

Art Documentary Films for Streaming (or purchase)

Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry (2012)

Ai Weiwei is known for many things – great architecture, subversive in-your-face art, and political activism. He has also called for greater transparency on the part of the Chinese state. Director Alison Klayman chronicles the complexities of Ai's life for three years, beginning with his rise to public prominence via blog and Twitter after he questioned the deaths of more than 5,000 students in the 2008 Sichuan earthquake. The record continues through his widely publicized arrest in Beijing in April of 2011. As Ai prepares various works of art for major international exhibitions, his activism heats up, and his run-ins with China's authorities become more and more frequent.

Available on **Google Play, iTunes, Microsoft, Netflix, YouTube**

Andy Warhol: A Documentary Film (2006)

Radically revising the meaning of art, and our sense of what painting could be, Andy Warhol took the idea of art in the age of mechanical reproduction to its logical extreme permanently breaching the wall dividing art and commerce. Grasping, as no one before or since, the function of fame in a mass society, he forced us to confront and re-envision the world we live in. Along the way, he transformed himself into the unlikely poet laureate of the American century-the high priest and Pied Piper of one of the most radical experiments in the history of American culture and the greatest and most resoundingly influential artist of his age. This is a riveting and often deeply moving film portrait of the most important artist of the second half of the twentieth century, set within the turbulent and constantly changing context of his life and times. Combining penetrating on-camera interviews and never-before-seen still and archival motion picture footage with the testimony of Warhol's bewilderingly vast body of work itself, the film is the first to exploit in depth the immense Warhol archives at the Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh. It is also the first to explore the complete spectrum of his astonishing artistic output, stretching across five decades from the late 1940's to his untimely death in the 1980's and the first to put Warhol himself, his background and history, his family life and formative experiences in Pittsburgh, his crucial experiences as a commercial artist in New York, and his trajectory across three of the most transforming decades of the century back into the presentation of his life.

Available on **YouTube:**

Part 1 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQXpqQO4vaE>,

Part 2 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r47Nk4o08pl>

Also available for **purchase on eBay**

Art and Craft (2014)

For several decades, gifted and incredibly prolific forger Mark Landis compulsively created impeccable copies of works by a variety of major artists, donating them to institutions across the country and landing pieces on many of their walls. ART AND CRAFT brings us into the cluttered and insular life of an unforgettable character just as he finds his foil in an equally obsessive art registrar.

Available on **Google Play, Hoopla, IMDb TV, iTunes, Kanopy*, YouTube, Vudu**

Art Documentary Films for Streaming (or purchase)

Art Bastard (2015)

What is art and how does it relate to society? Is its value determined by its popularity or originality? Is the goal profit or expressing one's personal vision? These are some of the questions raised as we follow fiercely independent New York artist **Robert Cenedella** in his artistic journey through decades of struggling for creative expression. A student, protégé and friend of German artist George Grosz, Cenedella is now passing on the legacy of Grosz's approach to art, in the very same room where Grosz taught. In portraying Cenedella's determination to buck the system of what's popular while critiquing that popularity in his attempt to turn the art world upside down, ART BASTARD is a funny, touching, and insightful look inside the maverick mind of a true original.

Available on **Amazon Prime**

Art is the Permanent Revolution (2012)

The anger and outrage captured by graphic artists have defined revolutions through the centuries. Printmakers have depicted the human condition in all its glories and struggles so powerfully that perceptions, attitudes and politics have been dramatically influenced. And the value and impact of this art is even more important today. In the new documentary, ART IS... THE PERMANENT REVOLUTION, three contemporary American artists and a master printer help explain the dynamic sequences of social reality and protest. Among the wide range of 60 artists on display are **Rembrandt, Goya, Daumier, Kollwitz, Dix, Masereel, Grosz, Gropper, and Picasso**. While their stirring graphics sweep by, the making of an etching, a woodcut and a lithograph unfolds before our eyes, as the contemporary artists join their illustrious predecessors in creating art of social engagement.

