



INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART
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NEWS RELEASE

DANCE WITH CAMERA

SEPTEMBER 11, 2009–MARCH 21, 2010

OPENING RECEPTION: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 6-8PM
EXHIBITION WALKTHROUGH WITH CURATOR JENELLE PORTER:
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 5PM, *ICA MEMBERS ONLY*

PHILADELPHIA, PA



Top: Kelly Nipper, *interval*, 2000, four framed chromogenic process color prints, each 39 3/4 x 50 5/8 inches. Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago.
Bottom: Bruce Nauman, *Dance or Exercise, on the Perimeter of a Square*, 1967- 68, 16mm film, black-and-white, sound, 10 minutes. Courtesy of Electronic Arts Intermix.

Dance with Camera is an exhibition and a screening program that explores a crossover between artists and dancers who make choreography for the camera. The exhibition features art works in film, video, and still photography that exemplify the ways dance has compelled visual artists to record bodies moving in time and space. Screenings elaborate the show's theme with iconic dance films, ranging from Busby Berkeley's Hollywood musicals to Maya Deren's avant-garde films. *Dance with Camera*, on view September 11, 2009-March 21, 2010, in ICA's first floor gallery, spans seventy years of art and film, and features over thirty artists and filmmakers between its exhibition and screening program.

The art works in *Dance with Camera* show the camera lens as not merely a recording device, but stage and audience simultaneously. The camera creates a unique space for dance. In some instances, choreography is created for the specific space of the camera; in others it is created in editing. The camera, unlike the stage, allows close-ups that bring us near the performer. Editing is used to compress time and create structure, and even to transform relatively static performers into dancers. Still photography freezes time while also expanding the notion of dance as time-based. Dance itself is a mode to explore broader themes of narrative, structure, metaphor and abstraction.

Dance with Camera begins in the 1960s with seminal works by Bruce Conner and Bruce Nauman. Conner's prototypical *BREAKAWAY* (1966) prefigured music videos, and threads through the recent work of robbinschilds. Early video artists of the 1970s took up dance as a subject, seen in works such as Eleanor Antin's narrative ballet-themed works, and Charles Atlas' first works with Merce Cunningham. The camera's role as documentarian characterizes contemporary works by Mike Kelley, Kelly Nipper, Tacita Dean, and Elad Lassry, among others. Works by Oliver Herring and Flora Wiegmann use dynamic camera views and kinetic editing to make vibrant videos of dancers, and nondancers. The drama intrinsic to stylized, physical movement is captured by Luis Jacob, Joachim Koester and Uri Tzaig.

This exhibition will travel to the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston (August 7-October 17, 2010).

In the galleries:

Eleanor Antin, Charles Atlas, Ann Carlson and Mary Ellen Strom, Bruce Conner, Tacita Dean, Oliver Herring, Luis Jacob, Mike Kelley,

CONTACT

JILL KATZ
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING &
COMMUNICATIONS
215-573-9975
PUBLICITY@ICAPHILA.ORG
INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
118 SOUTH 36TH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104-3289
WWW.ICAPHILA.ORG

*checklist and images available upon request.

GENERAL INFORMATION

ICA is located at:
118 South 36th Street at the
University of Pennsylvania

ICA is open to the public from 12pm to 8pm on Wednesday through Friday and from 11am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Admission is FREE everyday.
Free admission to the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania for the public is sponsored by Glenn R. Fuhrman (W87/WG88) Fund.

For more information,
call 215-898-7108/5911, or visit
www.icaphila.org.

INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Founded in 1963, the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania is a leader in the presentation and documentation of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, commissions, educational programs, and publications, ICA invites the public to share in the experience, interpretation and understanding of the work of established and emerging artists.

Joachim Koester, Elad Lassry, Bruce Nauman, Kelly Nipper, robbinschilds + A.L. Steiner, Uri Tzaig, Flora Wiegmann, and Christopher Williams.

Screenings at International House:

(October 14, November 18, December 9, January 13, February 17 and March 17)

Charles Atlas, Natalie Bookchin, Shirley Clarke, Bruce Conner, Thierry de Mey, Maya Deren, Ed Emshwiller, William Forsythe, Hillary Harris, Hy Hirsh and Sidney Peterson, Babette Mangolte, Sharon Lockhart, Norman McLaren, Sidney Peterson, Yvonne Rainer, and many more (list in formation).

Films include: *Dames* (Busby Berkeley), *All That Jazz* (Bob Fosse), *Singin' in the Rain* (Gene Kelly), *Top Hat* (Mark Sandrich), *The Red Shoes* (Michael Powell), and *Blood Wedding* (Carlos Saura).

A special March film program will be curated by Philadelphia Dance Projects.

Dance with Camera is curated by Curator Jenelle Porter, and is accompanied by a fully-illustrated catalogue.

RELATED PUBLIC PROGRAMS:

Lecture: Under the Influence of Busby Berkeley Whenever Wednesday, October 14, 6:30pm

Choreographer and filmmaker Kriota Willberg lectures on the enduring influence of 1930s and 1940s director/choreographer Busby Berkeley. His crazy camera moves, sex, elaborate staging, geometry and stream-of-consciousness editing style continues to impact cinematography—and to sell products from food to cigarettes. Willberg traces Berkeley's signature choreographic and film style by tracing a "typical" Berkeley phantasmagoric film transition: the "I Only Have Eyes For You" sequence from the film, *Dames* (1934).

Kinetic Cinema

Whenever Wednesday, October 21, 6:30 pm

Kinetic Cinema is a New York-based screening series that explores the intersection of dance and the moving image. Each month organizer Anna Brady Nuse invites a special guest from the dance and film communities to share the films and videos that have inspired and influenced their own work. The series kicks off with a night of dance on film curated by renowned choreographer and filmmaker Victoria Marks. Look for the second evening of Kinetic Cinema in early 2010.

In addition to being seen in Philadelphia, these screenings will also be presented at Chez Bushwick in New York.

Lecture: ICA Curator Jenelle Porter On *Dance with Camera* Whenever Wednesday, December 2, 6:30PM

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ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE VISIT THE ICA WEBSITE, WWW.ICAPHILA.ORG, FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PROGRAMS IN CONJUNCTION WITH *DANCE WITH CAMERA*.