

Queen of Hearts: Audrey Flack

The Filmmaking Team



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

Film Team:

Deborah Shaffer, Director/Producer

Academy Award winning filmmaker Deborah Shaffer began making social issue documentaries as a member of the Newsreel collective the '70's. She co-founded Pandora Films, one of the first women's film companies, which produced several shorts. Her first feature documentary, *The Wobblies*, premiered at the New York Film Festival in 1979. During the 80's Shaffer focused on human rights in Central America and Latin America, directing many films including *Witness to War: Dr. Charlie Clements* which won the Academy Award for Short Documentary in 1985, and *Fire From the Mountain* and *Dance of Hope* which both played at the Sundance Film Festival. Shaffer directed one of the first post-September 11 films, *From the Ashes: 10 Artists* followed by *From the Ashes: Epilogue*, which premiered at the Sundance and Tribeca Film Festivals. She is also the Executive Producer of the Academy Award-nominated short *Asylum*, and has directed numerous acclaimed public television programs on women and the arts. She directed and produced *To Be Heard*, which won awards at numerous festivals and aired nationwide on PBS. She has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, and the Irene Diamond Lifetime Achievement Award by the Human Rights Watch Film Festival. www.deborahshaffer.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: Peace Unveiled" (Directed by Gini Reticker). She directed the independent feature films *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 and was included in the Whitney Biennial in 1987.

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. From 1990-1994, she was Director for Film in the NYC Mayor's Office of Film, Theatre and Broadcasting. Sultan is a former business agent for theatrical unions in New York City, where she represented designers and performers in the entertainment industry.

Davina Pardo, Producer

Davina Pardo is a filmmaker in New York City. She produced VERY SEMI-SERIOUS, an Emmy-award winning HBO documentary about *New Yorker* cartoonists directed by Leah Wolchok. She has directed and produced several award-winning documentary shorts include 116 CAMERAS (New York Times Op-Docs, Hot Docs, Full Frame), MINKA (True/False, Full Frame, Hot Docs, Aspen Shortsfest, Palm Springs Shortest, DOC NYC, DOK Leipzig, Sheffield Doc/Fest, IDA & Cinema Eye Awards nominee) and BIRDLINGS TWO (Toronto International Film Festival, Tribeca, True/False). Her work has been supported by the Tribeca Film Institute, IFP's Documentary Lab and Independent Film Week, and the Sundance Institute

Elizabeth Nichols, Cinematographer

Cinematographer Elizabeth Nichols recently graduated from NYU Tisch School of the Arts MFA program. Her recent short film Black Head Cow, made in collaboration with students in Tanzania, played Toronto and Berlin Film Festivals.

Ashley Moradipour, Associate Producer

Ashley Moradipour is a recent transplant from Los Angeles where she associate produced travel series for White Nile Media and worked as an assistant on the documentary *Under the Gun*, which premiered at Sundance 2016. She works as a freelance documentary researcher and editor in New York City.

News and Reviews:

Hyperallergic, with the exclusive premiere of the film's trailer: "Flack's bluntness and wry humor is on full display, both about her work and her experiences under the patriarchal confines of the art world."

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.”

The Brooklyn Rail: “I enjoyed seeing it at DOC NYC Film Festival in Chelsea. It is not a simple puff or promotional piece; it really delved into some of the struggles you’ve had personally and as an artist over the years.”

