

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PANORAMA EUROPE 2019 FILM FESTIVAL LINEUP ANNOUNCED, WITH SEVENTEEN FILMS, INCLUDING NINE DIRECTED BY WOMEN

May 3–19, 2019 at Museum of the Moving Image and Bohemian National Hall

Festival opens on Friday, May 3 with the U.S. premiere of *Mademoiselle Paradis*, Barbara Albert's sumptuous and satirical period drama with star Maria Dragus in person



New York, New York, April 8, 2019—**Panorama Europe 2019**, the eleventh edition of the essential festival of new European cinema, co-presented by Museum of the Moving Image (MoMI) and the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC), includes a wide range of outstanding films by some of the continent's most exciting emerging directors. The festival, which runs May 3 through 19 with a full slate at MoMI and two encore screenings at Bohemian National Hall, offers New Yorkers an overview of the current European film scene.

The programmer of this year's edition of the festival, **David Schwartz**, MoMI Curator-at-Large, says: "If there is a unifying thread in the diverse, exciting array of films in this year's selection, it is a focus on the myriad of ways that the pressures and anxieties of modern life filter down into the most intimate aspects of personal identity. While the films tackle such macro subjects as politics, history, labor, and feminism, they do so with stories that focus microscopically on the lives of individuals. A blind piano player who is both shunned and admired by the aristocracy. A husband and labor activist abandoned by his wife. A lawyer whose wife is in a coma and can only find comfort in self-pity. A glamorous actress reflecting on the emotional turmoil of her life. A mother who reappears after mysteriously leaving her family. These are just some of the unforgettable people whose lives are examined in the inventive and accomplished films in Panorama Europe 2019."

The opening night selection is the U.S. premiere of **Barbara Albert's** *Mademoiselle Paradis*, which stars **Maria Dragus**, one of Europe's rising stars (known for her roles in *The White Ribbon* and *Graduation*), as an accomplished musician who is blind, bristling against the rigid social conventions of eighteenth-century Austria. Dragus will participate in a conversation after the screening; followed by a reception. Closing day includes the Greek film *Pity*, co-written by Efthimis Filippou, the frequent writing partner of Yorgos Lanthimos (*The Favourite*).

In addition to **Maria Dragus**, the Festival will include personal appearances by star actors **Marie Baümer** (*3 Days in Quiberon*) and **Paul Portelli and Davide Tucci** (*Limestone Cowboy*), as well as personal appearances by the directors **Mindaugus Survila** (*The Ancient Woods*), Elena Trapé (*Distances*), Sara Hribar (*Lada Kamenski*), Andrea Sorini (*Baikonur, Earth*), Zsófia Szilágyi (*One Day*), and Bogdan Theodor Olteanu (*Several Conversations About a Very Tall Girl*). Many of the films are U.S. or New York premieres.

Tickets for screenings at MoMI are \$15 (with discounts for seniors, students, and Museum members) and free at Bohemian National Hall. Advance tickets at MoMI are available at movingimage.us; reservations for BNH tickets may be made at <u>www.czechcenter.com</u>. A festival pass (good for all MoMI screenings) is available for \$50. See below for full lineup and schedule or visit <u>movingimage.us/panoramaeurope2019</u>

Panorama Europe is coordinated by Gaelle Duchemin, European Union Delegation to the United Nations in partnership with the Goethe-Institut and the Czech Center New York/Bohemian National Hall. The 2019 Panorama Europe Film Festival presenting partners are the Arts Council Malta in New York, the Austrian Cultural Forum New York, the Balassi Institute - Hungarian Cultural Center New York, the Consulate General of the Republic of Croatia and the Croatian Audiovisual Centre, the Lithuanian Culture Institute, the Consulate General of Portugal, the Consulate General of Slovakia, the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, the Czech Center New York, the European Union Delegation to the United Nations, Dutch Culture USA, the Goethe-Institut New York, Instituto Cervantes, the Italian Cultural Institute, the Consulate General of Greece in New York and Onassis USA, the Polish Cultural Institute New York, the Romanian Cultural Institute, and Wallonie Bruxelles International (WBI).

