

JONAS MEKAS

(1922 Semeniškiai, Lithuania – 2018 Brooklyn, New York, US)

EDUCATION

Philosophy, University of Mainz, Germany

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2024 *Poetry Day 2024*, a project by Centre Pompidou, several locations

Requiem, Società Dante Alighieri, Venice, Italy

Requiem, San Carlo, Cremona, Italy

2023 *Cinema is young!*, Cineteca Milano MIC, Milan, Italy

Jonas Mekas, Open Archives, Monira Foundation, Chicago, US

Jonas Mekas: Under the Shadow of the Tree, Padiglione de l'Esprit Nouveau, Bologna, Italy

2022 *Images are Real*, Mattatoio - Pavilion 9b, Palazzo delle Esposizioni - Macro, Roma, Italy

As Far As I Can See, the SIC! BWA Wrocław Gallery, Poland

Earth. A retrospective, BombasGens Centre d'Art, Valencia, Spain

Jonas Mekas: The Camera Was Always Running, Jewish Museum, New York, US

Jonas Mekas... up close and far away..., Jonas Mekas Visual Arts Center, Vilnius, Lithuania

Moments to Remember (group ex.), Deborah Colton Gallery, Houston, US

2021 *Once Upon Another Time... gyveno jie jau kitaip*, Kaunas Biennial, Kaunas, Lithuania

Jonas Mekas and the New York Avant-Garde, National Gallery of Art, Vilnius, Lithuania

2020 *Ahead, ahead we move through the stormy seas with all sails open*, APALAZZOGALLERY, Brescia, Italy

2018 *Retrospective*, Palazzo della Ragione, Bergamo, Italy

2017 *Again, again it all comes back to me in brief glimpses*, MMCA, Seoul, South Korea

Documenta 14, Kassel, Germany

Blue, Yellow, Red, Purple, Missoni Boutique, New York, US

Fears and Tremblings of an Angry Dog, Microscope Gallery, New York, US (performance)

Cinéma Lituanien, Cinémathèque Française, Paris, France (screening)

Jonas Mekas: Film in the Line of Fire, Fundação Serralves, Porto, Portugal

I Sing I Celebrate, MUSEO C.A.V LA NEOMUDEJAR, Madrid, Spain

Screening of Diaries, Notes & Sketches a.k.a. Walden, Tate Gallery, London, UK

Documenta 14, Athens, Greece, and Kassel, Germany

2016 *Let Me Introduce Myself*, Nina Johnson Gallery, Miami, US

The Velvet Underground - New York Extravaganza, Philharmonie de Paris, Paris, France

Take Me (I'm Yours), The Jewish Museum, New York, US

2015 *All These Images, These Sounds*, APALAZZOGALLERY, Brescia, Italy

The Internet Saga, Palazzo Foscari Contarini, collateral event in conjunction with the 56th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy

TIME – *Jonas Mekas*, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany (screening)

2014 *Jonas Mekas: One Man Show*, Cēsis Arts Festival, Cēsis, Latvia

365 Day Project, ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany

2013 DOX Centre for Contemporary Art, Prague, Czech Republic

I Lift My Glass of Wine to You, My Vienna Friends!, Krinzinger Projekte, Vienna, Austria

Jonas Mekas. A Retrospective, CCBB, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Paris Photo L.A., Deborah Colton Gallery, Los Angeles, US

Outlaw: New Works, Microscope Gallery, Brooklyn, US

agnès b., Marseille, France

The Sixties Quartet, KIASMA, Helsinki, Finland

Let Me Introduce Myself, My Russian Friends!, State Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg, Russia

Jonas Mekas: In Praise of the Ordinary, The Phi Centre, Montreal, Canada

Jonas Mekas / The Fluxus Wall, Bozar Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels, Belgium

Life Goes On... I Keep Singing, Deborah Colton Gallery, Houston, US

2012 *Portraits: Jonas Mekas and Robert Polidori*, Edwynn Houk Gallery, New York, US

