

*one of the vilage elders approached
with a mysterious offering*

The Last *Forever*

a live cinema performance
based on found family archival photos

Kamila Kuc and Scott Stark

What Is It?

A multi-media live performance by Kamila Kuc and Scott Stark.
35mm slides, digital video, live narration, live music, hula hoops,
and more. Approx. 30 mins.

Link:

<https://vimeo.com/764036311>

Password: illustra



The Last Forever (Kamila Kuc & Scott Stark, UK/USA, 2023)

The Last Forever Synopsis

Family photographs are no longer confined to photo albums and stored in shoeboxes. Instead, personal archives have become sites of public spectacle, easily distributed across geographies and shared through social media, resulting in the personal being accessible to total strangers.

Traveling together through endless cosmologies of discarded family memories we are the strangers - as creators and as audiences. Together we become part of a story that unfolds live, before our very eyes.

During the pandemic, artists Kamila Kuc and Scott Stark perused hundreds of discarded 35mm family slides from garage sales, lab castoffs, flea markets, eBay, gifts from friends, as well as their own archives. In a shared Google Doc, the artists played a series of ‘exquisite corpse’ tennis sets, a back and forth exchange of images and captions, allowing mysterious characters and spontaneous plot twists to evolve into a playful narrative. In many of these seemingly mundane images, the artists discovered subtle indicators of interpersonal family dynamics captured by the camera during dinners, parties and travels. Who is standing next to who; who is looking at who; and who is absent all provided clues to the artists’ frisky ruminations on the complexities of human and more-than-human relations as mediated by technology.

The artists have woven these latent intimations and subtle indicators into a sprawling narrative - about a spouse that’s gone missing - a story that is fanciful, poignant, occasionally illogical but always entertaining.



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The Last Forever at Experiments in Cinema v18.4 Edition

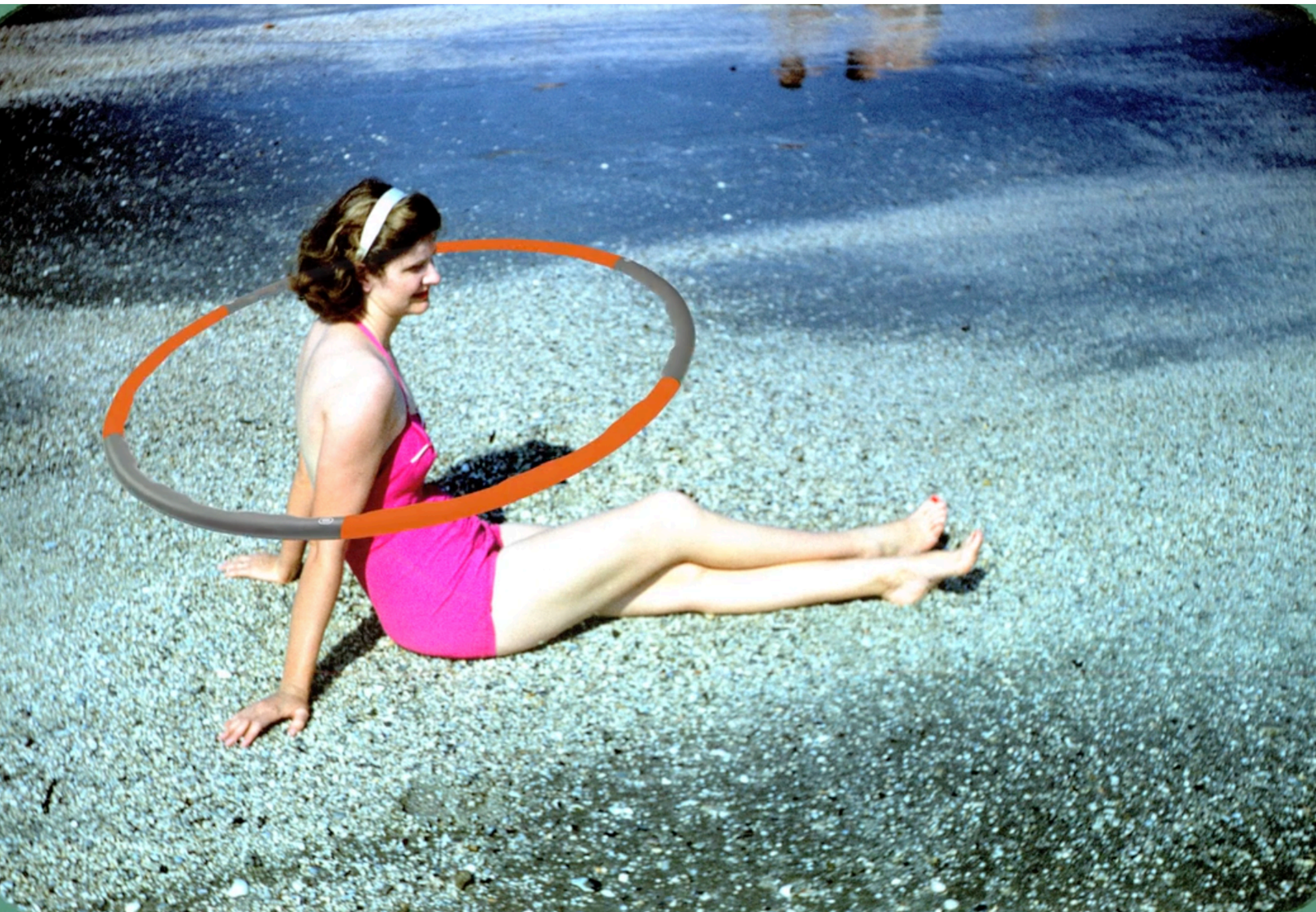
For Experiments in Cinema 2023 Edition, Kuc and Stark will present a slideshow of these found images with pre-designed narration that at times gets punctured by the narrators contradicting one another, thus making each other complicit in the unfolding narrative while simultaneously calling into question their reliability as narrators. Is it a multigenerational family story, a murder mystery, or a flight of imagination? Perhaps all of the above. The audience will decide.