This program is supported by the European Union.

FULL LINEUP AND SCHEDULE FOR PANORAMA EUROPE, MAY 3-19, 2019

All screenings take place at Museum of the Moving Image 36-01 35 Ave, Astoria, New York, 11106, or at Bohemian National Hall, 321 East 73rd Street (between 1st and 2nd Ave), New York, NY 10021. See detailed venue information after the schedule. Program information and tickets are available online at <u>movingimage.us/panoramaeurope2019</u>

All films will be shown in their original languages with English subtitles.

OPENING NIGHT

Mademoiselle Paradis (Licht)

With lead actress Maria Dragus in person. Screening followed by discussion and reception FRIDAY, MAY 3, 7:00 P.M.at MoMI / U.S. premiere

MONDAY, MAY 6, 7:00 P.M. at Bohemian National Hall

Presented by the Austrian Cultural Forum New York in partnership with the European Union. Austria/Germany. Dir. Barbara Albert. 2017, 97 mins. DCP. With Maria Dragus, Devid Striesow, Lukas Miko, Katja Kolm. We first see Maria Therese Von Paradis in close-up, in the throes of intense, almost ecstatic emotion, as she plays piano for a group of aristocrats in eighteenthcentury Austria. Maria is blind, making her something of a social outcast in the very society that is also making her a star. In Barbara Albert's sumptuous period film, Maria's emerging sensitivity and the awakening of her sensuality is set against the oppressive social codes that dominate her life. A curative stay with the controversial Dr. Otto Mesmer awakens Maria but creates a new crisis. Maria Dragus, one of Europe's rising stars (known for her roles in *The White Ribbon* and *Graduation*) gives an amazing performance in the central role.

Our Struggles (*Nos batailles*)

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2:00 P.M. at MoMI / New York premiere

Presented by Wallonie Bruxelles International (WBI)

Belgium/France. Dir. Guillaume Senez. 98 mins. DCP. With Romain Duris, Laure Calamy, Laetitia Dosch. Guillaume Senez confirms himself as one of Europe's most deeply humanist directors, working in a lower-key vein than his compatriots, the Dardenne brothers. Following his acclaimed debut *Keeper* (about a teen boy whose soccer dreams are disrupted when his girlfriend gets pregnant), *Our Struggles* dramatizes the struggles of a factory manager and labor activist whose wife unexpectedly leaves him, forcing him to care for their two children. Romain Duris, one of Europe's most magnetic actors (*The Beat That My Heart Skipped, All The Money in the World*), is compelling as a decent but overwhelmed man dealing with the challenges the contemporary world throws him.

The Ancient Woods (Sengire)

With director Mindaugus Survila in person

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 4:00 P.M. at MoMI

Presented by the Lithuanian Culture Institute

Lithuania/Estonia/Germany. Dir. Mindaugus Survila. 2017, 85 mins. DCP.

Mindaugus Survila's stunningly beautiful and lush nature documentary *The Ancient Woods* is more than a labor of love; it is practically a life's work for the filmmaker, who has been dreaming of making such a film since he fell in love with forests in fifth grade. A meditative experience, filled with unforgettable images and expressive sound design, *Ancient Woods* finds its drama in the behavior of animals and the beauty of the landscape. Using handmade equipment, such as a zip

line that let him film while soaring across treetops, Survila spent eight years shooting more than 600 hours of footage. In this creative and inspiring documentary, Survila weaves together scenes from different locations to invent an ideal forest, a place filled with a magic all its own.

