

## Abigail DeVille commemorates a collective assertion of freedom



A new season of Art21 film programming begins today with the [first](#) in a group of four new films.

In today's premiere, **Abigail DeVille** reveals the motivation and inspiration behind her latest public art commission, *Light of Freedom* (2020), installed at Madison Square Park in New York City.

"I just kept thinking about the rolling waves," said DeVille, referencing an 1857 speech by Frederick Douglas, "and just the waves of people that hooked each other, arm in arm, and protested in the face of, potentially, death, through this pandemic, to fight for whatever this nation actually pretends that it was founded or based on."

## Four new stories of artists confronting global crises

After a brief pause following the release of our tenth broadcast season on PBS, we are charged and ready to return today with a **new programming season** featuring films from our celebrated *Extended Play* and *New York Close Up* series.

Over the course of **four consecutive Wednesdays** at 12pm ET—starting with today's film featuring [Abigail DeVille](#)—we'll release each of our latest offerings on [Art21.org](#) and [our YouTube channel](#).

Four artists—**Firelei Báez**, **Abigail DeVille**, **Shaun Leonardo**, and **Michael Rakowitz**—confront social, political, and institutional crises impacting cultures around the world, collectively capturing a portrait of contemporary history in the making, connecting personal and global experiences that play out across generations.

## Catching up with Abigail DeVille



Prior to her premiere today in our *Extended Play* series, Abigail DeVille was previously featured in three films from our *New York Close Up* series.

Documenting the artist for more than half a decade, the [four films](#) collectively capture DeVille's interest in bringing attention to the forgotten stories of marginalized people and places through immersive installations and performances.