Musique Plastique, agnès b. Howard Street boutique, New York, US

The 365 Day Project, 2B Gallery, Budapest, Hungary

Reminiszenzen aus Deutschland, Stadtmuseum, Wiesbaden, Germany
Prisiminimai iš Vokietijos, Jonas Mekas Visual Arts Center, Vilnius, Lithuania
Images out of Darkness, James Fuentes Gallery, New York, US
Jonas Mekas, Serpentine Gallery, London / MUAC, Mexico City, Mexico
The 365 Day Project, Centre Pompidou, Paris, France

2011 *Musique Plastique*, agnès b. Galerie du jour, Paris, France

Ostalgia, The New Museum, New York, US

agnès b. Howard Street boutique, New York, US

This Side of Paradise, agnès b. Rue du Jour boutique, Paris, France

2010 *Cassis*, James Fuentes Gallery, New York Armory Show, New York, US

Bienal de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil

Illegal Living, 80 Wooster, New York, US

Eve of Fluxus, The Emily Harvey Foundation, New York, US

The Brucennial, New York, US

To New York with Love, James Fuentes Gallery, New York, US

2009 *1968*, Kunsthalle Bielefeld, Bielefeld, Germany

A Few Things I Want to Share with You, My Paris Friends, agnès b. Galerie du jour, Paris, France

The Beast, FIAC art fair, The Film Gallery, France

Destruction Quartet, James Fuentes Gallery, New York, US

1989, Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna, Austria

Jonas Mekas, Gallery Toki no Wasuremono, Tokyo, Japan

To New York with Love, Bas Fisher Invitational, Miami, US

Destruction Quartet, Kings County Biennial, Brooklyn, US

2008 Fondazione Ragghianti, Lucca, Italy

Museum Ludwig, Cologne, Germany

2007 *Recent Work*, Maya Stendhal Gallery, New York, US

Serpentine Gallery, London, UK

The Film Gallery, FIAC art fair, Paris, France

Jonas Mekas: The Beauty of Friends being Together, MoMA, New York, US

Jonas Mekas Visual Arts Center, Vilnius, Lithuania

My Night Life (with Auguste Varkalis), The Film Gallery, Paris, France

2006 *Destruction Quartet*, Darren Knight Gallery, Sydney, Australia

Onestar Stop, Galerie Erna Hécey, Brussels, Belgium

The Expanded Eye, Kusthalle Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland

Baltic Art Center, Visby, Sweden

Hirshhorn Museum, Washington D.C, US

To New York with Love, Gallery Toki no Wasuremono, Tokyo, Japan

He Stands in the Desert Counting the Seconds of his Life, Tamayo Contemporary Art Museum, Mexico City, Mexico

The Diary Film, Göteborgs Konsthall, Sweden

It All Comes Back Now in Glimpses, Sketch Gallery, London, UK

Brief Glimpses of Beauty, Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Center, UK

Centrum Sztuki Współczesnej Zamek Ujazdowski, Warsaw, Poland

2005 *Farewell to Soho*, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden

Fragments of Paradise, Maya Stendhal Gallery, New York, US

As I Was Moving Ahead, Pavilion of Lithuania at the 51st edition of the Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy

2003 *Jonas Mekas: A Camera for Jonas*, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris, France

Utopia Station, 50th Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy

Dedication to Fernand Léger, Museum of Contemporary Art, Vilnius, Lithuania

Sideshow Gallery, Williamsburg, Brooklyn, US

Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris, France

Fables de l'Identité, Centre National de la Photographie, Paris, France

2002 Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris, France

Documenta XI, Kassel, Switzerland

2000 *Voilà*, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris, France

agnès b Galerie du jour, FIAC art fair, Paris, France

1999 Susan Inglett Gallery, New York, US

Pupelis Gallery, Obeliai, Lithuania

agnès b. Galerie du Jour, Paris, France

1998 *Le Printemps de Cahors*, Musée de Cahors Henri-Martin, Cahors, France
Gandy Gallery, Prague, Czech Republic

1997 Madrid Art Fair, Madrid, Spain
Museum of Contemporary Art, Vilnius, Lithuania

1992 Galerie National du Jeu de Paume, Paris, France
agnès b. Galerie du Jour, Paris, France
Still Gallery, Edinburgh, UK
Luarence Miller, New York, US
Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Tokyo, Japan
agnès b. Galerie du Jour, Paris, France

1983 Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, Japan

1973 *The Diary Film*, Museum of Modern Art, New York, US

1972 *Reason over passion. New forms in film*, The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, US