Distances (Las Distancias) With director Elena Trapé in person

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 6:30 P.M. at MoMI / U.S. premiere

Presented by Instituto Cervantes

Spain. Dir. Elena Trapé. 2018, 99 mins. Digital projection. With Miki Esparbe, Alexandra Jimenez, Isak Ferriz. Chillier in tone than *The Big Chill*, Elena Trapé's film about a surprise visit by a group of Spanish friends to celebrate the 35th birthday of their friend Comas, who is living in Berlin, is a reunion film in a decidedly minor key that is suffused with the texture of life as it is really lived. None of the friends are exactly where they want to be, and secrets, regrets, and resentments simmer just below the surface. As downbeat as it is, the film always feels refreshingly vital, due to Trapé's attention to nuance and atmosphere, and to the raw and realistic performances by a great ensemble cast that give this finely wrought fiction the feeling of documentary.

Limestone Cowboy

With actors Paul Portelli and Davide Tucci in person

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2:00 P.M. at MoMI / New York premiere

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 7:00 P.M. at Bohemian National Hall

Presented by Arts Council Malta in New York

Malta. Dir. Abigail Mallia. 2018, 97 mins. Digital projection. With Paul Portelli, Davide Tucci. The cowboy hat–wearing Karist is a hero in his own mind, driven by his love of the mythological American west to be Malta's savior by winning the island country's presidential election. But can a delusional, unqualified candidate rise to power in today's world? Abigail Mallia's boisterous and well-crafted film is brought to life by the convincing and delightful performances of its gifted lead actors, Paul Portelli as the eponymous cowboy and Davide Tucci as his son, who is struggling to save what is left of his family's respectability.

3 Days in Quiberon (*3 Tage in Quiberon*) With lead actress Marie Bäumer in person

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 4:30 P.M. at MoMI / New York Premiere

Presented by the Goethe-Institut New York

Germany/Austria/France. Dir. Emily Atef. 2018, 116 mins. DCP. With Marie Bäumer, Birgit Minichmayr, Charly Hübner. Actress Marie Bäumer accomplishes an amazing feat in Emily Atef's engrossing drama about an extensive interview that Romy Schneider gave while staying at a French spa just a year before her untimely death in 1982. Bäumer captures the unique blend of magnetism, self-awareness, and vulnerability that made Schneider one of the most fascinating European stars of her time. Filmed in lush widescreen black-and-white well-suited for the setting's gentle, windswept solitude, the film focuses on the increasingly close but wary friendship that emerges between Schneider and the journalist, while also following Schneider's interactions with a close friend who arrives to keep her company. Further complicating the retreat is the photographer, who is an old flame of Schneider—who is haunted throughout by the recent suicide of her ex-husband, and an estrangement from her teenage son. Bäumer's Schneider is bracingly honest, funny, and emotionally open.

SIDEBAR SCREENING

Romy Schneider in Le combat dans l'île

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 7:15 P.M. at MoMI

Dir. Alain Cavalier. France. 1962, 104 mins. 35mm. With Romy Schneider, Jean-Louis Trintignant. Romy Schneider is at her best as the wife of an industrialist and right-wing extremist played by Jean-Louis Trintignant, in this rarely screened thriller from the height of the French New Wave. A jazzy noir that is set against the political turmoil of the early 1960s, Alan Cavalier's film is stunningly photographed by the great Pierre Lhomme (best known for such films as Jean-Pierre Melville's *Army of Shadows* and Jean Eustache's *The Mother and the Whore*).

The Last Self-Portrait

FRIDAY, MAY 10, 7:30 P.M. at MoMI / U.S. premiere

Presented by the Consulate General of Slovakia

Slovakia. Dir. Marek Kubos. 2018, 72 mins. Digital projection. With Frano Mašković, Ksenija Marinković, Nataša Dorčić, Doris Šarić-Kukuljica. Creative block and crippling self-doubt are turned to highly productive use in Marek Kubos's clever and smartly crafted meta-film, in which he confronts his thirteen-year hiatus from documentary filmmaking. Kubos started his directorial career with a symbol-laden self-portrait. Closing the circle, he revisits his early films—including an unfinished movie about a junk shop— and then visits his friends—a group comprising the country's leading documentary filmmakers—asking them to speculate on the nature of filmmaking and on the very film that Kubos is making. Surrealist moments, discussion about the ethics of documentary, reflections on the odd rootlessness of the post-Soviet era, and a dreamlike finale are among the elements of Kubos's unique brew, a "last" movie that only makes the viewer want to see more from this talented director.