Available on **Amazon Prime, Kanopy*, iTunes**

Banksy Does New York (2014)

On October 1, 2013, the elusive street artist Banksy launched a month-long residency in New York, an art show he called Better Out Than In. As one new work of art was presented each day in a secret location, a group of fans, called "Banksy Hunters," took to the streets and blew up social media.

Available on **HBO NOW, HBO GO, HBO NOW/Amazon Prime, iTunes, Microsoft, Vudu**

Black White & Gray: A Portrait of Sam Wagstaff and Robert Mapplethorpe (2007)

After serving in the Navy during World War II, Sam Wagstaff came home to New York City and pursued a career in advertising, and through his work in the ad game he developed a keen interest in photography. Reflecting his own personal evolution as he came to accept his homosexuality, Wagstaff became an enthusiastic collector of art photography and gained a reputation as a curator, organizing a number of important museum shows of new photographers and becoming a friend and confidante of artists

Art Documentary Films for Streaming (or purchase)

such as Andy Warhol, Frank Stella, Richard Tuttle, and Tony Smith. In the early '70s, Wagstaff met a young photographer, Robert Mapplethorpe, who shared a loft with his best friend, a poet and aspiring musician named Patti Smith. Wagstaff and Mapplethorpe became first friends and then lovers, and as enthusiastic supporters of Smith's work they traveled between New York's upscale art community and the punk rock scene that was emerging on the Bowery. Passionate allies in art and life who explored the edges of human experience, Wagstaff and Mapplethorpe were partners for life, but their lives were cut short by AIDS -- the disease claimed Wagstaff in 1987, and Mapplethorpe in 1989. *Black White + Gray: A Portrait of Sam Wagstaff and Robert Mapplethorpe* is a documentary by filmmaker James Crump that explores the lives of two remarkable people, their circle of talented friends, and the community and times which surrounded them. *Black White + Gray* received its world premiere at the 2007 Tribeca Film Festival.

Available on **iTunes**

Blurred Lines: Inside the Art World (2017)

As one art scene insider proclaims, the contemporary art world can be summed up as “rich people trying to prove how rich they are,” but is that all there is to this billion dollar industry? Well-researched and expertly constructed, Barry Avrich’s eye-opening documentary peels back the layers of the art world economy- from production to circulation, and delineates every integral player in the game of art-making, including curators, gallerists, collectors, donors, auction houses, and ... artists. In the process, he unpacks the complex and surprising ecosystem that supports the art world superstars and million-dollar deals that make front-page news. Featuring extraordinary access to industry players and candid statements from prominent artists like **Damien Hirst, Julian Schnabel, Taryn Simon, and Marina Abramovic**, *Blurred Lines* collides the two narratives of the art world as both above and beholden to market forces.

Available on **Google Play, iTunes, Fandango NOW, Kanopy*, Netflix, Vudu, YouTube**

Eames: The Architect & The Painter (2011)

The husband-and-wife team of **Charles and Ray Eames** were America's most influential and important industrial designers. Admired for their creations and fascinating as individuals, they have risen to iconic status in American culture. *Eames: The Architect and the Painter* draws from a treasure trove of archival material, as well as new interviews with friends, colleague, and experts to capture the personal story of Charles and Ray while placing them firmly in the context of their fascinating times.

Available on **Google Play, iTunes, Microsoft, Kanopy*, YouTube**

Exit Through the Gift Shop (2010)

Banksy is a graffiti artist with a global reputation whose work can be seen on walls from post-hurricane New Orleans to the separation barrier on the Palestinian West Bank. Fiercely guarding his anonymity to avoid prosecution, Banksy has so far resisted all attempts to be captured on film. *Exit Through the Gift Shop* tells the incredible true

Art Documentary Films for Streaming (or purchase)

story of how an eccentric French shop keeper turned documentary maker attempted to locate and befriend Banksy, only to have the artist turn the camera back on its owner.

