



PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact: A. J. Fox · (510) 642-0365 · afox@berkeley.edu

BAMPFA Mounts Major Series of Film Screenings and Photography Exhibition by Ulrike Ottinger

Exhibition runs March 25–June 28, 2020

Film series runs March 8–June 28, 2020

Berlin-Based Artist Visits Berkeley This Spring in Advance of New Film’s North American Premiere at SFFILM Festival



(Berkeley, CA)—The distinguished filmmaker, visual artist, and stage director Ulrike Ottinger will visit the UC Berkeley and Pacific Film Archive ([BAMPFA](#)) this spring in conjunction with a major new photography exhibition and film series of her work. From March 8 through June 28, BAMPFA will screen a selection of some of the most notable films by the Berlin-based Ottinger, whose work combines documentary and narrative techniques to explore the complexities of cross-cultural exchange. [East Meets West: The Films of Ulrike Ottinger](#) includes the North American premiere of Ottinger’s latest film *Paris Calligrammes*, which will screen at BAMPFA on April 11 as part of the [SFFILM](#) Festival program. Concurrently, the museum will also present a survey of Ottinger’s photography, as part of its [MATRIX Program for Contemporary Art](#).

After a celebrated visit to the Bay Area in March 2019, Ottinger returns to BAMPFA following her recent acclaim at the Berlin Film Festival, where *Paris Calligrammes* received the prestigious Berlinale Camera. The film is the latest installment in Ottinger’s five-decade career as a film director and

cinematographer, during which she has traveled the world exploring moments of cultural collision in settings ranging from her hometown of Berlin to northern Mongolia to the Jewish community of 1930s Shanghai. Her body of work encompasses both feature and documentary films, including multiple projects of extended length, such as the twelve-hour documentary exploration of the Bering Sea *Chamisso's Shadow*—which will screen over multiple dates at BAMPFA following its sold-out presentation in 2019.

Coinciding with the film series, [Ulrike Ottinger / MATRIX 276](#) marks a rare North American presentation of Ottinger's work as a still photographer. On view at BAMPFA from March 25 through June 28, this multidecade survey of Ottinger's photographs complement the film series by depicting in both portraiture and landscape imagery many of the same settings portrayed in her films. Ottinger's striking, meticulously composed images share a common theme of cultures in transition, providing intimate snapshots individuals and communities as they are reshaped by historical and environmental forces.



Both the exhibition and film series are organized by Susan Oxtoby, BAMPFA's director of film and senior film curator. Oxtoby will join Ottinger for an artist's and curator's talk at BAMPFA on [Wednesday, March 25 at 12 PM](#). The talk is free with museum admission. Ottinger will also appear in person at multiple BAMPFA screenings during her residency in Berkeley; a complete list of films in the series, including Ottinger's appearances, follows below and can be viewed [online](#).

Exile Shanghai (1997)

Sunday, March 8 at 1 PM

Johanna d'Arc of Mongolia (1989) - Ulrike Ottinger in Person

Thursday, March 19 at 7 PM

Laocoon & Sons: The Story of the Transformation of Esmeralda del Rio (1972-73) - Ulrike Ottinger in Person

Sunday, March 21 at 2:30 PM

Chamisso's Shadow: A Journey to the Bering Sea in Three Chapters. Chapter 1: Alaska and the Aleutian Islands (2016) - Ulrike Ottinger in Person

Sunday, March 22 at 12 PM

Chamisso's Shadow: A Journey to the Bering Sea in Three Chapters. Chapter 2, Part 1: Chukotka (2016)

Saturday, March 28 at 1 PM

Chamisso's Shadow: A Journey to the Bering Sea in Three Chapters. Chapter 2, Part 2: Chukotka and Wrangel Island (2016)

Sunday, March 29 at 1 PM

Chamisso's Shadow: A Journey to the Bering Sea in Three Chapters. Chapter 3: Kamchatka and Bering Island (2016)

Saturday, April 4 at 1 PM

Twelve Chairs (2004)

