

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Executive Produced by Makoto Fujimura *Abstraction: The Dianne Collard Story* is one of five short documentary finalists at Heartland Film Festival



A journey of forgiveness and beauty *Abstraction* features Dianne Collard, her husband Glenn, and the renowned contemporary artist Makoto Fujimura. Dianne was serving as a missionary in Europe when her son Tim was brutally murdered in California. The tragedy sent her into deep despair but she did not stay there. Visual art played a pivotal role in her healing and beauty has resulted from this crushing experience. One evidence of this beauty was forgiveness. Dianne and her husband not only forgave the murderer of their son, but developed a correspondence with him and, eventually, worked to enable his release from prison.

"Dianne Collard's story transforms how we view forgiveness, and -- at the same time -- how we view art. I am so grateful to help bring this film to life: This is a story for our time, to care for our souls and our culture." (Makoto Fujimura, Artist, Vision Director of Brehm Center) [LINK TO ABSTRACTION TRAILER](#)

In 2011, Dianne published the book - *I Choose to Forgive*. Translated into 16 different languages, Dianne's book is available on Amazon: [I Choose to Forgive](#). Collard recently signed a contract with Cascade Books -- a division of Wipf & Stock Publishers -- to release an expanded edition of *I Choose to Forgive*. An excellent writer and speaker Dianne is adept at connecting with people at a deep level.

The world premier of *Abstraction* will take place at Heartland Film Festival -- Indiana's largest and longest-running independent film festival. Heartland showcases 213 independent films and gives audiences access to more than 150 independent filmmakers from around the world. With red carpet premieres and events, parties, and hundreds of film screenings, Heartland Film offers the best of world cinema. The festival takes place October 12-22, 2017.

### ***Abstraction* Heartland Film Festival Screening Schedule:**

1. Friday Oct 13, 5:15 PM @ AMC Castleton Square 14 6020 East 82nd Street
2. Thursday Oct 19, 4:30 PM @ AMC Castleton Square 14 6020 East 82nd Street
3. Friday Oct 20, 12:45 PM @ AMC Showplace Traders Point 12
4. Saturday Oct 21, 12:45 PM @ AMC Castleton Square 14 6020 East 82nd Street

[Book tickets](#) for *Abstraction* screenings at Heartland

**MORE**

### **Jonathan Cipiti, Director**

Cipiti directed and edited the feature documentary “The Dating Project,” scheduled for release 2018. Having worked on several award winning feature-length and short form documentaries, Jonathan continues to explore the art of storytelling. His vision is to share the powerful voices and stories of those around us. The art of film has allowed him to travel the world using this craft to tell the gently profound true stories of the people and organizations met along the way.

### **Makoto Fujimura, Executive Producer**

Fujimura was a presidential appointee to the National Council on the Arts from 2003-2009 and has been exhibited at galleries around the world, including Dillon Gallery in New York, Sato Museum in Tokyo, The Contemporary Museum of Tokyo, Tokyo National University of Fine Arts Museum, Bentley Gallery in Arizona, Gallery Exit and Oxford House at Taikoo Place in Hong Kong, and Vienna’s Belvedere Museum.

[Fujimura’s Website](#)

### **John Priddy, Producer/Writer**

CEO AND CO-FOUNDER, WINDRIDER INSTITUTE

A successful entrepreneur and Peabody award winning film producer, John is a leader in the creation and expansion of entrepreneurial companies and development of private and nonprofit enterprises. Along with his brother Ed, John is an executive producer of award winning documentaries including Hilla Medalia’s *Muhi: Generally Temporary, After The Storm*, and the Peabody Award winning *To Die in Jerusalem*, Heather Rae’s Showtime feature, *Family: The First Circle*, Laura Waters-Hinson’s *As We Forgive, Dog Day’s* and *Mama Rwanda*, Doug Block’s critically acclaimed *51 Birch Street*, and Dani Menkin’s Academy shortlisted *39 Pounds of Love*. [Windrider Website](#)



For further information or to book Glenn or Dianne Collard for a speaking engagement or an interview and/or to book a screening of Abstraction contact:

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