Available on **Google Play, iTunes, Microsoft, Sundance NOW, Vudu, YouTube**

Faces Places (2017)

Agnès Varda and **JR** have things in common: a passion for and the exploration of images in general, and more precisely, for places and for ways of showing, sharing, and exhibiting them. Agnès chose cinema. JR chose to create open air photography galleries. When Agnès and JR met in 2015, they immediately wanted to work together, to shoot a film in France, far from cities, during a trip in JR's photographic (and magical) truck. Through chance encounters and prepared projects, they reached out to others, listening to them, photographing them, and sometimes putting them on posters. This film also tells the story of Agnès and JR's friendship, which grew stronger throughout the film shoot, between surprises and teasing, and while laughing about their differences.

Available on **Amazon Prime, Fandango Now, Kanopy***

Finding Vivian Maier (2014)

Vivian Maier's photos were seemingly destined for obscurity, lost among the clutter of the countless objects she'd collected throughout her life. Instead these images have shaken the world of street photography and irrevocably changed the life of the man who brought them to the public eye. This film brings to life the interesting turns and travails of the improbable saga of John Maloof's discovery of Vivian Maier, unravelling this mysterious tale through her documentary films, photographs, odd collections and personal accounts from the people that knew her. What started as a blog to show her work quickly became a viral sensation in the photography world. Photos destined for the trash heap now line gallery exhibitions, a forthcoming book and this documentary film.

Available on **iTunes, Google Play, YouTube**

Gerhard Richter Painting (2012)

One of the world's greatest living painters, the German artist Gerhard Richter has spent over half a century experimenting with a tremendous range of techniques and ideas, addressing historical crises and mass media representation alongside explorations of chance procedures. The first glimpse inside his studio in decades, Gerhard Richter Painting is exactly that: a thrilling document of the 79-year-old's creative process, juxtaposed with rare archival footage and intimate conversations with his critics and collaborators.

Available on Google Play, **Hoopla, Kanopy***

Art Documentary Films for Streaming (or purchase)

Guest of Cindy Sherman (2013)

Analyzing his relationship with the reclusive artist Cindy Sherman leads filmmaker Paul H-O (Hasegawa-Overacker) to confront his own identity in this personal and unexpectedly humorous documentary. Paul H-O became a fixture of the New York art scene in the 1990s with his public access show "GalleryBeat." Armed with a video camera, he attended art gallery openings, intriguing many with his candid, witty assessments of the work and winning fans in the process. Among the latter was Cindy Sherman, the press-shy art superstar, who invited Paul to her studio for a series of exclusive filmed interviews. In these sessions, he gains insight into her artistic process and a romantic relationship blossoms as they fall in love. Their initial bliss takes a turn when Paul gets caught up in the aura of Cindy's celebrity and he is subordinated to a role as Cindy's guest at the star-studded openings and dinners she regularly attends. Spanning over 15 years and with unprecedented access to the great artist, including interviews with a veritable who's who of the art and entertainment world, the film paints a vivid picture of the contemporary art scene and provides a witty, illuminating look at celebrity, anxiety, and art.

Available on **Amazon Prime**

Herb & Dorothy (2009)

The film takes a close look at the historical gift project by the legendary art collector couple, Herbert and Dorothy Vogel, and its impact on art communities around America. Herbert and Dorothy Vogel, a former postal clerk and a librarian, built a world-class collection of Minimal and Conceptual Art with their modest salaries. Over 2000 works were packed into their small NYC apartment, but they never sold a piece for profit. In 1992, they decided to transfer the entire collection to the National Gallery of Art, making headlines worldwide.

Available in the **Docent Study Center**

Hockney (2014)

Hockney weaves together a portrait of the multifaceted artist from frank interviews with close friends and never before seen footage from his own personal archive. One of the great surviving icons of the 1960s, Hockney's career may have started with almost instant success but in private he has struggled with his art, relationships, and the tragedy of AIDS, making his optimism and sense of adventure truly uplifting. Hockney is funny, inspiring, bold and visionary. The film looks back at Hockney's formative years in the British Pop Art scene and his experience of being a gay man as the Aids crisis took hold, as well as his years working in California.

