



*LOVER LOVE, Shu Lea Cheang 2026, photo@June Hucko*

**Shu Lea Cheang, *LOVER LOVE***

Opening: April 2, 2026, 6-8 pm

Exhibition: April 3, 2026 - January 3, 2027

*New York, New York, December 2025*—**The Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art** is honored to present its largest commissioned work to date, *LOVER LOVE*, by Taiwanese-American artist and filmmaker **Shu Lea Cheang**. Opening on April 2, 2026, and running through January 3, 2027, *LOVER LOVE* is a large-scale, interactive video installation. The work explores the daily struggles of trans life, and the increasing threats to the health, safety, and autonomy of trans and gender non-conforming individuals under the current U.S. administration. The central film will be displayed on four distinct, movable screens. Viewers are encouraged to interact with the screens, shifting them into and out of the path of the projections, and creating overlapping, complementary new compositions.

*LOVER LOVE* brings Cheang's responsive, evocative work back to New York City, where she lived from the late 1970s until 2000. The exhibition's title is drawn from "It's Lover, Love" (2011) a song by Aérea Negrot. Since 2016, Negrot has collaborated with Cheang, composing music for her films, several of which she also performed in, including *FLUIDØ* (2017) and *3x3x6* (2019). In July 2023, Cheang and Negrot premiered '*UKI*' at LAS Art Foundation, with Negrot curating and participating in a series of live performances. Negrot died by suicide in October 2023; her presence is evoked in each movement of the screens in *LOVER LOVE*, which will trigger a recorded segment of her music.

Shot in fall 2025, *LOVER LOVE* centers eight intergenerational trans, non-binary, and gender non-conforming performers from Tucson, Arizona, each of whom brings their own words and truths to the screen. The performances include ritualized BDSM, cactus spine needles that draw blood, a wild cello performance that lights up the desert, multifaceted drag personas that challenge the stabilization of identity, and other radically free expressions of self, showing that the trans community is vibrant and insisting on life across the country even in the face of censorship, erasure, and legislative harm. Shu Lea Cheang takes these performers' dreamlike, embodied performances and uses her unique visual language to bring this radical, creative Tucson community to urban audiences through institutional presentation.



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In the film, trans organizer and activist Azrael Fayme poetically and urgently shares the following:

*I think most everyone desires agency over themselves and their lives. I think many can understand that it's less of desire and more of a need. Trans folk are no different. We want a world where children grow to be adults. Where our bodies aren't restricted by fictitious lines. Where our health is accessible. Where we are loved, not blindly, but because we're seen. Where our existence is enough to prove our humanity. Where I can see my loved ones thriving.*

*These may be dreams that feel unattainable in our current moment. Some of these you might've had and only lost recently. But I know from our history that dreams are more than just an avid imagination, but the first step to realities. And I hope these develop into more than dreams, for the sake of all my loved ones, trans and not.*



*LOVER LOVE, Shu Lea Cheang 2026, photo@Chris Scott*

For decades, Cheang has been working in mediums of immediacy, in conversation with the changing technology and political landscape. In this moment of heightened political precarity, *LOVER LOVE* stands as both documentation and defiance, centering trans voices and experiences in the fight for a more just future for all.

**Shu Lea Cheang** (b. 1954, Taiwan) is a pioneering multimedia artist and filmmaker whose work spans video, net-based installations, film, and interactive performance. Since the 1980s, her practice has combined artistic concerns with hot-button social issues, defined by her peripatetic and information-era existence. Her debut feature film *Fresh Kill* (1994), a cyberfeminist eco-thriller, premiered at the Berlin Film Festival and established her collaborative approach with performers of diverse racial and gender identities. In 1998-1999, she created *BRANDON*, the Guggenheim Museum's first web art commission, exploring gender and techno-body issues. Since 1994, she has produced four feature films encompassing a new genre she calls "Sci-fi New Queer Cinema." In 2019, she represented Taiwan at the Venice Biennale with the mixed media installation *3x3x6*, a panoptic installation examining architectural control and confinement technologies. She received the 2024 LG Guggenheim Award. After two decades in New York City, Cheang relocated to Europe in 2000 and currently lives and works in Paris.

### **About The Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art**

The Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art provides a platform for artistic exploration through multi-faceted queer perspectives. We embrace the power of the arts to inspire, explore, and foster understanding of the rich diversity of LGBTQIA+ experiences. We aim to be a home for queer art, artists, scholars, activists and allies, and a catalyst for discourse on art and queerness. With a collection of over 30,000 objects and a research library of over 3,000 volumes, the Museum fosters experimentation and research through exhibitions, programs, educational platforms, and Publications.

### **Accessibility**

The Leslie-Lohman Museum of Art strives to provide a welcoming environment to all visitors. Five external steps lead to our entrance doors: a wheelchair lift is available. All galleries are wheelchair-accessible, and a single-occupancy accessible restroom is located behind the visitor services desk: all restrooms are gender-neutral. Large print didactics are available. Staff will work with individuals and groups who disclose accessibility needs in advance to accommodate them to the best of our ability. Visitors with disabilities and seniors are admitted with their caregiver. The nearest accessible subway station for multiple trains is Broadway-Lafayette St. off the B, D, F, or M trains, approximately .6 of a mile away from the museum. More info on accessible stations can be found [here](#).

For questions or access requests, please email [info@leslielohman.org](mailto:info@leslielohman.org).

Located at 26 Wooster Street in the SoHo neighborhood of New York City. Open Wednesday, 12-5pm, Thursday - Sunday, 12-6 pm. The Museum is a nonprofit organization and is exempt from taxation under section 501(c)3 of the IRS Code.

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**Media Contact**

Max Battle, Publicist  
press@leslielohman.org