax.

**surveillance:** While we find community through technology, we simultaneously become linked to broader systems of data extraction through our devices. Our information is captured for national security purposes, geo-mapping, and corporate surveillance capitalism, where targeted ads are deployed based on purchases and browsing history. Hasan Elahi, Electronic Disturbance Theater 2.0, Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, and Jon Rafman investigate the positive, negative, and humorous aspects of surveillance today.

**the repository:** Today’s constant stream of data has led to round-the-clock ingestion of content. This informational sphere is made even more accessible via handheld devices. Speaking to a vast and complex array of image and information circulation in the screen age are the artists Morehshin Allahyari, Kahlil Robert Irving, Trevor Paglen, Jason Salavon, Skawennati, and Penelope Umbrico.

**digital abstraction:** While painters of all genres use technology in their work, artists such as Cory Arcangel, Wade Guyton, Jacqueline Humphries, Laura Owens, and John Pomara explore the intersections of the digital screen and formal abstraction. Historically compared to windows and mirrors, the often flat, rectangular format of paintings also acts like a screen in today’s world—a passageway that disrupts the viewer’s physical space or mirrors contemporary life.

**the posthuman body:** In the digital age, technology has become an extension of the body. Posthumanism, a concept arising from science fiction, is the idea that humans will be transformed by technological progress. Depictions of the human body in a media-induced world are far from monolithic, as demonstrated by the artists Caitlin Cherry, Petra Cortright, Huntrezz Janos, Guthrie Lonergan, Carson Lynn, Avery Singer, and Hito Steyerl, who traverse concepts of self and portraiture in the technological era.

**automation and the loneliness epidemic:** The relationship between man and machine is addressed by Cao Fei and IMediengruppe Bitnik, specifically the tension of isolation in an increasingly automated world. Set in environments where human labor has been replaced by automation, Cao Fei’s and IMediengruppe Bitnik’s works exemplify the paradoxes of human intimacy in the screen age.

**ecology:** Electronic debris, such as plastics, batteries, monitors, and phones, fills landfills and off-gasses toxins that contribute to water pollution. Several artists in this exhibition, including American Artist, Alice Bucknell, Simon Denny, Kristin Lucas, Rick Silva, and Elias Sime, demonstrate the complexities of ecology in the digital age.

**turning a mirror on ourselves:** Holding a mirror to society and ourselves, screens construct reality, molding many of the themes at the forefront of culture today. Through extraordinarily different works, the artists Arthur Jafa and Molly Soda make videos that shine a light on society through the lens of found, vernacular videos already circulating online.

More than 25,000 square feet of gallery space will be devoted to the exhibition, which will include iconic works by prominent national and international artists of the 20th and 21st centuries, such as **Cory Arcangel, American Artist, Gretchen Bender, Lynn Hershman Leeson, Arthur Jafa, Nam June Paik, Hito Steyerl, and Andy Warhol**, as well as several leading artists living in Texas, including **Liss LaFleur, Kristin Lucas, and John Pomara**. Several new and never-before-seen works by key artists **Caitlin Cherry, Simon Denny, Hasan Elahi, and Kahlil Robert Irving** will debut in this exhibition. This is the most in-depth show of its kind in the Southwest region and is one of only a few presentations exploring art and digital technology in the past decade at this scale.

Curator Alison Hearst notes, "Artists have long shone a light on the world and the human experience, and the artists in *I'll Be Your Mirror: Art and the Digital Screen* respond to, challenge, and probe new technologies and the cultural conditions these technologies have shaped. Using the screen as a tool and formal device, many of the artists in this exhibition expand the parameters of artmaking through the digital language unique to their generation."

### Publication

The exhibition will be accompanied by a full-color catalogue featuring contributions by Alison Hearst, curator at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth; Dr. Omar Kholeif, director of collections at Sharjah Art Foundation; Dr. Tina Rivers Ryan, Assistant Curator at Buffalo AKG Art Museum; and professor and cyberpsychologist Dr. John Suler. 180 pages, 100+ illustrations; published by the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth and distributed by DelMonico Books/D.A.P.

There will be an online platform for the exhibition.

### Artists in the Exhibition

Morehshin Allahyari	Frederick Hammersley	Trevor Paglen
Cory Arcangel	Lynn Hershman Leeson	Nam June Paik
American Artist	Jacqueline Humphries	John Pomara
Gretchen Bender	Kahlil Robert Irving	Jon Rafman
Alice Bucknell	Arthur Jafa	Jason Salavon
Nancy Burson	Huntrezz Janos	Jacolby Satterwhite
Caitlin Cherry	Eduardo Kac	Lillian F. Schwartz
Harold Cohen	Liss LaFleur	Rick Silva
Petra Cortright	Guthrie Lonergan	Elias Sime
Vuk Ćosić	Rafael Lozano-Hemmer	Avery Singer
Simon Denny	Kristin Lucas	Skawennati
Hasan Elahi	Carson Lynn	Molly Soda
Electronic Disturbance Theater 2.0	Eva and Franco Mattes	Frances Stark
Cao Fei	Cassie McQuater	Hito Steyerl
Wade Guyton	!Mediengruppe Bitnik	Penelope Umbrico
Peter Halley	Tatsuo Miyajima	Andy Warhol
	Laura Owens	Wickerham & Lomax

Image credit: Nam June Paik, *Video Flag Y*, 1985. 84 ten-inch television sets, three Plexiglas cases, fans, LaserDisc players, LaserDiscs, and video tapes. 72 x 144 x 50 inches. JPMorgan Chase Art Collection. © Estate of Nam June Paik

For high-resolution images, please email [kendal@themodern.org](mailto:kendal@themodern.org).

## LOCATION

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## **Museum Gallery Hours**

Tue-Sun 10 am-5 pm  
Fri 10 am-8 pm

## **General Admission Prices** (includes special exhibition)

\$16: General (age 18 and above)

\$12: Seniors (age 60+), Active/Retired Military Personnel and First Responders with ID

\$10: Students with ID

Free: Under 18 years old

The Museum offers half-price tickets on Sundays and free admission on Fridays.

The Museum is closed Monday and holidays, including New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas.

## ABOUT THE MODERN

The Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth is a leader in collecting, showing, and interpreting art from the 1940s to the present. Situated in the heart of the Cultural District, the creative center of the city, the Modern has been housed since 2002 in an elegant concrete, glass, and steel building designed by the renowned Japanese architect Tadao Ando. In addition to 53,000 square feet of soaring, light-filled gallery space and landscaped grounds with outdoor sculptures, the museum features a reflecting pond, theater, education center, gift shop, and café, creating a thriving hub for our community and beyond.

Founded in 1892, the Modern is the oldest museum in Texas; however, our mission has changed over the years. Today, we strive to connect audiences of all ages and backgrounds with the most compelling art and ideas of our time. Showcasing the work of historically significant, mid-career, and emerging artists, the Modern is known for its evolving collection, which is international in scope. The Museum's holdings include influential artists from Pablo Picasso, Philip Guston, Anselm Kiefer, Martin Puryear, and Agnes Martin to Mark Bradford, Teresita Fernández, Njideka Akunyili Crosby, and Kehinde Wiley. We have a long history of close relationships with the living artists we show and collect, many of whom visit the museum regularly to give talks and lead workshops.

The Modern is a center of lifelong learning and exchange. Our programs include tours, lectures by leading figures in the art world, youth and adult classes, art camps, workshops, and a range of small-group studio and gallery programs led by the Museum's educators, docents, and community artists. We also present critically acclaimed first-run films and partner with other local arts organizations to offer music, dance, and theater.

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