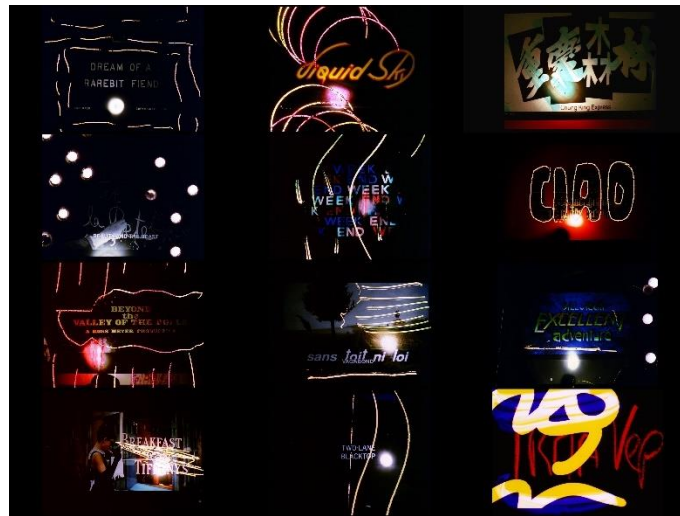


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 12, 2023

Carl & Marilyn Thoma Foundation/Art Vault Announces
Lust Severs
An exhibition guest-curated by Jennifer West



SANTA FE, NM - The Carl & Marilyn Thoma Foundation is excited to announce the opening of *Lust Severs*, an exhibition that explores functional and experiential aspects of technology. Guest curated by pioneering film artist Jennifer West, this exhibition interrogates how the digital tools and physical materiality of technology mediate both bodily sensations and mental conceptions of the world around us. Featuring seventeen artists from the Thoma collection, *Lust Severs* also includes work by West that directly engages the themes of the exhibition.

Playing to the often-discomfiting collision of the human body, culture, and technology, the title of the exhibition is taken from an auto-correct mistake that changed “list servers” to “lust severs” in an email chain. Spanning from the 1960s to the present, artworks displayed in the exhibition employ digital and analog video, LED sculpture, flatscreens, sculpture, computer-generated imagery, projection, and mixed media.

Evoking themes of obsolescence, reanimation, and the atavistic or even sacred potentials of technology, this exhibition blurs the lines between past and present by bringing together digital media pioneers of the mid-twentieth century with contemporary and emerging artists. As West explains, “I approached the process of curating *Lust Severs*, from this expansive collection of digital and media-based work, as a techno-archaeologist—foregrounding the rich connections between generations of artists and artworks.”

“*Lust Severs* represents a new direction for curation and programming at Art Vault. We see this exhibition and our partnership with Jennifer West as setting a precedent for the deep relationships we hope to establish with artists moving forward,” states Holly Harrison, Director of the Thoma Foundation. “We’re also excited to strengthen our relationship to our audience through dynamic programming and sustained community engagement. Jennifer West is the ideal artist to help us initiate this new chapter; her art addresses a broad cross-section of creative communities in Santa Fe and speaks to the intimate relationship between humans and technology that is at the core of the Thoma Foundation Digital & Media Art Collection.”

The Thoma Foundation’s partnership with Jennifer West began as a collaboration with the local, nonprofit publisher Radius Books, which produces high-quality art books. Thanks to a grant from the Thoma Foundation, Radius Books published *Jennifer West: Media Archaeology* in 2022. This debut monograph brings together nearly a decade of “analogical” experiments in film, sculpture, and installation by one of the most committed artists working on the West Coast today. Saturated in a history of avant-garde and Third World cinema (not to mention HIV/AIDS activism and the incipient riot grrrl movement) since she was an undergraduate at Evergreen State College, West’s work today treads similar ground: challenging the utopianism of new media adoptees as well as the nostalgia of analog-only film adherents.

FEATURED ARTISTS

LaTurbo Avedon, Dara Birnbaum, Jim Campbell, Sarah Frost, Sabrina Gschwandtner, Desmond Paul Henry, Lynn Hershman Leeson, Bruce Nauman, Nam June Paik, Cara Romero, Elias Sime, Cauleen Smith, Anne Spalter, Stan VanDerBeek, Carrie Mae Weems, Jennifer West, Saya Woolfalk

On view at Art Vault May 1 – August 4, 2023.

OPENING RECEPTION

May 19 – 7:00 pm

Held in association with SITE Santa Fe & Radius Books

Free and open to the public; registration required ([Register Here](#))

ABOUT ART VAULT

Art Vault, located in Santa Fe, NM, is the public exhibition space for the Carl and Marilyn Thoma Foundation’s art collection.

Location: 540 South Guadalupe Street

Hours: Tuesday – Saturday (10 am – 5 pm); last Fridays of every month (5 – 7 pm)

Admission: Free

ABOUT THE CARL & MARILYNN THOMA FOUNDATION

The [Carl & Marilyn Thoma Foundation](#) recognizes the power of the arts to challenge and shift perceptions, spark creativity, and connect people across cultures. The Foundation lends and

exhibits artworks and supports pivotal initiatives in the arts, providing grants to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations whose innovative projects and original ideas will advance scholarship in the arts and rural education initiatives. The Foundation is based in Dallas, Texas.

IMAGE: Jennifer West, Film stills from *Film Title Poem* (2016)

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