

## **Christopher Harris**

F. Wendell Miller Associate Professor, University of Iowa

[Christopher-harris@uiowa.edu](mailto:Christopher-harris@uiowa.edu)

### **Honors (selected)**

- 2023 Herb Alpert Award in Film/Video
- 2023-24 Andrew Mellon Collaborative Fellowship for Arts Practice and Scholarship, Gray Center for the Arts, University of Chicago (with Allyson Nadia Field)
- 2022 Prismatic Ground second annual Ground Glass Award for outstanding contribution in the field of experimental media
- 2020-21 Radcliffe-Film Study Center Fellow/David and Roberta Logie Fellow, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University
- 2020 Artist Project Grant, Los Angeles Filmforum  
Media City Film Festival Chrysalis Fellowship
- 2019-20 Wexner Center for the Arts Artist Residency Award
- 2018 Alpert/MacDowell Fellowship
- 2015 Creative Capital Award
- 2012 Wexner Center for the Arts, Film/Video Studio Program
- 2008 Résidences-ateliers de Pont-Aven, Pont-Aven, France
- 1991 National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship
- 1990 Community Arts Assistance Program Grant, City of Chicago

### **Filmography**

In-progress

- Speaking in Tongues*
- 2020 *Dreams Under Confinement*, 2:31, HD, color, sound
- 2017 Manatee (voice) in *Attraction*, Metrah Pashae
- 2016 *Distant Shores*, 3 min., 16mm-to-HD, color, sound
- 2016 *Halimuhfack*, 4 min., 16mm-to-HD, color, sound
- 2014 *A Willing Suspension of Disbelief*, 9:03, 16mm-to-HD, black and white, sound, 3-channel video installation
- 2014 *Photography and Fetish*, 7:37, 16mm-to-HD, black and white, sound, split-screen video installation
- 2012 Peabody Shampling (voice) in *Consuming Spirits*, Chris Sullivan
- 2011 *28.IV.81 (Descending Figures)*, 3 min., 16mm double projection, color, silent
- 2009 *28.IV.81 (Bedouin Spark)*, 3 min., 16mm, color, silent
- 2007 *Sunshine State (Extended Forecast)*, 8 min., 16mm, color, sound
- 2004 *Reckless Eyeballing*, 14 min., 16mm, black and white, sound
- 2001 *still/here*, 60 min., 16mm, black and white, sound

### **Solo Screenings and Exhibitions (selected)**

- 2022-23 Criterion Channel, *still/here* [streaming]
- 2022 Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis in partnership with the 31<sup>st</sup> annual Whitaker St. Louis International Film Festival, *still/here*, St. Louis, MO  
Maysles Documentary Center, *Prismatic Ground Presents: Christopher Harris*, New York, NY  
The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, *An Evening with Christopher Harris: New Restorations*, Los Angeles, CA  
Aurora Picture Show, *Christopher Harris: Short Films*, Houston, TX  
Prismatic Ground 2022, Maysles Documentary Center, New York, NY [online]  
Museum of Modern Art, *Modern Mondays: An Evening with Christopher Harris*, New York, NY
- 2020 Media City Film Festival, *Thousandsuns Cinema*, Windsor, ON, Canada  
Arsenal Berlin, *Black Light Retrospective*, Berlin, Germany  
True/False Film Festival, *Neither/Nor*, Columbia, MO  
Media City Film Festival, Chrysalis Showcase, *Inventory of Black Roses*, Windsor, Ontario, Canada
- 2019 Belo Horizonte International Short Film Festival, *Retrospectiva Christopher Harris: Poétic e*

