

IMPACT SCREENING RESOURCE GUIDE



HBO ORIGINAL

MASTER OF LIGHT

REPRESENT
JUSTICE



ABOUT MASTER OF LIGHT

Master of Light is a portrait of George Anthony Morton, a renowned classical painter, who spent a decade in federal prison for drug charges. While he was incarcerated, George turned to painting as a means of survival and a tool for healing. In the years since his release, George is doing everything he can to defy society's unlevel playing field and tackle the white-dominant art world, including graduating from the prestigious Florence Academy of Art and opening his own studio, Atelier South, in Atlanta. ***Master of Light*** is an inspirational story of resilience and immense talent emerging in the face of the oppressive circumstances of prison, and a powerful lens into breaking intergenerational cycles of trauma that fuel mass incarceration.

Master of Light is a film by Rosa Ruth Boesten and George Anthony Morton, directed by Rosa Ruth Boesten, and produced by Roger Ross Williams, Anousha Nzume, and Ilja Roomans. ***Master of Light*** has won numerous awards, including the Grand Jury Award for Documentary Feature at the 2022 SXSW Film Festival. ***Master of Light*** premiered on HBO and HBO Max on November 16.

ABOUT THE IMPACT CAMPAIGN

Represent Justice is partnering with George Anthony Morton and One Story Up to launch an impact campaign for **Master of Light**. We are working to uplift the leadership and power of formerly-incarcerated artists, share hope and inspiration with young people who are currently incarcerated, and create a new narrative about the talent of currently and formerly-incarcerated artists.

HOST A SCREENING

We are excited you plan to host an impact screening of **Master of Light**. If you have not already, please contact Lillie at Represent Justice at lillie@representjustice.org to confirm your event. We are sharing suggestions for how to host a successful screening event.

1 For In-Person Screenings, Select a Venue

For in-person events, one of the most important steps is to secure a venue. If your organization or group doesn't have an event space of its own, inquire about securing a screening or meeting room at your local public library or academic institutions. Both often offer spaces to community or nonprofit organizations at no charge or for a nominal fee, and frequently have screens and sound equipment already set up in their space. You can also inquire with local cafes, public parks, or community centers. Be sure there is enough seating and access for those with disabilities.

One additional tip: If you can find a community organization or institution to partner with, you may get free access to their space.

2 For Virtual Screenings, Select a Live or VOD Set-up

For virtual screenings, we use a platform called Eventive, and we can offer you two options: You can make the film available for your audience to watch anytime during a three-day window, or you can make the film available to play live on a set date and time.

Once you select the screening type you want, we will create a customized screening page for you with your organization's name. We can also include a link to a post-screening conversation if you are planning to hold one. Your audience will register to watch the film on the Eventive page and will receive an email reminder before the event begins.

You can also talk to us about having a hybrid event where the primary event is in-person but virtual access is granted to those who can't physically be there.

3 Invite Speakers

After the film screens, whether your event is in person or virtual, we recommend organizing a post-screening discussion or activity to help your audience reflect on the film and identify takeaways. You may want to organize a more formal panel conversation or facilitate a more intimate group discussion, depending on the size of your audience.

George Anthony Morton and producer Anousha Nzume are available to speak at screening events, as much as their schedules allow. Please contact our team to share an appearance invitation.

Post-film programming is also an opportunity to invite artists from your community who are formerly incarcerated to speak about their experience with art and their current work, as well as to localize the themes of the film to your city or town. Please note: It is important that formerly incarcerated speakers are adequately compensated for their time via the payment of speaking fees.

For more information about the film team's availability to speak at your event, suggestions around inviting local artists to speak at your event, or guidance around speaking fees, please contact Lillie at lillie@representjustice.org.

4 Promote Your Event

Once you have secured your venue or virtual set up and the event details are finalized, use our [Screening Toolkit](#) to create promotional materials for your event. You can customize the flyer template we have provided, or use the film stills/film poster to make your own promotional content.

If you need an RSVP tool and don't have access to one through your organization, Eventbrite can be a useful and free way to set up an RSVP page.

