

Queen of Hearts: Audrey Flack



From Academy Award-winning filmmaker Deborah Shaffer, a new documentary about the art and life of Audrey Flack.

Runtime: 75 minutes

www.audreyflackfilm.com

Log Line

Octogenarian artist Audrey Flack has always been a trailblazer. In this intimate portrait of her life and work, she returns to her canvas for the first time in decades, revealing her longtime struggles as an artist and mother to find her rightful place in the art world.

Synopsis

At 88 years-old, Audrey Flack holds a unique place in the history of contemporary art in America. Feminist, rebel, mother, painter, sculptor and teacher, Audrey's often controversial 40-year career evolved from abstract expressionism in the 1950s to photorealism in the 1970s. One of the first women ever included in the famed *Janson's History of Art*, Audrey continues to create, explore, and inspire with her unique style and indomitable spirit.

Queen of Hearts follows Flack as she takes her work in a brand new direction and reveals her long-term struggles as the mother of a child with autism. Flack has something deep and genuine to communicate to the world. She is a provocateur and a rebel, an example and an inspiration. *Queen of Hearts* is a moving portrait of an artist who is still testing, still experimenting, still searching.

Screenings

Film Columbia
DOC NYC
Time and Space
Hamptons Docfest
Oolite Arts - Art Films
Parrish Art Museum
Through Women's Eyes Film Festival
The Int'l Festival of Film on Art (FIFA)
Indie Grits Film Fest
Ashland Independent Film Festival
Sonoma International Film Festival
Newport Beach Film Festival
Boca Raton Jewish Film Festival
CASCADIA Int'l Women's Film Festival
Cracking the Frame
Full Frame Documentary Film Festival
Docaviv Int'l Documentary Film Festival



Press

[The Berkshire Eagle](#): “The festival opened with an absolutely gorgeous documentary about the Photorealist painter and sculptor, Audrey Flack. *Queen of Hearts: Audrey Flack* enraptured the audience and earned a standing ovation. It is a beautifully done documentary of a life well-lived.”

[Film Festival Today, Top 10 Docs from DOC NYC 2019](#): “...the perfect introduction to its subject, comprehensive in its detail and captivating in its approach.”

[Film Inquiry](#): “What’s refreshing about Deborah Shaffer and Rachel Reichman’s look is how intimate and personal it feels, grounding a remarkable woman in a very personable and extraordinary light...This is what art is for, creating a kind of symbiosis between creator and audience.”

[Unseen Films](#): “...a wonderful portrait of a mover and shaker in the art world, who is also one hell of a grand lady.”

[Forbes, The Artiest Films From New York’s Documentary Film Festival](#): “...she has been an incredible photorealist, armed with a convincing spray brush. Now, the artist finally gets her due in this documentary.”

[The East Hampton Star](#): Audrey Flack, ‘Finally Seen’

[The Fordham Observer](#): “The film is about believing in yourself, it’s about recognizing what it is to need to do something.”

Audrey Flack

Audrey Flack is an internationally recognized painter and sculptor and a pioneer of photorealism. Ms. Flack enjoys the distinction of being the first photorealist painter whose work was purchased by the Museum of Modern Art for its permanent collection. Among the major museums around the world, her work also resides in The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the National Museum of Women in the Arts.



Director's Statement

As a documentary filmmaker with a career that spans more than 40 years, my subject matter has ranged from human rights and conflicts in Latin America to the arts. The unifying focus has been on characters of great idealism, integrity and inspiration in their various fields of endeavor. My personal interest in Audrey Flack at this time in my career parallels my own concerns about continuing to create relevant and meaningful work in a fast-changing, youth-dominated cultural milieu.

Although Audrey Flack calls herself a feminist, her work doesn't fit into neat categories. She was not part of the mainstream of the feminist art movement, and in fact her work was reviled by some as overly feminine in subject matter and style. We have interviewed both her admirers and her detractors among the critics, as well as artists, curators, private collectors and art historians who have known Flack at different stages in her nearly 70-year career.

Queen of Hearts is the first ever documentary about Audrey Flack. We hope to introduce Audrey Flack to a young generation of artists looking for artist heroes to be inspired by, and to reintroduce her to art-lovers already knowledgeable about her work but unfamiliar with her personal journey.

