

# MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CHIEF CURATOR DAVID SCHWARTZ TO LEAVE, AFTER 33 YEARS AT MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE**

Astoria, New York, November 15, 2018 — Chief Curator David Schwartz will leave his position at Museum of the Moving Image on November 30, 2018. Schwartz is stepping down after a 33-year run at the Museum that began with an internship in 1985. During his tenure, Schwartz has supervised more than 10,000 film screenings, many with personal appearances, and has played a key role in numerous exhibitions and online projects. In 2006, he won a Film Heritage Award from the National Society of Film Critics for organizing the first complete Jacques Rivette retrospective in the United States.

“David’s contribution to the Museum has been incalculable,” said MoMI Executive Director Carl Goodman. “He developed a film program that is respected around the world. His screening programs and live events and his work on exhibitions helped put the Museum on the map as a major international institution. We greatly look forward to working with him as a guest curator in the future.”

“MoMI has been the center of my professional life for nearly my entire career,” said Schwartz. “It has been tremendously gratifying to be able to play a substantial role in its growth and success. I am comforted to know that the film and media programs will be in good hands under the direction of my gifted colleague Eric Hynes, Curator of Film.”

Schwartz has organized hundreds of in-depth retrospectives, of international cinema, American independent and Hollywood film, avant-garde, documentary, animation, and television. Notable series include those devoted to Chantal Akerman, Stan Brakhage, Charles Burnett, David Cronenberg, and Ken Jacobs; thematic series including *Black New Wave* (African-American film in the 1970s), *Visions of New York: Films from the 1960s Underground*, *Candid Cameras: Real Life on Film*, and many more. In 2012, Schwartz initiated *First Look*, an annual showcase for outstanding international cinema that has since become a signature Museum festival.

He has also moderated hundreds of discussions with prominent filmmakers, actors, and craftspeople including Paul Thomas Anderson and Daniel Day-Lewis, Halle Berry, Tim Burton, Jane Campion, Francis Ford Coppola, Glenn Close, Danny Glover, Dennis Hopper, Ang Lee, Spike Lee, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Sidney Lumet, Robert Redford, David Simon, Mario and Melvin Van Peebles, Forest Whitaker, and many others.

Schwartz is the curator of *The Living Room Candidate: Presidential Campaign Commercials 1952–2016*, an online archive of campaign commercials that is used regularly by thousands of educators around the world. He has also supervised the Museum's online projects *Moving Image Source*, *Reverse Shot*, and *Sloan Science and Film*.

A celebratory program for Schwartz is being planned for January 6, 2019, and the latest edition of *First Look*, organized by Schwartz with Eric Hynes, will be presented from January 11 through 21, 2019.

Schwartz teaches film history in the Graduate Production program at NYU Tisch School of the Arts, and he hosts the Westchester Cinema Club, the Cinema Arts Centre Preview Club, and the Emelin Theater Film Club. He continues to moderate panels and discussions with filmmakers around New York City. He was born in Queens, and lives in Astoria.

###

**Press contact:** Tomoko Kawamoto, [tkawamoto@movingimage.us](mailto:tkawamoto@movingimage.us) / 718 777 6830

#### **MUSEUM INFORMATION**

**Museum of the Moving Image** ([movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us)) advances the understanding, enjoyment, and appreciation of the art, history, technique, and technology of film, television, and digital media. In its stunning facility—acclaimed for both its accessibility and bold design—the Museum presents exhibitions; screenings of significant works; discussion programs featuring actors, directors, craftspeople, and business leaders; and education programs which serve more than 50,000 students each year. The Museum also houses a significant collection of moving-image artifacts.

Museum of the Moving Image is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and has received significant support from the following public agencies: New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; New York City Council; New York City Economic Development Corporation; New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; Institute of Museum and Library Services; National Endowment for the Humanities; National Endowment for the Arts; and Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation). For more information, please visit [movingimage.us](http://movingimage.us).