

## *Opacities*

Programmed by Kathryn Elkin  
and Peter Taylor

Thursday 11 February 2016

7—9pm

Thank you for attending the third event in the *Opacities* series, developed with artist Kathryn Elkin and Peter Taylor, Director of Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival. Details of the films included in the programme are found below.

**Chick Strand, *Elasticity*,  
25 minutes, 16mm film, 1976**

*Elasticity* is an autobiographical film by artist Chick Strand. She described this film as “impressionistic surrealism in three acts. The approach is literary and experimental with optical effects. There are three mental states that are interesting: amnesia, euphoria and ecstasy. Amnesia is not knowing who you are and wanting desperately to know. I call this the White Night. Euphoria is not knowing who you are and not caring. This is the Dream of Meditation. Ecstasy is knowing exactly who you are and still not caring. I call this the Memory of the Future.” Made in 1976, the film was produced with support from the American Film Institute.

Chick Strand (1931 – 2009) was a filmmaker and key figure in the West Coast independent film scene. She studied anthropology at Berkley and UCLA, later teaching at the Occidental College in Los Angeles for twenty-four years. Her films include *Soft Fiction*, 1979; *Masori Monika*, 1970; *Señora con Flores (Woman with Flowers)*, 1995. In 1961 Chick Strand co-founded CanyonCinema with Stan Brakhage, Bruce Conner and Bruce Baillie, building an audience for, and discourse around, experimental film production.

# COLLECTIVE

**Wojciech Bakowski, *Sound of My Soul*,  
13 minutes, 2014**

*Sound of My Soul* is an experimental exploration of the relationship between animation and the spoken word. In the film, the artist shifts focus through different elements, using different formal solutions to push the boundaries of language.

Wojciech Bakowski (b. 1979) lives and works in Warsaw. His work has been exhibited at New Museum, New York, 2009; Schmela Haus, Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Dusseldorf, 2012; Museum Morsbroich, Leverkusen, 2013; and Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw, 2013. He is also a poet and a musician. *Sound of My Soul* has recently been screened in Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival, 2015, and International Film Festival Rotterdam, 2016.

**Lewis Klahr, *False Aging*, 14 minutes, 2008**

“*False Aging* expresses a sense of lost time, of not moving in step with the rest of the world. In one sequence Jefferson Airplane’s Lather asks the question, ‘Is it true I’m no longer young?’ Time makes us prisoners locked in ourselves, like a small yellow bird who slips behind the back of a playing card, then comes back out in front of it.” – Genevieve Yue

Lewis Klahr (b.1956) is called ‘the reigning proponent of cut and paste’. He has been directing and writing films since 1977 and is known for his unique, experimental films and cut-out animations that have been shown

worldwide. In 2010, the film *Wednesday Morning Two A.M.* won a Tiger Award for Short Films at International Film Festival Rotterdam. *The Moon Has Its Reasons*, 2012, was nominated for the prize for best short film at Rome Film Festival and the Tribeca Film Festival. Lewis is also a member of the faculty at the Institute of Arts in California.

**Tamara Henderson & Julia Feyrer, *Consider the Belvedere*, 10 minutes, 2015**

Drinking songs and cocktail furniture, film sets and night time newspapers, dream states and unconscious meanderings weave there way through the work of Julia Feyrer and Tamara Henderson; whose collaborations cut across film, sculpture, writing and book-making. *Consider the Belvedere* takes the form of a detective story shot on location at The Banff Centre and in Vancouver at the Belvedere apartment complex.

Julia Feyrer works with film, sculpture, sound, and historical photographic techniques to address themes of the corporeal and the temporal. Tamara Henderson translates her experiences of unconscious states, such as dreaming and hypnosis, into sculpture, furniture, and film scenarios. They began working together in 2009 while studying at Frankfurt's Städelschule, and have exhibited the results of their collaboration at Walter Phillips Gallery, Banff, and the ICA, Philadelphia.

Kathryn Elkin is an artist based in Edinburgh, Scotland. She graduated from Glasgow School of Art's Environmental Art course in 2005 and received a Post Graduate Diploma in Art Writing from Goldsmiths College, London in 2012. She was a Lux Associate Artist, 2012 – 2013, and Artist in Residence as part of the BBC's Artists in the Archive project, 2014. Recent exhibitions, screenings and performances include: *Why La Bamba*, CCA Derry, 2015; *The Elephants in the Room*, ICA, London, 2015; *Michael's Theme*, CCA Glasgow, 2014; *Mutatis Mutandis*, Collective, Edinburgh, 2014.

Peter Taylor is Director of Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival. Previously based in Rotterdam where he worked as a freelance curator, Peter has been a film programmer and researcher for the International Film Festival Rotterdam since 2006 and up until 2012 was also a programmer at WORM. Selected by the Mondriaan Fonds for a 2015 research based residency at AIR Berlin Alexanderplatz, other recent activities include curating programmes for the DEAF Biennale and PLASTIK, Ireland's festival for artists' moving image.

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