

Press Release: Special Screening!  
Marieli Fröhlich – Filmmaker in Person!  
Saturday, April 26 at 6:00

This program features two new works by Austrian filmmaker Marieli Fröhlich. The daughter of two luminaries of Austrian culture – experimental filmmaker Peter Kubelka and artist Gertie Fröhlich – Marieli’s immersion in film began as an actress, appearing in features by John Cook, Peter Patzak, and Claude Chabrol, before she embarked on a career as a director after being mentored by Jonas Mekas in New York.

The two award-winning films presented here find Fröhlich embracing the realm of documentary and experimental cinema, connected by a poetic style.

WHAT IS HAPPENING?: ART IN THE LIFE OF GERTIE FRÖHLICH is a filmic portrait of her mother Gertie Fröhlich, a painter, graphic designer, and curator (among her many achievements are her iconic posters created for the Austrian Film Museum) whose influence on postwar Austrian art has yet to be fully acknowledged, while S T O P is a genuinely innovative, ongoing project that represents a very different kind of portraiture. Within a Warholian “screen test” format, the camera frames each subject casually for a fixed duration with their eyes closed, conjuring up an image that ingeniously fuses interior and exterior. Edited from hundreds of filmed encounters over 15 years, and in contrast to Warhol’s glamorous focus, Fröhlich’s subjects seem to glimmer from an enduring inner beauty regardless of the location or circumstances.

Marieli Fröhlich will be here in person!

Presented with support from the Deutsches Haus at NYU.

DEUTSCHES HAUS  
AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY



WHAT IS HAPPENING?

WHAT IS HAPPENING?: ART IN THE LIFE OF GERTIE FRÖHLICH

2018-2023, 30 min, DCP. In English and German with English subtitles.  
Marieli Fröhlich flips the script in her documentary exploration of her mother’s artistic legacy, exposing the unseen patriarchal force that attempts to erase her rightful place in postwar Austrian Art History. Interwoven with historical interviews, Surreal montages, and dreamlike footage, WHAT IS HAPPENING? is an empowering matrilineal film, in which a female director pays homage to her mother’s creative struggles and triumphs.



S T O P

S T O P

2010-2025, 30 min, DCP  
The average person’s symbiosis with their cell phones subjects them to constant invasiveness that allows no time to reflect, recharge, or maintain equilibrium. S T O P proposes other states of mind by asking people to close their eyes and record a moment without event, progression, or logic. Observing people’s processes (the opposite of acting) gives the audience a similar self-awareness and calm. Could this simple act breach the enforcement of society’s symbolic order and incite a radical awareness of the unconscious effect it has on our individuality and humanity?

Total running time: ca. 65 min.

Sat, April 26 at 6:00.

Screeners available on request. For press inquiries contact:

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