Lada Kamenski

With director Sara Hribar in person

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 4:00 P.M. at MoMI / U.S. premiere

Presented by the Consulate General of the Republic of Croatia and the Croatian Audiovisual Centre

Croatia. Dirs. Sara Hribar, Marko Santic. 2018, 71 mins. Digital projection. With Ksenija Marinković, Nataša Dorčić, Doris Šarić-Kukuljica. Feminism, labor history, and fiction meet in the modest Zagreb apartment of Fano, a director who is making a film inspired by his aunt, who worked at a legendary local clothing factory that closed down years ago. Fano is looking to cast a middle-aged actress to play his aunt, and he comes up with the misguided idea of inviting three actresses to his apartment for an audition disguised as a casual get-together. Over wine and cheese, the actresses jockey uncomfortably for position, talk about their personal and professional lives, and find opportunities to pigeonhole Fano in the kitchen to lobby for the part in private. As the casual afternoon unfolds, the film has a lot to say about women and work, and is—fittingly—a great showcase for the talents of its leads, who are among the most respected actresses in Croatia: Ksenija Marinković, Nataša Dorčić, and Doris Šarić-Kukuljica.

Fugue

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 6:30 P.M. at MoMI / New York premiere

Presented by the Polish Cultural Institute New York

Poland/Czech Republic/Sweden. Dir. Agnieszka Smoczyńska. 2018, 102 mins. Digital projection. With Gabriela Muskała, Łukasz Simlat, Iwo Rajski. Agnieszka Smoczyńska's debut film, *The Lure*, a wildly imaginative mermaid vampire disco-musical, was a surprise international hit. Equally impressive, but starkly different in tone, *Fugue* is her sophomore feature, a tense and mysterious drama about a bedraggled woman who staggers out of the darkness one night, onto a city railway platform. It turns out that the woman had vanished from her domestic life, leaving behind a husband and young son. Slowly she tries to connect to her past identity, but she is unable to truly fit in. Smoczyńska's filmmaking is masterful, and tightly controlled, but it is the courageous and brilliant work of Gabriela Muskała, who wrote the screenplay and stars as the amnesiac woman, that gives the film its haunting power and strangeness.

Return to Bollène (Retour à Bollène)

SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2:00 P.M. at MoMI / New York premiere

Presented by the Cultural Services of the French Embassy

France/Morocco. Dir. Saïd Hamich. 2017, 69 mins. Digital projection. With Anas El Baz, Saïd Benchnafa, Kate Colebrook. Nassim, a 30-year-old French-Moroccan man, returns from Abu Dhabi to his hometown in Southern France, with his American fiancée. But the trip offers little comfort; the failing city is now governed by the far right, the Moroccan community is isolated, and Nassim is virtually estranged from his father. Relationships and family bonds are tested. With a sure touch, Hamich draws us into a deeply absorbing series of confrontations and realizations, telling a universal story that is very much rooted in today's political climate.

Jan Palach

SUNDAY, MAY 12, 4:00 P.M. at MoMI

Presented by the Czech Center New York

Czech Republic/Slovakia. Dir. Robert Sedláček. 2018, 124 mins. Digital projection. With Viktor Zavadil, Zuzana Bydzovska. This year marks the 50th anniversary of a defining act of personal heroism in 20th-century Czech history. Jan Palach was a student who had risen from his peasant upbringing to become a leader of the movement protesting the presence of Soviet communism in the country. In January 1969, Palach burned himself to death in Wenceslas Square as an act of defiance against Russia's attempts to crush the Prague Spring. Sedláček focuses on the personal side of the story, following Palach from childhood through his student years, to show his evolution. The film swept the Czech Film Critics awards, becoming the country's most acclaimed movie of the year.