Available on **Amazon Prime, Fandango NOW, iTunes, Kanopy*, Vudu**

Human Flow (2017)

More than 65 million people around the world have been forced from their homes to escape famine, climate change and war, the greatest displacement since World War II. Filmmaker **Ai Weiwei** examines the staggering scale of the refugee crisis and its

Art Documentary Films for Streaming (or purchase)

profoundly personal human impact. Over the course of one year in 23 countries, Weiwei follows a chain of urgent human stories that stretch across the globe, including Afghanistan, France, Greece, Germany and Iraq.

Available on **Amazon Prime, Fandango NOW, Google Play Movies, iTunes, Microsoft, Vudu, YouTube**

Jean-Michel Basquiat: The Radiant Child (2010)

A thoughtful portrait of a renowned artist, this documentary shines the spotlight on New York City painter Jean-Michel Basquiat. Featuring extensive interviews conducted by Basquiat's friend, filmmaker Tamra Davis, the production reveals how he dealt with being a black artist in a predominantly white field. The film also explores Basquiat's rise in the art world, which led to a close relationship with Andy Warhol, and looks at how the young painter coped with acclaim, scrutiny and fame.

Available on **Amazon Prime, iTunes, Kanopy***

Louise Bourgeois: The Spider, The Mistress And The Tangerine (2008)

A journey inside the world of a legend of modern art and an icon of feminism. Onscreen, the nonagenarian Louise Bourgeois is magnetic, mercurial and emotionally raw—an uncompromising artist whose life and work are imbued with her ongoing obsession with the mysteries of childhood. Her process is on full display in this intimate documentary, which features the artist in her studio and with her installations, shedding light on her intentions and inspirations. Louise Bourgeois has for six decades been at the forefront of successive new developments, but always on her own powerfully inventive and disquieting terms. In 1982, at the age of 71, she became the first woman to be honored with a major retrospective at New York's Museum of Modern Art. In the decades since, she has created her most powerful and persuasive work, including her series of massive spider structures that have been installed around the world.

Available on **iTunes, Kanopy***

Loving Vincent (2017)

The film brings the paintings of **Vincent van Gogh** to life to tell his remarkable story. Every one of the 65,000 frames of the film is an oil-painting hand-painted by 125 professional oil-painters who travelled from all across the world to the Loving Vincent studios in Poland and Greece to be a part of the production. As remarkable as Vincent's brilliant paintings are his passionate and ill-fated life and mysterious death.

Available on **Amazon Prime, Fandango Now, Google Play, Hoopla, Hulu, iTunes, Kanopy*, Microsoft, Vudu, YouTube**

Marina Abramović: The Artist is Present (2012)

Seductive, fearless, and outrageous, Marina Abramovic has been redefining what art is for nearly forty years. Using her own body as a vehicle, pushing herself beyond her physical and mental limits--and at times risking her life in the process--she creates

Art Documentary Films for Streaming (or purchase)

performances that challenge, shock, and move us. Through her and with her, boundaries are crossed, consciousness expanded, and art as we know it is reborn. She is, quite simply, one of the most compelling artists of our time.

Available on **Google Play, Hoopla, Kanopy***, iTunes, **Google Play, Microsoft, Vudu, YouTube**

National Gallery (2014)

London's National Gallery, one of the world's foremost art institutions, is itself portrayed as a brilliant work of art in this, Frederick Wiseman's 39th documentary and counting. Wiseman listens raptly as a panoply of docents decode the great canvases of **Da Vinci, Rembrandt, and Turner**; he visits with the museum's restorers as they use magnifying glasses, tiny eye-droppers, scalpels, and Q-tips to repair an infinitesimal chip; he attends administrative meetings in which senior executives do (polite) battle with younger ones who want the museum to become less stodgy and more welcoming to a larger cross-section of the public. But most of all, we experience the joy of spending time with the aforementioned masters as well as **Vermeer** and **Caravaggio, Titian** and **Velázquez, Pissarro** and **Rubens**, and listen to the connoisseurs who discourse upon the aesthetic, historical, religious and psychological underpinnings of these masterpieces. A portrait of the day-to-day operations of the National Gallery of London, that reveals the role of the employees and the experiences of the Gallery's visitors. The film portrays the role of the curators and conservators; the education, scientific, and conservation departments; and the audience of all kinds of people who come to experience it.