We encourage you to invite a diverse audience from your community, which could include practicing artists, museum and gallery staff, representatives from nonprofit organizations, system actors such as judges and lawyers, and young people.

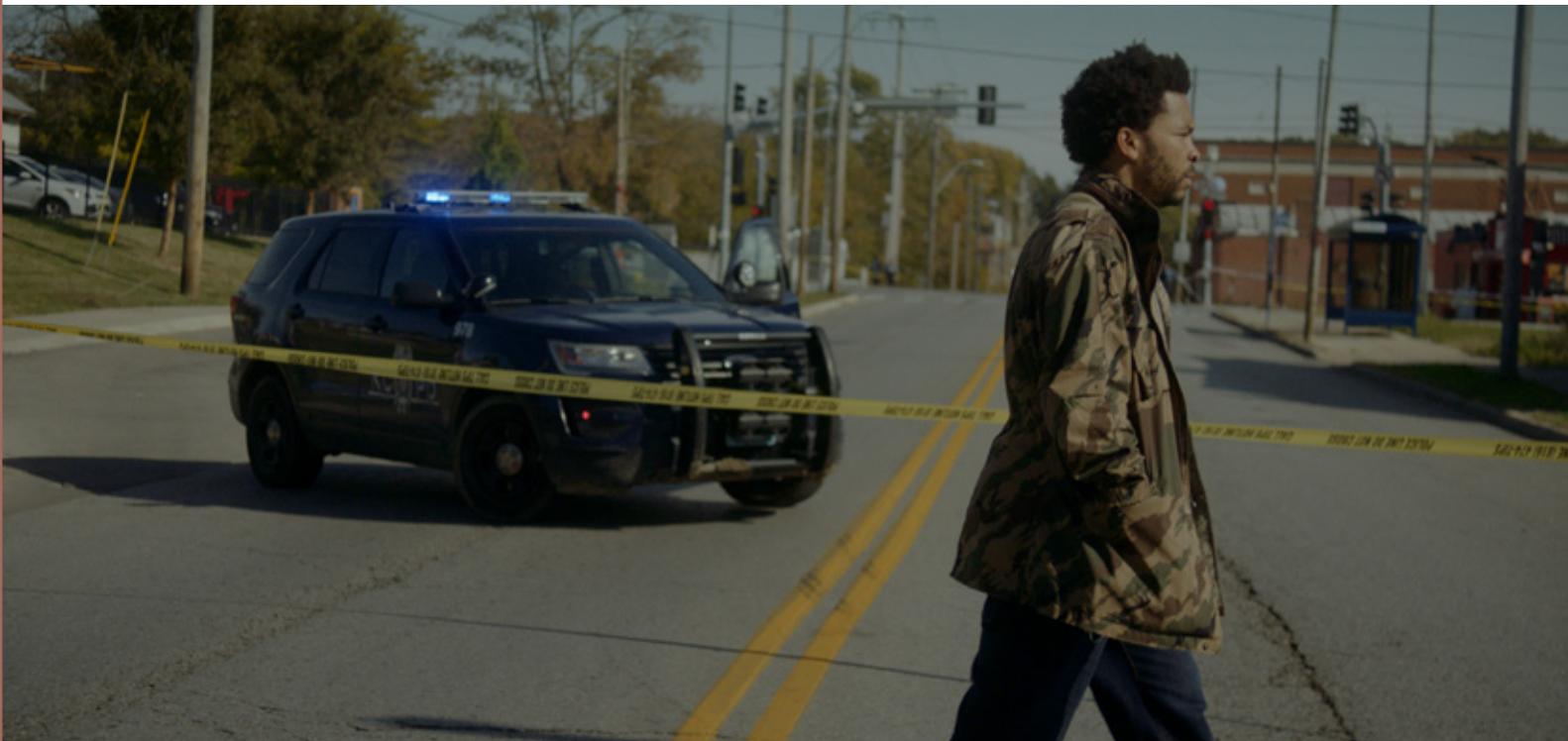


DISCUSSION PROMPTS FOR MASTER OF LIGHT

We hope you will include a post-film discussion at your event. We are sharing discussion prompts to start the conversation, and you are welcome to use or adapt these questions in your post-screening panel or group discussion.