Baikonur, Earth (*Bajkonur, Terra*) With director Andrea Sorini in person

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 7:00 P.M. at MoMI / U.S. premiere

Presented by the Italian Cultural Institute

Italy/Kazakhstan/Russia. Dir. Andrea Sorini, 2018, 74 mins. Digital projection. A film of otherworldly beauty, Andrea Sorini's gently surreal documentary study of the home of the Baikonur Cosmodrome—the world's first space launch facility—achieves the feat of making life on Earth look as alien as any destination in the universe. Built for the launch of Sputnik in the 1950s, the Cosmodrome, located in a desert region of Kazakhstan, is still in use, for sending rockets to the International Space Station. Cows and camels wander through the sparsely populated streets, old

churches and statues contrast the stark modernist architecture of the space program, and a karaoke bar is bathed in eerie blue light. Sorini's film is a cinematic marvel, filled with strangely beautiful images and slowly building to a blast-off finale.

One Day (Egy nap)

With director Zsófia Szilágyi in person

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 7:30 P.M. at MoMI / New York premiere

Presented by Balassi Institute - Hungarian Cultural Center, New York

Hungary. Dir. Zsófia Szilágyi. 2018, 99 mins. Digital projection. With Zsófia Szamosi, Leó Füredi, Ambrus Barcza, Zorka Varga-Blaskó, Márk Gárdos. Is there a more universal story than the drama at the heart of Zsófia Szilágyi's vivid and absorbing debut feature? Anna is a young mother who barely manages to do the impossible each day—corral her three demanding children, feeding them and getting them to school and to lessons, while dealing with household problems and financial stress, and a husband who may be having an affair. With a handheld camera and a cacophonous soundtrack worthy of Robert Altman, Szilágyi immerses us in the drama of daily life, showing it so clearly that we see the familiar in a new light.

Light as Feathers

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2:00 P.M. at MoMI / U.S. premiere

Presented by Dutch Culture USA

Netherlands. Dir. Rosanne Pel. 2018, 86 mins. Digital projection. With Erik Walyny, Ewa Makula. The way that confused emotions and raging hormones can erupt during adolescence is captured with almost documentary naturalism in writer/director Rosanne Pel's debut feature, which is set in a rural Polish village. Eryk, the lumbering and likable protagonist, lives with an overbearing mother who looks young enough to be his lover. Living in a crowded home dominated by women, Eryk finds escape in trysts with his neighbor Klaudia. But his lust soon turns violent. Pel filmed over several years, capturing small moments and allowing the drama to unfold like real life.

Extinction (Extinção)

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 4:00 P.M. at MoMI

Presented by the Consulate General of Portugal

Portugal/Germany. Dir. Salomé Lamas. 2018, 85 mins. Digital projection. Kolya is a young man from Moldova with a declared loyalty towards Transnistria—a country that remains unrecognized by the international community and does not officially exist, and which remains rooted in communist ideology. Portuguese filmmaker Salomé Lamas's entrancing, sonically immersive film follows Kolya across various borders, each with its own history and shadowy demands, and bringing him to various haunted monuments to Soviet progress, to ghosts with remnant koans and axes still to grind. Extinction is a singularly evocative meditation on the simultaneous fluidity and immobility of life in the former Soviet territories.

Pity (Oiktos)

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 4:00 P.M. at MoMI / New York premiere

Presented by the Consulate General of Greece in New York and Onassis USA Greece/Poland, Dir. Babis Makridis, 2018, 97 mins. DCP. With Yannis Drakopoulos, Evi Saoulidou. Bathed in bright sunlight and rooted in the classic austerity of its controlled compositions, Babis Makridis's deadpan wonder *Pity* draws a clear line between the pathos of Greek tragedy and the deliberate weirdness of the New Greek Cinema. In a beautifully modulated performance, Yannis Drakopoulos is a lawyer whose young wife is in a coma. Soon, he becomes addicted to his own sorrow, and cannot even tolerate the upbeat melodies of his son's piano. At turns absurdist and comic, *Pity*, which was co-written with Yorgos Lanthimos's frequent writing partner Efthimis Filippou, is an oddly emotional experience that asks the audience to question the performative nature of emotion—in movies and in life.