- Política da Forma*, Belo Horizonte, Brazil  
 Locarno Film Festival, *Black Light Retrospective*, Locarno, Switzerland  
 Images Festival, *still/here*, Toronto, Canada  
 2018 Encontro de Cinema Negro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
 14<sup>th</sup> Brakhage Center Symposium, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO  
 2017 The Box, Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, OH  
 2016 Home Manchester, Black Atlantic Cinema Club, Manchester, England, UK  
 Bristol Watershed, *Cinema Rediscovered 2016*, Black Atlantic Cinema Club, Bristol, England, UK  
 MICROSCOPE Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
 Autograph ABP, Black Atlantic Cinema Club, London, England, UK  
 Black Film Center/Archive, *Films by Christopher Harris*, Bloomington, IN  
 Gene Siskel Film Center, *Radiant Visions: Media Art From SAIC, 1965-Now*, Chicago, IL  
 2007 Iowa City International Documentary Film Festival, Juror screening, *Films by Christopher Harris*, Iowa City, Iowa  
 2006 Block Cinema, Block Museum of Art, *Films by Christopher Harris*, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL  
 2003 Gene Siskel Film Center, *Conversations at the Edge*, Chicago, IL

### **Two-person Screenings (selected)**

- 2022 Cinémathèque Française, *American Fringe*, Paris, France (with Su Friedrich)  
 SNF Parkway Theatre, *Sight Unseen-Footsteps, Voices, Fragments of Time: Baltimore + still/here*, Baltimore, MD (with Margaret Rorison)  
 Block Museum of Art, Block Cinema, *Environments of Struggle: Crystal Z. Campbell and Christopher Harris*, Evanston, IL  
 2021 San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, *Assembly of Images: On Histories of Race and Representation*, San Francisco, CA (with Crystal Z. Campbell) [online]  
 2019 Essay Film Festival, *still/here+Sun Song*, London, England, UK (with Joel Wanek)  
 2018 National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian African American Film Festival, *Power of Place*, Washington, D.C. (with Charles Hobson)  
 UnionDocs, *still/here*, Brooklyn, NY (with filmmaker Joel Wanek)  
 2013 Film the House of the Word, Duke University, Durham, NC (with novelist and poet Nathaniel Mackey)  
 2005 San Francisco Cinematheque, *Dialogues in the Dark*, San Francisco, CA (with Peter Hutton)  
 2001 Chicago Filmmakers, *The Space of the City*, Chicago Filmmakers, Chicago, IL (with Klaus W. Eisenlohr)

### **Group Screenings and Exhibitions (selected)**

- 2022-25 Criterion Channel, *Prismatic Ground Presents* [streaming]  
 2023 Onion City Experimental Film Festival, *Machine Perspectives*, Chicago, IL  
 Cinema Orion, *Art for Art's Sake: Fantastic Encounters*, Helsinki, Finland  
 Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Pan African Film Festival, *Wayward Waters: Black Cinema & The Atlantic—Fragments of Diaspora: Shorts Selections*, Los Angeles, CA  
 2022 Maysles Documentary Center, *XO & Struggle: An Evening of Abolitionist Cinema*, New York, NY  
 Revolutions Per Minute Festival, *Lost Worlds*, Boston, MA  
 Antimatter Film Festival, *Signal & Noise*, Victoria, BC, Canada  
 Roxie Theater, *Discovered: Trajectories of Self-Determination: Experimental Cinema's Embrace of Jazz*, (Presented by Canyon Cinema, as part of its Canyon Cinema Discovered curatorial fellowship program), San Francisco, CA [also online]  
 Crossroads 2022 Online Echo 1, San Francisco, CA [online]  
 Chicago Film Society: Celluloid Now, *2x16mm: Double the Fun*, Chicago, IL  
 Crossroads, *The Dark of the Screen*, San Francisco, CA  
 Mimesis Documentary Festival, *Grid Cell*, Boulder, CO  
 National Gallery of Art, *Viewfinder: Questioning Archives*, Washington, D.C.  
 Maysles Documentary Center, Prismatic Ground, *The Blessings of Liberty*, New York, NY