1968 *Walden (Diaries, notes, sketches)*, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, US

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2017 BEN Award (category "Lifetime achievement award, influential artist moving image art")

2015 Yoko Ono Courage Award

2013 Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, Ministry of Culture, France
Francis J. Greenburger Award
Elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences

2012 'Carry Your Light and Believe' Award, Ministry of Culture, Lithuania

2011 George Eastman Honorary Scholar Award

2010 Life Achievement Award at the second annual Rob Pruitt's Art Awards

2008 Baltic Cultural Achievement Award
Austrian Decoration of Honor for Science and Art (Österreichische Ehrenzeichen für Wissenschaft und Kunst)

2007 Los Angeles Film Critics Association awards special citation for "contribution to film art"
Special Award from the Roswitha Haftmann Foundation, Zürich, Switzerland

2006 REMINISCENCES OF A JOURNEY TO LITHUANIA added to the National Film Registry of the Library of Congress
Directors Guild of America Award

2000 Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, Ministry of Culture, France

1997 Pier Paolo Pasolini Award, Paris, France
International Documentary Film Association Award, Los Angeles, US
Governors Award, Skohegan School of Painting and Sculpture
Doctor of Fine Arts, Honoris Causa, Universitatis Vytauti Magni, Lithuania

1996 Special Tribute, New York Film Critics Circle Award
Doctor of Fine Arts, Honoris Causa, Kansas City Art Institute

1995 Lithuanian National Award

1992 Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, Ministry of Culture, France
Mel Novikoff Award, San Francisco Film Festival

1989 Creative Arts Award, Brandeis University

1977 Guggenheim Fellowship

1966 Gold Medal, Philadelphia College of Art, "for the devotion, passion, and selfless dedication to the rediscovery of the newest art"

1964 Grand Prize (Documentary) awarded to THE BRIG at the Venice Film Festival

1962 Grand Prize awarded to GUNS OF THE TREES at the Porretta Terme Film Festival

FILMOGRAPHY

Cup/Saucer/Two Dancers/Radio (1965/1983), 23 min.
Guns of the Trees (1962), 75 min.
Film Magazine of the Arts (Summer, 1963), 20 min.
The Brig (1964), 68 min.
Award Presentation to Andy Warhol (1964), 12 min.
Report from Millbrook (1965/ 1966), 12 min.
Walden (Diaries, Notes, and Sketches), (filmed 1964-1968, edited 1968-69), 3 hrs.
Hare Krishna (1966), 4 min.
Notes on the Circus (1966), 12 min.
Cassis (1966), 4 min.
The Italian Notebook (1967), 15 min.
Time and Fortune Vietnam Newsreel (1968), 4 min.
Reminiscences of a Journey to Lithuania (1971-1972), 82 min.
Lost Lost Lost (1976), 2 hrs. 58 min.
In Between: 1964-8 (1978), 52 min.
Notes for Jerome (1978), 45 min.
Paradise Not Yet Lost (aka Oona's Third year) (1979), 96 min.
Self-Portrait (1980), 20 min., video.
Street Songs (1966/1983) 10 min.
Erik Hawkins: Excerpts from "Here and Now with Watchers"/Lucia Dlugoszewska Performs (1963/1983), 6 min.
He Stands in a Desert Counting the Seconds of His Life (1969/1985), 2 hrs. 30 min.
Scenes from the Life of Andy Warhol (1990), 35 min.
A Walk (1990), 58 min., video.
Mob of Angels: Baptism (1990), 61 min., video.
Mob of Angels at St. Ann (1991), 60 min, video.
Dr. Carl G. Jung or Lapis Philosophorum (1991), 29 min.
Quartet Number One (1991) 8 min.
Zefiro Torna or Scenes from the Life of George Maciunas (1992), 34 min.
The Education of Sebastian or Egypt Regained (1992), 6 hrs. video.
Imperfect 3-Image films (1995), 6 min.
On My Way to Fujiyama (1995), 25 min.
Happy Birthday to John (1996), 24 min.
Cinema is Not 100 Years Old (1996), 4 min., video.
Memories of Frankenstein (1996), 95 min.
Letters to Friends (1997), 1 hr. 28 min., video.
Birth of a Nation (1997), 85 min.
Symphony of Joy (1997), 1 hr. 15 min.
Scenes from Allen's Last Three Days on Earth as a Spirit (April 1997), 67 min., video.
Letter from Nowhere -- Laiškai iš niekur N.1 (1997), 75 min., video.
Song of Avignon (1998), 5 min.
Laboratorium Anthology (1999), 63 min., video.
This Side of Paradise (1999) 35 min., 16 mm.
Notes on the Factory (1999) 64 min., video.
Notes on Film-Maker's Cooperative (1999), 40 min., video.
Autobiography of a Man Who Carried his Memory in his Eyes (2000) 53 min., video.
As I Was Moving Ahead Occasionally I Saw Brief Glimpses of Beauty (2000) 4 hrs. 48 min.
Mozart & Wien and Elvis (2000) 3 min.
Silence, Please (2000), 6 min., video.
Requiem for a Manual Typewriter (2000) 19 min., video.
Remedy for Melancholy (2000) 20 min., video.
Letter to Penny Arcade (2001), 14 min. 33 sec., video.
Ein Märchen (2001) 6 min., video.
Ar Buvo Karas? (2002), 2 hrs. 28 min.
Mysteries (1966/2002) 34 min.
Williamsburg, Brooklyn (1949/2002) 15 min.
Travel Songs 1967-1981 (2003) 28 min.
Letter from Greenpoint (2004) 80 min., video.
Notes on Utopia (2003-5) 55 min., video.
Father and Daughter (2005), 4 min. 30 sec., video.
Notes on an American Film Director at Work: Martin Scorsese (2005), 1hr 20 min.
Scenes from the Life of Hermann Nitsch (2005), 58 min., film and video.
First Forty (2006). Forty short films, using materials from earlier films, re-edited specially for the Internet.