Tuesday, April 7 at 6:30 PM

Wednesday, May 20 at 7 PM

Paris Calligrammes (2020) – North American Premiere

Saturday, April 11 at 7:30 PM

Under Snow (2011)

Friday, April 24 at 4 PM

Prater (2007) – Imported 35mm Print

Thursday, June 4 at 7 PM

Taiga, Parts 1–6 (1992)

Sunday, June 7 at 12 PM

Taiga, Parts 7-10 (1992)

Sunday, June 7 at 6 PM

Sunday, June 14 at 12 PM

Freak Orlando (1981)

Wednesday, June 24 at 7 PM

Countdown (1990)

Sunday, June 28 at 1 PM

Thanks

East Meets West: The Films of Ulrike Ottinger is organized by Senior Film Curator Susan Oxtoby. BAMPFA thanks Reinhild Feldhaus and Melanie Schwarke, Ulrike Ottinger Filmproduktion, Berlin; Carsten Zimmer, Arsenal – Institut für Film und Videokunst, Berlin; Rachel Rosen, SFFILM; Penny Cooper and Rena Rosenwasser, Berkeley; Deniz Göktürk, Department of German, Mino Moallem, Department of Gender & Women's Studies, and Natalia Brizuela, Department of Spanish & Portuguese at UC Berkeley, for their support of this series.

Ulrike Ottinger / MATRIX 276 is organized by Susan Oxtoby, director of film and senior film curator, with Claire Frost, curatorial assistant. The MATRIX Program is made possible by a generous endowment gift from Phyllis C. Wattis and the continued support of the BAMPFA Trustees.

Above

- 1) *Johanna d'Arc of Mongolia* (dir. Ulrike Ottinger, 1989)
- 2) Ulrike Ottinger. Image courtesy of BAMPFA.

Visitor Information

Address

2155 Center Street, Berkeley, CA 94720

Hours

Wednesdays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

\$13 general admission

\$11 non-UC Berkeley students, disabled, 65+

FREE BAMPFA members; UC Berkeley students, faculty, staff; 18 and under; one adult per child 13 and under

Film Screenings:

\$14 General admission—includes same-day gallery admission

\$5 UC Berkeley students

\$8 BAMPFA members

\$10 Discount admission—UC Berkeley faculty & staff, Non-UC Berkeley students, disabled, 65+, 18 & under; and artists in the BAMPFA collection/MATRIX

\$2 to add same-day gallery admission with discount film ticket

\$6 Additional same-day feature

Information

bampfa.org

(510) 642-0808

Social Media

facebook.com/bampfa

twitter.com/bampfa

instagram.com/bampfa

#bampfa | #bampfafilm | @bampfa

About BAMPFA

An internationally recognized arts institution with deep roots in the Bay Area, the University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA) is a forum for cultural experiences that transform individuals and advance the local, national, and global discourse on art and film. BAMPFA is UC Berkeley's premier visual arts venue, presenting more than 450 film screenings, scores of public programs, and more than twenty exhibitions annually. With its vibrant and eclectic programming, BAMPFA inspires the imagination and ignites critical dialogue through art, film, and other forms of creative expression.

The institution's collection of more than 28,000 works of art dates from 3000 BCE to the present day and includes important holdings of Neolithic Chinese ceramics, Ming and Qing Dynasty Chinese painting, Old Master works on paper, Italian Baroque painting, early American painting, Abstract Expressionist painting, contemporary photography, and Conceptual art. BAMPFA's collection also includes more than 17,500 films and videos, including the largest collection of Japanese cinema outside of Japan, impressive holdings of Soviet cinema, West Coast avant-garde film, and seminal video art, as well as hundreds of thousands of articles, reviews, posters, and other ephemera related to the history of film.

2020 SFFILM Festival

The longest-running film festival in the Americas, the San Francisco International Film Festival (SFFILM Festival) is an extraordinary showcase of cinematic discovery and innovation in one of the country's most beautiful cities. The 63rd edition runs April 8–21 at venues across the Bay Area and

features nearly 200 films and live events, 14 juried awards with close to \$40,000 in cash prizes, and upwards of 100 participating filmmaker guests.

For more information visit sffilm.org.