- Alchemy Film and Moving Image Festival, *Where We're At and Where We're From*, Hawick, Scotland, UK
- Block Museum of Art, Block Cinema, *Block by Block: Short Films about Chicago*, Evanston, IL
- Milwaukee Underground Film Festival, *Testing the Waters*, Milwaukee, WI
- Block Museum of Art, Block Cinema, *Flesh to Spirit: Materiality and Abstraction in Black Experimental Film*, Evanston, IL
- 2021 Belo Horizonte International Short Film Festival, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
- New York Film Festival, Currents Shorts, *Critical Mass*, New York, NY
- 2020-21 McEvoy Foundation for the Arts, *The New Labor Movements*, San Francisco, CA
- Wexner Center for the Arts, *Cinetracts '20*, Columbus, OH
- 2020 Whitney Museum of American Art, *More Mysterious Than Our Desire: Black Film Multitudes*, New York, NY (curated by Cauleen Smith and Michael B. Gillespie) [online]
- True/False Film Festival, *Shorts: Rouge*, Columbia, MO
- 2019 forumdoc.bh.2019, *The Dead and the Camera*, Belo Horizonte, Brazil
- UnionDocs, *DEEP CUTS: Millennium Film Journal No.69*, Brooklyn, NY
- Images Festival, *Notes on Being*, Toronto, Canada
- 2018 Syros International Film Festival, *The Personal and the Political*, Syros, Greece
- Featured Artist, Flaherty Seminar, *The Necessary Image*, Colgate University, Hamilton, NY
- National Gallery of Art, *Affinities or The Weight of Cinema*, Washington, D.C.
- 2017 Transmission Gallery, *baby boy*, Glasgow, Scotland
- The Unseen Festival, *Black Radical Imagination*, Denver, CO
- The Festival of (In)Appropriation, Close-Up Film Centre, London, England, UK
- Art Institute of Chicago, *Black Radical Imagination*, Chicago, IL
- Crater Lab, Barcelona, Spain
- (S8) Mostra de Cinema Periférico, A Coruña, Galicia, Spain
- NW Film Center, *REconstructing Identity: A Shorts Program*, Portland, OR
- Crossroads, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA
- Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival, Minneapolis, MN
- Milwaukee Underground Film Festival, Milwaukee, WI
- Experiments in Cinema, Albuquerque, NM
- The Frances Young Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, *Whole Grain: Experiments in Film & Video—Subversion*, Saratoga Springs, NY
- Kino Tuskanac, *Avant-Noir, Volume 1*, Zagreb, Croatia
- 2016 L'ALTERNATIVA, 23<sup>rd</sup> Festival de Cinema Independent de Barcelona, Hall Screen, Barcelona, Spain
- Light Field, The Lab, San Francisco, CA
- Antimatter Film Festival, Victoria, BC, Canada
- The Lab, *Surplus/Lack*, San Francisco, CA
- Cinema Project, *Black Cinema 1: Image and Mirage, Meaning and Identity*, Portland, OR
- 54<sup>th</sup> Ann Arbor Film Festival, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2014 Institute of Contemporary Arts/London, Artists' Film Biennial, *Avant-Noir*, London, England, UK
- L'ALTERNATIVA, 18<sup>th</sup> Festival de Cinema Independent de Barcelona, Hall Screen, Barcelona, Spain
- Antimatter Film Festival, Victoria, BC, Canada
- Crossroads Festival of Moving Image Arts, San Francisco Cinematheque, San Francisco, CA
- Milwaukee Underground Film Festival, Milwaukee, WI
- 49<sup>th</sup> Ann Arbor Film Festival, Ann Arbor, MI
- Florida Experimental Film/Video Festival, Gainesville, FL
- 2010 24<sup>th</sup> Leeds International Film Festival, Leeds, U.K.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Festival International de Cinéma de Marseille, Parallel Screens, Marseille, France
- Crossroads: A Festival of New and Rediscovered Film, San Francisco Cinematheque, San Francisco, CA
- Courtisane Festival for Short Film, Video and New Media, Ghent, Belgium
- 39th International Film Festival Rotterdam, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- 2009 Antimatter Film Festival, Victoria, BC, Canada
- 63rd Edinburgh International Film Festival, Edinburgh, Scotland, U.K.