365 Day Project (2007). 365 short films, one for each calendar day of the year 2007.
Lithuania and the Collapse of the USSR (2008), 4 hrs. 49 min., video.
I Leave Chelsea Hotel (2009), 4 min.
Sleepless Nights Stories (2011), 114 min.
My Paris Movie (2011), 2 hrs. 39 min.
My Bars Bar Movie (2011), 86 min.
Correspondences: José Luis Guerin and Jonas Mekas (2011), 99 min.
Re: George Maciunas and Fluxus (2011), 87 min.
Mont Ventoux (2011), 3 min.
Happy Easter Ride (2012), 18 min.
Reminiszenzen aus Deutschland (2012), 25 min.
Out-takes from the Life of a Happy Man (2012), 68 min.

WRITINGS

Knyga Apie Karalius ir Žmones, Tübingen, 1947 [in Lithuanian].
Movie Journal: The Rise of a New American Cinema, 1959-1971, Macmillan, 1972; Japanese edition, 1975. Spanish edition, 1976; French edition, 1992.
Three Friends: John Lennon, Yoko Ono, and George Maciunas, Tokyo, 1990 [in Japanese]; Lithuanian edition, Vilnius, 1998.
Laiškai iš niekur, Vilnius, 1997 [in Lithuanian].
Just Like A Shadow, text by Jerome Sans, frozen film frames by Jonas Mekas, Steidl, Göttingen, 2000.
Declarations de Paris, Editions Paris Expérimental, 2001 [in French and English].
As I Was Moving Ahead..., Editions Kinoshita, Tokyo, 2002 [in Japanese]. Text and narration from the film.
Fluxfriends (French edition of *Three Friends: John Lennon, Yoko Ono, and George Maciunas*), Centre Georges Pompidou, 2002.
Artist Book, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, 2002.
Entretiens avec Jonas Mekas, Editions Paris Expérimental, 2006.
Anecdotes, translated by Jean-Luc Mengus, SCALI, Paris, 2007 [in French].
To Petrarca, Editions Dis Voir, Paris, 2009 [in both French and English editions].
Scrapbook of the Sixties; Writings 1958-2010, Spector Books, 2015
A Dance with Fred Astaire, Spector Books, 2017
Conversations with Filmmakers, Spector Books, 2018