Available on **Kanopy***

Our City Dreams (2008)

Filmed over the course of two years, *Our City Dreams* is the story of a woman's struggles and successes as an artist in New York City. Told through five women artists, from youngest to oldest, the film features Swoon, **Ghada Amer, Kiki Smith, Marina Abramovic**, and **Nancy Spero**. From the studio to the streets of New York, from the canals of Venice to the alleys of Cairo and the beaches of Phuket, *Our City Dreams* takes us deep into the artists' worlds.

Available on **Amazon Prime, Kanopy***

Painters Painting (1973)

The New York Art Scene 1940-1970 is a 1972 documentary directed by Emile de Antonio. It covers American art movements from abstract expressionism to pop art through conversations with artists in their studios. Artists appearing in the film include **Willem de Kooning, Jasper Johns, Andy Warhol, Robert Rauschenberg, Helen Frankenthaler, Frank Stella, Barnett Newman, Hans Hofmann, Jules Olitski, Philip Pavia, Larry Poons, Robert Motherwell**, and **Kenneth Noland**.

Available on **iTunes, Kanopy***

Art Documentary Films for Streaming (or purchase)

Peggy Guggenheim: Art Addict (2015)

Bouncing between Europe and the United States as often as she would between lovers, Peggy Guggenheim's life was as swirling as the design of her uncle's museum, and reads more like fiction than any reality imaginable. Peggy Guggenheim – Art Addict offers a rare look into Guggenheim's world: blending the abstract, the colorful, the surreal and the salacious, to portray a life that was as complex and unpredictable as the artwork Peggy revered and the artists she pushed forward.

Available on **Google Play, iTunes, Kanopy*, YouTube**

Picasso and Braque Go to the Movies (2008)

The influence that artists **Pablo Picasso** and **George Braque** had on the world of cinema is the subject of this documentary from filmmaker Arne Glimcher. A lifelong lover of film, Picasso was intrigued by the machines used to create moving pictures, as well as the images they produced. In this film, artists such as Martin Scorsese, Julian Schnabel, Chuck Close, and the late Robert Rauschenberg reveal how Picasso and Braque's shared love of film helped to create some of the greatest art of the 20th Century.

Currently available on **iTunes**

Saving Banksy (2017)

Internationally known graffiti artist, Banksy, left his mark on San Francisco in April 2010. Little did he know that this act of vandalism would spark a chain of events that includes one of his rats being removed from a wall, Museums ignorantly turning down a free Banksy street work, and a NY gallerist who has made it his business model to remove Banksy street works from all over the globe doing whatever it takes to get the rat in his possession.

Available on **Amazon Prime, Google Play, iTunes, Microsoft, YouTube, Vudu**

The Art of the Steal (2010)

A gripping tale of intrigue and mystery in the art world, this film traces the history of the Barnes collection of Post-Impressionist paintings, which was worth billions and became the subject of a power struggle after the 1951 death of the owner. Dr. Albert Barnes collected 181 Renoirs, 69 Cézannes, 59 Matisses, 46 Picassos and many other valuable paintings. But the political wrangling over the collection eventually led to its division.