- Milwaukee Underground Film Festival; Milwaukee, WI  
 23<sup>rd</sup> Leeds International Film Festival, Leeds, U.K.  
 Florida Experimental Film/Video Festival, Gainesville, FL  
 2008 24<sup>th</sup> Hamburg International Short Film Festival, Hamburg, Germany  
 Milwaukee Underground Film Festival, Milwaukee, WI  
 34<sup>th</sup> Athens International Film and Video Festival, Athens, OH  
 27<sup>th</sup> European Media Art Festival, Osnabrueck, Germany  
 Courtisane Festival For Short Film, Video and New Media; Ghent, Belgium  
 37<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival Rotterdam, Rotterdam, The Netherlands  
 2007 Avanto Film Festival, Helsinki, Finland  
 Iowa City Experimental Film Festival, Iowa City, IA  
 Museum of Contemporary Art-Detroit, *Shrinking Cities*, Detroit, MI  
 2006 40<sup>th</sup> Nashville Film Festival, Nashville, TN  
 Black & White Festival, Porto, Portugal  
 25<sup>th</sup> Viper International Festival for Film, Video and New Media, Basel, Switzerland  
 2005 Rencontres Internationales Paris, Paris, France  
 22<sup>nd</sup> Olympia Film Festival, Olympia, WA  
 49<sup>th</sup> VIENNALE-Vienna International Film Festival, Vienna, Austria  
 Double Negative Film Collective, Montreal, Canada  
 Chicago Underground Film Festival, Chicago, IL  
 Echo Park Film Center, Los Angeles, CA  
 33<sup>rd</sup> Huesca Film Festival, Huesca, Spain  
 Museum of Contemporary Art-Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium  
 Art Cinema, OFF OFF Nucleo, Ghent, Belgium  
 MMBase Forum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands  
 Limelight, Kortrijk, Belgium  
 Portland Documentary and eXperimental Film Festival, Portland, Oregon  
 38<sup>th</sup> Humboldt International Short Film Festival, Arcata, CA  
 Wisconsin Film Festival; Madison, WI  
 New York Underground Film Festival, New York, NY  
 34<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival Rotterdam, Rotterdam, The Netherlands  
 2004 Florida Experimental Film/Video Festival; Gainesville, FL  
 Cinematexas International Short Film Festival; Austin, TX  
 2001 Thaw Festival of Film, Video and Digital Media, Iowa City, IA

### Press

- Lynne Sachs, "The Art of Curation: In Celebration of Canyon Cinema Discovered," Canyon Cinema Connects, January 2023.
- Elaine Velie, "Six Films that Plumb the Possibilities of Prison Abolition," *Hyperallergic*, December 14, 2022.
- Various, "Best Movies of 2022: First Viewings & Discoveries and Individual Ballots," *Screen Slate*, December 12, 2022.
- Ruari McCann, "Silent Tongues: The Films of Christopher Harris," *Alt Kino*, May 30, 2022.
- Joshua Minsoo Kim, "Film Show 016: Prismatic Ground 2022: Reviews of 16 films from the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of Prismatic Ground," *Tone Glow*, May 5, 2022.
- Chris Shields, "State of the Festival: Prismatic Ground 2022—Illuminating the Emptiness: The second edition of a new festival in New York offers a much needed showcase to contemporary experimental cinema." *Mubi.com*, May 5, 2022.
- Tanner Tafelski, "Poetics and Politics Define Prismatic Ground Festival," *International Documentary Association*, May 4, 2022.
- Jordan Cronk, "Documentary's Newest Frontiers: A Conversation with Inney Prakash," *Current-An online magazine covering film culture past and present*, The Criterion Collection, April 25, 2022.
- Yasmina Price, "Lambasting Reality: How the legacies of Négritude and Surrealism influence today's Black experimental filmmakers," *Art in America*, April 2022, Vol. 110 Issue 3, p.72-77.