POETRY

Semeniškių Idilės, Lithuanian edition, Žvilgsniai, Kassel, 1948; Japanese edition, Tokyo, 1996; enlarged Lithuanian edition, Vilnius, Baltos Lankos 1997.
Gėlių Kalbėjimas, Chicago, 1961 [in Lithuanian].
Pavieniai Žodžiai, Lithuanian edition, Chicago, 1967; Japanese edition, Tokyo, 1996.
Poezija, Vilnius, Vaga, 1971 [in Lithuanian].
Reminiscensijos, New York, Fluxus, 1972 [in Lithuanian].
Dienoraščiai, New York, Žvilgsniai, 1985 [in Lithuanian].
There is No Ithaca (English edition of *Semeniškių Idilės* and *Reminiscensijos*), translated by Vyt Bakaitis, Black Thistle Press, New York, 1996.
Dienų Raštai, Vilnius, 1998 [in Lithuanian].
Žmogus Be Vietos (Lithuanian edition of *I Had Nowhere to Go*), Baltos Lankos, 2000.
Poezija, Lietuvos Rašytojų Sąjungos Leidykla, Vilnius, 2002 [in Lithuanian].
Daybooks 1970-1972 (bilingual edition of *Dienų Raštai*), translated by Vyt Bakaitis, Portable Press, Brooklyn, 2003.
Žodžiai ir Raidės, Baltos Lankos, Vilnius, 2007 [in Lithuanian].
Idylls of Semeniškiai (bilingual edition), translated by Adolfas Mekas, Hallelujah Editions, 2007.

DIARIES

I Had Nowhere to Go: Diaries, 1944-1954, Black Thistle Press, New York, 1991.
Zefiro Torna or Scenes From the Life of George Maciunas, Arthouse, New York, 1998.
Žmogus Be Vietos (Lithuanian edition of *I Had Nowhere to Go*), Baltos Lankos, 2000.
Lettres de nulle part (French edition of *Laiškai iš niekur*, translated by Marielle Vitureau), Paris Expérimental, 2003.
Je n'avais nulle part où aller (French edition of *I Had Nowhere to Go*), P.O.L., Paris, 2004.
My Night Life (English, Italian, Lithuanian, and French editions), illustrated by Auguste Varkalis, Baltos Lankos, Vilnius, 2006.
Ningún lugar adonde ir (Spanish edition of *I Had Nowhere to Go*, translated by Leonel Livchits), Caja Negra, Buenos Aires, 2008.

CATALOGS

Jonas Mekas, Hara Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo, 1983.
Jonas Mekas, Galerie nationale du Jeu de paume, Paris, 1992.
Jonas Mekas: Films immobiles, une célébration, Galerie du Jour, Paris, 1996.

Jonas Mekas: Frozen Film Frames, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, 1996 [in Japanese].
Sustabdytos akimirkos, Contemporary Art Museum, Vilnius, 1997.
Jonas Mekas: This Side of Paradise, Galerie du Jour, Paris, 1999.
Jonas Mekas: Conversations, Letters, Notes, Misc. Pieces, edited by Liutauras Psibilskis, published by the Lithuanian Art Museum on the occasion of the Venice Biennale, 2005.
The Diary Film/Dagboksfilmen, edited by Liutauras Psibilskis, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, 2005.
The Avante-garde from Futurism to Fluxus, Jonas Mekas Visual Arts Center, Vilnius, 2007 [in English and Lithuanian editions].
Jonas Mekas, Fondazione Ragghianti, Lucca, Italy, 2008 [in Italian].
Jonas Mekas, published by Koenig Books, on the occasion of the exhibition "Jonas Mekas" at the Museum Ludwig, Cologne, 2008 [in English and German].
A Few Things I Want to Share with You, My Paris Friends, Galerie du Jour, Paris, 2009
Again, Again It All Comes Back to Me in Brief Glimpses, MMCA Editions, Seoul, 2017.

EXTENDED ESSAYS AND INTERVIEWS

Alan Levy, "Voice of the Underground Cinema," *The New York Times Magazine*, September 19, 1965.
Calvin Tomkins, "All Pockets Open," *New Yorker* profile, January 6, 1973.
Scott MacDonald, "Interview With Jonas Mekas," *October* N. 29, Summer 1984.
Jerome Sans, "An Interview with Jonas Mekas," *Just Like a Shadow*, Steidl, 2000.