Several Conversations About a Very Tall Girl (Cateva conversatii despre o fata foarte inalta)

With director Bogdan Theodor Olteanu in person

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 6:30 P.M. at MoMI / U.S. premiere

Presented by the Romanian Cultural Institute

Romania. Dir. Bogdan Theodor Olteanu. 2018, 70 mins. Digital projection. With Silvana Mihai, Florentina Nastase. Two women who share a former lover begin a series of Skype conversations in Bogdan Olteanu's deceptively relaxed and emotionally incisive love story. The women are polar opposites; in a remarkable screen debut, Silvana Mihai plays a vulnerable character tentatively coming to terms with her sexuality. Her shyness is contrasted by the brashness of Florentina Nastase's much more experienced bohemian. (Nastase's character is making a silent experimental documentary about another gay couple). This endearing and incisive film is considered the first Romanian film focused on a lesbian love story.

ABOUT THE PRESENTING ORGANIZATIONS:

European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) is Europe's network of national cultural institutes and organizations, with 36 members from all 28 E.U. member states. The EUNIC New York cluster was founded in 2007 and has 19 full members. The mission of EUNIC New York is to promote and present the best of European creative and intellectual achievements to New York and U.S. audiences. EUNIC works to create artistic and educational opportunities, strengthen cultural relations, and create effective collaboration between members and cultural institutions. EUNIC main objectives are to provide a forum for discussion on issues of common interest, including E.U. cultural policies and strategies, facilitate sharing of best practices and expertise among its members, act as interlocutor for the local public and private institutions on European cultural issues of common interest, to be an active partner to E.U. Delegations in the host country and act as facilitators to bid for E.U. funded projects. More information at <u>www.eunicglobal.eu</u>

Museum of the Moving Image (MoMI)

The Museum of the Moving Image 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. More information at www.movingimage.us

VENUES AND TICKETS

Museum of the Moving Image

36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street), Astoria, NY 11106. Subway: M, R to Steinway Street or N, W to 36

Avenue. Telephone: 718 777 6888 (recorded information). Unless otherwise noted, tickets are \$15 (\$11 seniors and students / free or discounted for Museum members). Advance tickets are available online at movingimage.us.

Bohemian National Hall

321 East 73rd Street (between 1st and 2nd Ave), New York, NY 10021. Subway: Q to 72nd Street, 6 to 68 Street Hunter College or 77 Street. Visit <u>www.czechcenter.com</u> for more information. Tickets for *Panorama Europe* at the Bohemian National Hall are free with RSVP on <u>www.czechcenter.com</u>.

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Top image: Maria Dragus in *Mademoiselle Paradis* (courtesy of First Run Features)

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Join the online conversation by using **#PanoramaEurope** The full program can be viewed at: **movingimage.us/PanoramaEurope2019**

MUSEUM INFORMATION

<u>Hours</u>: Wed–Thurs, 10:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Fri, 10:30 a.m.–8:00 p.m. Sat–Sun, 10:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m.
<u>Museum Admission</u>: \$15 adults; \$11 senior citizens (ages 65+) and students (ages 18+) with ID;
\$9 youth (ages 3–17). Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free.
<u>Free Friday Nights</u>: free gallery admission every Friday, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. presented by the
Richmond Country Savings Foundation. Additionally, this program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.
<u>Film Screenings</u>: Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, and as scheduled. Unless otherwise noted, tickets: \$15 adults, \$11 students and seniors, \$9 youth (ages 3–17), free or discounted for
Museum members (depending on level of membership). Advance purchase is available online.
Ticket purchase includes same-day Museum admission.
Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.
<u>Subway</u>: M or R to Steinway Street. N or W to 36 Ave or Broadway.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: <u>movingimage.us</u> <u>Membership: http://movingimage.us/support/membership</u> or 718 777 6877

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.