- Matthew Barrington, "Black Is... Unpacking Aldo Tambellini's Radical Blackness," *Afterall Journal* 52 – Winter 2022.
- Ben Kenigsberg, "It Started With a Kiss. Then Film Scholars Found More.," *New York Times*, January 12, 2022.
- Emma Piper-Burket, "Collective Records: New York Film Festival's Currents," *Mubi.com Notebook*, October 2021.
- Joshua Minsoo Kim, Film Show 012: Christopher Harris, "An Interview with director Christopher Harris, whose new film 'Dreams Under Confinement' plays as part of this NYFF," *Tone Glow*, September 2021.
- Beatrice Loayza, "Lessons in Liberation: Ephraim Asili on the Films That Shaped Him," *Current-An online magazine covering film culture past and present*, The Criterion Collection, August 30, 2021.
- Mitch McCabe, "The Beautiful Stubborn Loneliness of the Filmmaker-Shooter," *Filmmaker Magazine*, July 2020.
- Nicolas Rapold, "Enter the Void: Christopher Harris's urban landmark still/here expresses the feelings of absence in ravaged St. Louis neighborhoods to create an afterimage of African-American experience," *Film Comment*, May-June 2020.
- Beatrice Loayza, "A Post-Industrial City Symphony in a Minor Key: A Conversation with Christopher Harris," *Mubi.com Notebook*, March 2020.
- Kênia Freitas, "Landscapes Marked by Blackness: A Conversation with Christopher Harris," *21st Belo Horizonte International Short Film Festival catalog*, September 2019.
- Heitor Augusto, "Remix, Beat and Juxtapositions: The Sound-Images of Christopher Harris," *21st Belo Horizonte International Short Film Festival catalog*, September 2019.
- Ana Siqueira, "Christopher Harris Retrospective: Poetics and Politics of Form," *21st Belo Horizonte International Short Film Festival catalog*, September 2019.
- Andrew Northrop, "Something You're Not Supposed to Look At: Christopher Harris Interviewed," *BOMB Magazine*, Fall 2019.
- Millennium Film Journal, "In Conversation: Cauleen Smith & Christopher Harris" at the 2018 Flaherty Seminar, *Millennium Film Journal*, No. 69, Spring 2019.
- Teresa Castro, "The Necessary Image: On the 64th Flaherty Seminar," *Millennium Film Journal*, No. 69, Spring 2019.
- Ivonne Sheen, "Images Festival 2019: Two Films by Christopher Harris," *desistfilm*, April 2019.
- Karen Alexander, "Focus: In Conversation-Christopher Harris & Karen Alexander," *Open City Documentary Festival*, March 2019.
- Matthew Barrington, "Interview with Christopher Harris," *Essay Film Festival*, March 2019.
- Lynne Sachs, "English is Spoken Here/English is Broken Here: A Conversation about Film and Language," *World Records*, Volume 2 \ Article 2. Winter 2019.
- Joel Wanek, "An Interview with Experimental Filmmaker Christopher Harris," Joel Wanek website, March 2013, published September 2018.
- Dorothy Berry, "Christopher Harris," Interview by Dorothy Berry, *The Third Rail*. Issue 12, Spring 2018.
- Michael W. Phillips, Jr., "Black Radical Imagination," *CINE-FILE: Chicago Guide to Independent and Underground Cinema*, June 9th-15th, 2017, Crucial Viewing.
- Max Goldberg, "Five Must-See Experimental Films at This Year's CROSSROADS," *KQED*, May 18, 2017.
- Lynne Sachs, "This Camera Fights Fascism: A Personal Survey of Cinemas of Resistance," *OtherZine*, February 19, 2017: Issue #32, Spring.
- Michael Sicinski, "Halimuhfack," *Letterboxed*, December 2016.
- Ephraim Asili, "2016: The Year According to Ephraim Asili," *Crosscuts*, Walker Art Center, December 22, 2016.
- Rhett Jones, This Week's Must See Events: Fear and Loathing in the Art World, "Christopher Harris: Films & Videos," *Art F City*, July 25, 2016.
- The Editors of ARTnews, 9 Events to Attend in New York City this Week, "Christopher Harris: Films and Videos" at Microscope Gallery," *ARTnews*, July 25, 2016.
- Terri Francis, "Cosmologies of Black Cultural Production: A Conversation with Afrosurrealist Filmmaker Christopher Harris," *Film Quarterly*, Summer 2016: Volume 69, Number 4.