Available on **iTunes, Google Play, YouTube**

The Cool School (2008)

The Cool School is an object lesson in how to build an art scene from scratch and what to avoid in the process. The film focuses on the seminal **Ferus Gallery**, which groomed the LA art scene from a loose band of idealistic beatniks into a coterie of competitive, often brilliant artists, including **Ed Kienholz, Ed Ruscha, Craig Kauffman, Wallace Berman, Ed Moses and Robert Irwin**. The Ferus also served as

Art Documentary Films for Streaming (or purchase)

launching point for New York imports, Andy Warhol (hosting his first Soup Can show), **Jasper Johns** and **Roy Lichtenstein** as well as leading to the first Pop Art show and **Marcel Duchamp's** first retrospective. What was lost and gained is tied up in a complex web of egos, passions, money, and art. This is how L.A. came of age.
Available on **iTunes**

The Price of Everything (2018)

With unprecedented access to pivotal artists and the white-hot market surrounding them, *The Price of Everything* dives deep into the contemporary art world, holding a mirror up to our values and our times where everything can be bought and sold. Featuring collectors, dealers, auctioneers and a rich range of artists, including market darlings **George Condo**, **Jeff Koons**, **Gerhard Richter** and **Njideka Akunyili Crosby**, this documentary examines the role of art and artistic passion in today's money-driven, consumer-based society.

Available on **HBO NOW, HBO GO, HBO NOW/Amazon Prime**

The Rape of Europa (2007)

"*The Rape of Europa*" is a documentary about Adolf Hitler, Hermann Göring and the Nazi's large-scale theft of European art--and the Allies effort to preserve and return it. In a journey through seven countries, the chronicle takes the audience into the violent whirlwind of fanaticism, greed, and warfare that threatened to wipe out the artistic heritage of Europe. For twelve long years, the Nazis looted and destroyed art on a scale unprecedented in history. But young art professionals, as well as ordinary heroes, from truck drivers to department store clerks, fought back with an extraordinary effort to safeguard, rescue and return the millions of lost, hidden and stolen treasures.

Available on **Amazon Prime, Kanopy*, Vudu**

Tim's Vermeer (2013)

Tim Jenison, a Texas based inventor, attempts to solve one of the greatest mysteries in all art: How did Dutch Master **Johannes Vermeer** manage to paint so photo-realistically 150 years before the invention of photography? Spanning a decade, Jenison's adventure takes him to Holland, on a pilgrimage to the North coast of Yorkshire to meet artist David Hockney, and eventually even to Buckingham Palace. The epic research project Jenison embarks on is as extraordinary as what he discovers.

Available on **Amazon Prime, Google Play, Fandango NOW, iTunes, Microsoft, Vudu, YouTube,**

Waste Land (2010)

An uplifting feature documentary highlighting the transformative power of art and the beauty of the human spirit. Top-selling contemporary artist **Vik Muniz** takes us on an emotional journey from Jardim Gramacho, the world's largest landfill on the outskirts

Art Documentary Films for Streaming (or purchase)

of Rio de Janeiro, to the heights of international art stardom. Vik collaborates with the brilliant catadores, pickers of recyclable materials, true Shakespearean characters who live and work in the garbage quoting Machiavelli and showing us how to recycle ourselves.

Available on **iTunes**

Who the #\$% Is Jackson Pollock? (2006)

After semi-truck driver Teri Horton bought a large splatter painting for her friend for \$5, she was forced to sell it in her own garage sale when her friend said she had no place for it. Eventually someone commented on the painting stating it might be an original Jackson Pollock. This documentary follows Teri, her son, and a forensics specialist as they attempt to prove to the world, or more specifically the art community, her painting is a true Jackson Pollock.

Available on **iTunes, Microsoft**

***Kanopy** - Streaming for free with your library card: <https://www.kanopy.com>

Worthy documentaries available for purchase if not found streaming online:

The Universe of Keith Haring (2008)

"The Universe of Keith Haring", one of the most popular and significant artists of the 20th century, whose mantra was "Art is for everyone!" features interviews and archival footage of Fab 5 Freddy, Jeffrey Deitch, Kim Hastreiter, Grace Jones, Madonna, Yoko Ono, David LaChapelle, Kenny Scharf, Carlo McCormick, Andy Warhol, Ann Magnuson, Tony Shafrazi, and Junior Vasquez. Audio excerpts from original interviews with Keith Haring were conducted by Haring's biographer John Gruen.

Available for **purchase on Amazon, eBay**