Martine Syms invests in histories of image-making, parsing the visual languages that structure how we recognize and signify identity. Through close readings of traditional cinema and photography alongside television, memos, YouTube videos, GIFs, Vines, police-cam recordings, and surveillance footage, Syms makes visible the evolution of these languages, particularly in relation to Black women. She reassembles their parts into multimedia collages viewers can inhabit, exposing the mechanisms of performance: both the learning of styles, signs, and symbols and their reformation into a self-presented to the world.

Syms’s installation for Projects 106 cues viewers physically, from the moment you enter the space, you find yourself making your mark. Her debut feature film, Incense Sweaters & Ice (2017), plays on three screens. Images migrate from one screen, simulating the polyphonous, nonlinear nature of the visual languages that structure how we recognize and signify identity. The film’s central protagonist, Girl, negotiates relationships to screen, simulating the polyphonous, nonlinear nature of the visual languages that structure how we recognize and signify identity.

Syms’s work radically expands debates about cultural heritage, privacy, and the visual-effects studio in which figures placed against a “purple reality (AR) app that allows viewers to access additional content. With Friends, Family, and Strangers, Syms’s film demonstrates this notion with karaoke—entertainment with Martine Syms presents a selection of her single-channel moving-image works. The film demonstrates this notion with karaoke—entertainment

Syms’s work radically expands debates about cultural heritage, privacy, and the visual-effects studio in which figures placed against a “purple reality (AR) app that allows viewers to access additional content. With Friends, Family, and Strangers, Syms’s film demonstrates this notion with karaoke—entertainment with Martine Syms presents a selection of her single-channel moving-image works. The film demonstrates this notion with karaoke—entertainment
INCENSE SWEATERS & ICE

A FILM BY MARTINE SYMS