- Christopher Good, "The Past Keeps Happening: Suspending Disbelief with Filmmaker Christopher Harris," *South Side Weekly*, March 8, 2016.
- Kyle Cubr, "Christopher Harris' *still/here*," *CINE-FILE: Chicago Guide to Independent and Underground Cinema*, February 19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Crucial Viewing.
- Sophia Satchell-Baeza, "Artists' Film Biennial, ICA 2014," *NECSUS European Journal of Media Studies*, autumn 2015.
- Hansen Mulford, "Ten Florida Artists," Orlando Museum of Art Florida Prize in Contemporary Art, Orlando Museum of Art, Orlando, FL, catalogue, summer 2014.
- Andréa Picard, "Fast and Furious: The Best of 2011 in Avant-Garde Film," *indieWIRE*, 2011.
- Michael Sicinski, "Between Two Eyes: Four Emergent Avant-Garde Film/Videomakers for the New Decade," *Cinema Scope Magazine*, July 2011, 28-32.
- Ben Franzen, "Reel Talent," *The Crisis Magazine*, Winter 2010, 23.
- Michael Sicinski, "Reel Nashville 2006, A User's Guide to the Nashville Film Festival: Films Without Boundaries," *Nashville Scene*, April 20, 2006.
- Michael Sicinski, "Reviews of New Releases Seen, April 2006," *The Academic Hack* "blog." April 2006.
- Fred Camper, "Chicago's Own: The Space of the City," Critic's Choice, *Chicago Reader*, Chicago, IL, December 14, 2001, Volume 31, Number 11.
- Thomas Crone, "Filmmaker Turns Camera on City's Crumbling Neighborhoods," *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, St. Louis, MO, January 4, 2001.
- Byron Kerman, "Home Sickness," *Riverfront Times*, St. Louis, MO, January 3-9, 2001. 29.
- Thomas Crone, "Still Life," *The Commonsplace*, Grassroots Civics and Culture in St. Louis, January 2001.

### **Bibliography**

- Jaimie Baron, *Reuse, Misuse, Abuse: The Ethics of Audiovisual Appropriation in the Digital Era*, Rutgers University Press, 2020.
- Joel Schlemowitz, *Experimental Filmmaking and the Motion Picture Camera: An Introductory Guide for Artists and Filmmakers*. New York: Routledge, 2019.
- Kevin Bell, "'Unmade According to His Image,' or, Night for Day: Blanchot and the Blacknesses of Cinema Figure," *Understanding Blanchot, Understanding Modernism*, edited by Christopher Langlois. New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2018.
- Jaimie Baron, "Christopher Harris' Historiography of Interruption," *Towards an Audiovisual Historiography*, edited by Andrej Slávik & Birgitta Svensson. Stockholm: Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities, 2018.
- Terri Francis, "Between Documentary and the Avant-garde: Exploring the Visual Poetics of Ruins in Christopher Harris' *still/here*," *Black American Cinema: Race Sexuality and Gender at the Movies*, edited by Mia Mask. New York: Routledge, 2012.
- Terri Francis, "Ethnicity, Race and Film," *An Introduction to Film Studies* (5<sup>th</sup> edition), Routledge, 2011.
- Terri Francis, "She Will Never Look: Film Spectatorship, Black Feminism, and Scary Subjectivities," *Reclaiming the Archive: Feminism and Film History*, edited by Vicki Callahan. Detroit: Wayne State UP, 2011.
- Terri Francis, "African American Cinema: Ethnicity, Race and Film," *Introduction to Film Studies*, Edited by Jill Nelmes. London: Routledge, 2008.