1. What does ***Master of Light*** reveal about the healing power of art?
2. George states that understanding the systemic forces that led to his incarceration did not lead him to feel bitterness, but instead, caused him to want to strive for redemption. How do you think finding art as his purpose has helped George?
3. Reflect on the film's cinematic style. How does the film's visual palette mirror George's artwork seen in the film? How does the film's direction and cinematography speak to George's journey as an artist?
4. What do you think about George's choice to master classical realism? What does his practice and the works in progress we see throughout the film reveal about the representation of Black artists and subjects in art?

5. George has stated that if Rembrandt were alive today, he would be a filmmaker. What are the connections between painting and filmmaking? What are the differences? How does **Master of Light** explore this connection?
6. During a trip back home to Kansas City, George talks with his siblings about his incarceration, and his move away from Kansas City to pursue art after his release. What do these conversations illuminate about the impact of incarceration on families, and what George calls his “survivor guilt”?
7. When George’s partner displays frustration at his persistence in helping his mother, George responds: *“This is something we’ve been seeing all our life...this is a way of life that is perpetuated generationally...has a bounty hunter ever knocked on your door? I’ve seen them all my life. I know what it means...and this is my conclusion. I can’t judge it.”* What does this scene reveal about intergenerational cycles of incarceration and trauma? How do you think George’s understanding of these cycles has helped him heal?
8. We see George look through photos taken while he was in prison, and he points to a specific photo, reflecting: *“These are brothers in prison together. Like whole generations destroyed. Fathers in prison cells with their sons, brothers in there together...like all my neighborhood heroes I’m seeing them all in here...”* Discuss the system of mass incarceration in America, and the systemic forces in place that are leading to entire families being incarcerated across generations.



9. George shares in a therapy session: *“I feel as if darkness is my friend.”* Consider what you think he means by this, and the duality and dark and light imagery in his work.
10. Reflect on George’s relationship with his nephew Treshon. How does George support the next generation in his family? What do you think George hopes to accomplish by mentoring him?
11. Who in your community has access to arts education, in schools and outside of schools? What value as a society do we place on training in the arts and for whom? What resources would be needed to expand arts education?
12. Consider the role of art and artists inside prisons. What is the value of art inside the walls of detention facilities?
13. How can art institutions including museums, galleries, and art schools make sure artists who have been incarcerated are included in opportunities for education, funding, mentorship, or exhibition?
14. How can fellow artists support one another in making the art world more inclusive?
15. What can you do in your city or town to support local artists who are currently or formerly incarcerated?



TAKE ACTION

After watching **Master of Light** and learning from speakers at your event, your audience will want to take action.

Share our [Take Action](#) page, and join us in bringing the healing practice of art to young people who are incarcerated, and raising awareness around the importance of broad inclusion of Black and formerly incarcerated artists in our nation's art institutions.

We also recommend you connect with local organizations that work with formerly-incarcerated artists, or that provide arts programming to young people, where your audience can direct donations or sign up as volunteers.

You can also connect with local museums, galleries and art schools to learn more about local artists to highlight, networking opportunities for practicing artists, and funding opportunities that are open to formerly incarcerated artists.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

We encourage you to use social media to promote your event, and to invite your audience to join the discussion during and after your event. Use the hashtag **#MasterofLight** and tag us at **@WeRepJustice**; we want to hear from you! We'll share and amplify your posts on our social media pages to share your event with our network. Encourage your audience members to share their thoughts on the film as well!

SEND THANKS & SHARE FEEDBACK

Following your event, we recommend sharing a thank you email with your audience, with a link out to the take action resources you shared during your event.

We hope you can include a short audience survey that will help us track the reach and impact of **Master of Light**. We'll share this survey with virtual screening audience members, but we'll need your help sharing the survey with in person screening audience members! The survey is available here: <https://repjustice.org/molaudience>.