



For Immediate Release



Tourmaline, *Salacia*, 2019 (still). Courtesy of the artist.

## **TOURMALINE** *Salacia*

The first High Line Originals film commission

**May 10 – July 3, 2019 | Daily, beginning at dusk**

**On the High Line at 14th St.**

**New York, NY (April 23, 2019)** — High Line Art announces ***Salacia***, a new short film by Tourmaline, as the debut film for High Line Originals. Intended to support the work of local, emerging artists, High Line Originals commissions new film and video work. Tourmaline's *Salacia* will screen on the High Line at 14th Street from May 10 through July 3, 2019.

A visioning of historic figures and events, *Salacia* unfolds in the style of Black fantasy and folktales such as Virginia Hamilton's *The People Could Fly*. The film takes place in Seneca Village—a 19th-century free Black community in upper Manhattan that was demolished to create Central Park in 1855. *Salacia* follows Mary Jones (born 1803), a Black transgender New Yorker as she discovers her power in the face of heightened systemic racism and transphobia.

**HIGH LINE** ART



Tourmaline is an activist, filmmaker, and writer. Her work highlights the capacity of Black queer and trans people and communities to make and transform worlds. In her films, Tourmaline creates vibrant portraits of people whose stories tell the history of New York City, including gay and trans liberation activists, drag queens, and queer icons Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera (*Happy Birthday Marsha*, co-directed with Sasha Wortzel, 2018), Miss Major (*The Personal Things*, 2016), and Egyptt LaBeija (*Atlantic is a Sea of Bones*, 2017). Tending to the histories and haunts of disabled, poor, Black, queer, and trans life that echo and vibrate beneath neighborhoods and cultural landmarks, Tourmaline's films undulate between narrative and non-narrative and illuminate the mundane acts that form the fabric of landmark events and mutually supportive communities.

There will be a celebration of the film that includes a conversation featuring the artist on June 27, 2019 at 7pm on the High Line at 14th Street. Further details will be announced at [thehighline.org/art](http://thehighline.org/art). *Salacia* is co-commissioned by the Brooklyn Museum and High Line Art, presented by Friends of the High Line and the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. The film will also screen at the Brooklyn Museum as a part of the group exhibition *Nobody Promised You Tomorrow: Art 50 Years After Stonewall*, May 3 through December 8, 2019. The High Line presentation of *Salacia* is curated by Melanie Kress, High Line Art Associate Curator.

#### **ABOUT THE ARTIST**

Tourmaline (b. 1983, Boston, Massachusetts) lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. Recent screenings of Tourmaline's work have been presented at venues including BFI Flare, London, England (2018); Seattle Transgender Film Festival, Seattle, Washington (2018); Portland Art Museum, Portland, Oregon (2018); New Museum, New York, New York (2017); the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, New York (2017); the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, New York (2017); Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, Illinois (2017); the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, California (2017); and the Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York (2016). Tourmaline was a 2014 – 2018 Activist-in-Residence at Barnard College Center for Research on Women, New York, New York; HBO's Queer Art Prize winner for *The Personal Things* (2017); and a Lower Manhattan Cultural Council: Workspace Resident, New York, New York (2016). Tourmaline's writing has been published in *Teen Vogue* (2017); by MIT Press (2017); and by Columbia Law School's Center for Gender & Sexuality Law (2014). Tourmaline is the founder and director of the production company Star People with activist, filmmaker, and writer Sasha Wortzel. Star People has produced films including *Happy Birthday, Marsha* (2018) and *STAR People Are Beautiful People* (2009).

#### **ABOUT HIGH LINE ART**

Founded in 2009, High Line Art commissions and produces a wide array of artwork, including site-specific commissions, exhibitions, performances, video programs, and a series of billboard interventions. Led by Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Director & Chief Curator of High Line Art Cecilia Alemani, and presented by the High Line, the art program invites artists to think of creative ways to engage with the unique architecture, history, and design of the park, and to foster a productive dialogue with the surrounding neighborhood and urban landscape.

For further information about High Line Art, please visit [thehighline.org/art](http://thehighline.org/art).



## **ABOUT THE HIGH LINE**

Owned by the City of New York, the High Line works with its communities, neighborhoods, and city to reimagine public space. We raise nearly 100% of our own annual budget for programming, maintenance, and operations, in partnership with NYC Parks.

Through excellence in operations, stewardship, innovative programming, and world-class design, we seek to engage the vibrant and diverse community on and around the High Line, to raise the essential private funding to help complete the High Line's construction, and to create an endowment for its future operations.

## **SUPPORT**

Lead support for High Line Art comes from Amanda and Don Mullen. Major support for High Line Art is provided by Shelley Fox Aarons and Philip E. Aarons, The Brown Foundation, Inc. of Houston, and the Charina Endowment Fund. High Line Art is supported, in part, with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the New York City Council, under the leadership of Speaker Corey Johnson.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

@HighLineArtNYC #SalaciaFilm @tourmaliine

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For more information, visit [thehighline.org](http://thehighline.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#).