--Deborah Shaffer, October 2019

Filmmaking Team

Deborah Shaffer, Director/Producer

Academy Award winner Deborah Shaffer began making social documentaries in Newsreel. She co-founded Pandora Films, one of the first women's companies. Her documentary THE WOBBLIES, premiered at NYFF. Shaffer often focused on human rights in Latin America, directing WITNESS TO WAR: DR CHARLIE CLEMENTS, Academy Award; FIRE FROM THE MOUNTAIN and DANCE OF HOPE, *Sundance*. After 9/11 Shaffer directed FROM THE ASHES: 10 ARTISTS, then FROM THE ASHES: EPILOGUE, *Sundance* and *Tribeca*. She Executive Produced Oscar-nominated short ASYLUM, and directed numerous programs on women and the arts, winning two Emmys. She directed and produced TO BE HEARD, awarded at numerous festivals. www.bacchusfilms.com

Rachel Reichman, Co-Director/Editor

Rachel Reichman has edited scores of prize-winning documentaries, including HITCHCOCK/TRUFFAUT (Directed by Kent Jones), A LETTER TO ELIA (Directed by Kent Jones and Martin Scorsese), and WOMEN, WAR AND PEACE (Directed by Gini Reticker). She directed the independent feature films THE WORK, starring Sonja Sohn, which premiered at MoMA in New Directors/New Films in 1996, and THE RIVERBED, which premiered at the Rotterdam International Film Festival in 1986.

Davina Pardo, Producer

Davina Pardo produced VERY SEMI-SERIOUS, an HBO documentary about New Yorker cartoonists that received a 2015 Emmy® for Outstanding Arts & Culture Programming. She has directed and produced several award-winning documentary shorts include 116 CAMERAS (POV, Op-Docs) and MINKA. Her work has been supported by the Tribeca Film Institute, IFP's Documentary Lab and Independent Film Week, and the Sundance Institute. www.birdlings.com

Amy Sultan, Producer

Amy Sultan is Co-Producer and Co-Director of the feature documentary TO BE HEARD (Grand Jury Prize & Audience Award, DOC NYC) and Executive Director of To Be Heard Foundation. Sultan co-founded the Power Writers Program with and was Co-Executive Director of the Early Stages Program, an arts education organization. She was Executive Producer of the Nantucket Film Festival, steering the Fledgling Festival through its crucial second year.

Elizabeth Nichols, Cinematographer

Elizabeth Nichols is a writer, director and cinematographer of both non-fiction and narrative films who recently received an MFA from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts. Her recent short film BLACK HEAD COW, made in collaboration with students in Tanzania, played Toronto and Berlin Film Festivals.

Credits

Directed by	Deborah Shaffer
Co-Directed and Edited by	Rachel Reichman
Produced by	Davina Pardo, Deborah Shaffer, Amy Sultan
Executive Producer	Mary Strauss
Associate Producer	Ashley Moradipour
Cinematography	Elizabeth Nichols, Bradley Wickham
Sound Recording	Bradley Wickham
Additional Cinematography	Ben Backhaus, Rob Jackson, James Wasserman
Additional Sound Recording	Andrew Beers, David Holm, Mike Kelly, Kyle Wilkinson
Adviser	Elizabeth Hess
Assistant Editors	Ashley Moradipour, Jen Ackerman, Cheriyan John
Archival Research	Ashley Moradipour
Additional Archival Research	Rosemary Rotondi
Titles and Graphics	Joey Salim
Photoshop	Steve Giovinco, Tom Koken
Production Assistant	Ayana Jones
Legal Counsel	Thea J. Kerman, Esq.
Transcripts	Pat Casteel, rev.com

Featuring interviews with:

Audrey Flack, Louis Meisel, Robert Storr, Carey Lovelace, Philip Pearlstein, Richard Estes, Pat Hills, Gail Levin, Jan Schneider, Art Jones, and Samantha Baskind.

From Academy Award-winning filmmaker Deborah Shaffer

QUEEN OF HEARTS AUDREY FLACK

*ARTIST.
MOTHER.
TEACHER.
REBEL.*



A BACCHUS FILMS PRODUCTION
DIRECTOR DEBORAH SHAFFER CO-DIRECTOR & EDITOR RACHEL REICHMAN
PRODUCERS DAVINA PARDO, DEBORAH SHAFFER & AMY SULTAN EXECUTIVE PRODUCER MARY STRAUSS

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