

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE****CONTACT**

Braden Jefferson, MPRM
323-648-8519
bjefferson@mprm.com

Aisha Almada, ITVS
415-356-8383
aisha.almada@itvs.org

For downloadable images,
visit our [press page](#).

AT AGE 70, ELUSIVE PHOTOGRAPHER REEMERGES AS CELEBRATED STREET ARTIST “WHO IS MICHAEL JANG?” PREMIERING ON INDEPENDENT LENS ON MAY 19

*Documentary Follows the Once-Obscure Artist at a Flashpoint
in His Career*

(San Francisco, CA) March 21, 2025— “Who Is Michael Jang?” follows the elusive, once-obscure artist, Michael Jang, who is best known for his commercial photography work, as he shares his vintage prints in the streets of San Francisco during a pivotal time. Premiering May 19, 2025, on INDEPENDENT LENS from award-winning filmmaker Michael Jacobs, the feature documentary captures Michael Jang at a quirky turning point in his career.

For 50 years, San Francisco artist Michael Jang kept a hidden collection of photographs he took in his 20s. Despite building a career as a commercial photographer, his candid shots capturing various communities and subcultures remained largely overlooked. In 2021, at the age of 70, Jang decided to bring his work into the public eye by pasting reproductions of his vintage prints around San Francisco, including Chinatown where images of his Chinese-American family take on a more subversive meaning, especially amid the rise of anti-Asian hate and violence in the city.

“Unfortunately, it’s all too common for incredible and interesting artists to get overlooked,” said director Michael Jacobs. “I am excited for audiences to be just as captivated and in awe of not just Jang’s art and photos, but of Michael Jang as a person.”

The documentary captures Jang’s exploits as his experimental street art morphs into a meta-exploration of Jang’s personal history and identity. In the process, the film bears witness to Jang getting reacquainted with his younger self through decades-old images that resonate with vital, new meaning today.

“Michael Jang’s art is clever and mischievous,” said Lois Vossen, INDEPENDENT LENS executive producer. “In a time when the high-art photography world had no place for anything funny, Jang stayed true to

himself and captured the quirky and often humorous aspects of everyday life. His visual storytelling is really funny and—like this documentary—both informative and entertaining.”

The documentary received funding via ITVS’s Open Call Initiative. “Who is Michael Jang?” premieres on PBS’s INDEPENDENT LENS on May 19, 2025, at 7 p.m. ([check local listings](#)). The film will also be available to stream on the [PBS app](#).

Visit the “[Who is Michael Jang?](#)” page on INDEPENDENT LENS to learn more about the film.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

Michael Jacobs, Director/Producer

Michael Jacobs’ debut film “Audience of One” won a jury award at SXSW and screened at New Directors/New Films in 2007. He has since gone on to direct and produce documentaries for HBO, Disney+, ESPN, and the Roku Channel. His work has screened at festivals around the world and been nominated for an Emmy® and a Critics Choice Award.

Lysette Urus, Producer

Lysette Urus is a Los Angeles-based producer. Lysette served as a co-producer on “Blackballed” and line producer on “Marvel’s Behind The Mask.” She is producing her first narrative feature, “Wild Animal.” Lysette is an alumni of the Film Independent Producing Lab Fellowship and the Film Independent Fast Track where she participated with “Wild Animal.”

CREDITS

Director	Michael Jacobs
Producers	Michael Jacobs Lysette Urus
Executive Producers	Carrie Lozano Lois Vossen

ABOUT INDEPENDENT LENS

INDEPENDENT LENS is an Emmy® Award-winning PBS documentary series. With founding executive producer Lois Vossen, the series has been honored



with 10 Academy Award nominations and features documentaries united by the creative freedom, artistic achievement, and unflinching visions of independent filmmakers. Presented by ITVS, INDEPENDENT LENS is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Acton Family Giving, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Ford Foundation, Park Foundation, Wyncote Foundation, and National Endowment for the Arts. Stream anytime on the PBS app. For more visit pbs.org/independentlens

ABOUT ITVS

Independent Television Service (ITVS) is the largest co-producer of independent documentaries in the United States. For more than 30 years the San Francisco non-profit has funded and partnered with documentary filmmakers to produce and distribute untold stories. ITVS incubates and co-produces these award-winning titles and premieres them on our Emmy® Award-winning PBS series, INDEPENDENT LENS. ITVS titles appear on PBS, WORLD, NETA, and can be streamed on various digital platforms including the PBS app. ITVS is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Acton Family Giving, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Ford Foundation, The Park Foundation, and Wyncote Foundation. For more information, visit itvs.org

#



1435 FOLSOM STREET
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94103
T. 415 356 8383
F. 415 356 8391
PBS.ORG/INDEPENDENTLENS