The live performance will be accompanied by digital manipulations of the original 35mm images, live singing of a specially composed soundtrack, and simple acrobatics - such as juggling and hula hoops - which involve participation from the audience.

The audience also will be invited to participate in the unfolding of the narrative, voting on directions the story might take based on a number of choices, or even spontaneously suggesting new plot lines devised from visual cues provided during the performance.



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The Last Forever Technical Requirements

To successfully deliver this live performance and projection, we need

- * A gallery space where there isn't much spatial distance between the performers and the audience;
- * A projector and sound set up;
- * Two microphones;
- * 5-10 hula hoops.

About the Artists

Kamila Kuc's hybrid practice is set within the realm of social choreography as she considers complex ways to relate to one another through embodied, trust-building practices that defy the traditional notion of authorship and collaboration. Kuc is a 2021 Jarman Award nominee. Her first feature film, *What We Shared* (2021), premiered at the 65th BFI London Film Festival and was described as one of 'the finest examples of UK filmmaking' by Festival Scope. Her films have screened at festivals and in galleries worldwide: the Edinburgh International Film Festival, Ann Arbor Film Festival, Anthology Film Archives New York; Studio Gallery, Warsaw; Whitechapel Gallery, London. She is the recipient of many international grants, most recently, the Arts Council England Project Grants, British Council, New Mexico Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts (USA), among others. Kuc is the author and editor of numerous books and articles on experimental media, including *Visions of Avant-Garde Film* (Indiana University Press). She is the Founder and Director of Dark Spring Studio, a London-based production company dedicated to the creation and distribution of artist moving image works that are committed to social change.

Since 1980, Scott Stark has produced more than 75 films and videos. He has created a number of gallery and site-specific installations, as well as elaborate photographic collages using large grids of images. Born and educated in the midwest, he has always been interested in aggressively pushing his work beyond the threshold of traditional viewing expectations, challenging the audience to question its relationship to the cinematic process. Stark's work is characterised by sharp humour and incongruity that allow the viewer an entryway into the work while maintaining a critical distance. Stark's film *Angel Beach* was invited into the 2002 Whitney Biennial. In 2007 Scott received a Guggenheim Fellowship. Stark's films and videos have shown locally, nationally and internationally, including one person shows at New York's Museum of Modern Art, the Pacific Film Archive, the San Francisco Cinematheque, the Redcat (Los Angeles), Filmforum (Los Angeles), and many others. His work was the subject of a three part retrospective at Anthology Film Archives in 2014 and a three part retrospective at the San Francisco Cinematheque in 2001.

Kuc and Stark met at Experiments in Cinema festival in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in April 2016. They have since collaborated on a number of screenings for Experimental Response Cinema (Austin, Texas, 2017) and the Horse Hospital (London, 2018). This is their first collaborative moving image piece.

