

Press view: Friday 16th October 2009 11.30am -1pm
The Dean Gallery, 75 Belford Road, Edinburgh, EH4 3DR



Luke Fowler

The Way Out – A Portrait of Xentos Jones (in collaboration with Kosten Koper) (detail), 2003
DVD, colour and b/w, sound, 33 mins

Courtesy of The Modern Institute © the artist

Running Time

Artist Films in Scotland: 1960 to Now

17 October 2009 – 22 November 2009

The Dean Gallery, 75 Belford Road, Edinburgh, EH4 3DR

www.nationalgalleries.org

Admission Free

The National Galleries of Scotland is delighted to announce a major new exhibition at the Dean Gallery, which explores artists' film and video from the 1960s to the present day. The first exhibition of its kind dedicated exclusively to film and video in Scotland, *Running Time* will reveal the richness and diversity of filmmaking in this country. This ambitious programme presents a unique collection of single screen film and video works, featuring more than 100 films by over 60 artists, revealing this fascinating legacy.

Scotland has a long and important history in the development of works in film and video. From the early pioneering works of Margaret Tait and David Hall, to the internationally renowned works of contemporary artists such as Douglas Gordon and Luke Fowler, *Running Time* will demonstrate how film and video has developed its own language and become the medium of choice for many artists. The exhibition will be presented in five thematic programmes which will change weekly throughout the run of the show.

Each programme will invite thematic comparisons between generations of artists, revealing continuing common interests. *Portraits in Action* will explore an ongoing concern with performative film, placing work by Douglas Gordon and Mark Neville alongside earlier videos by Madelon Hooykaas and Elsa Stansfield. *Places in Time* will assess the manipulation of the documentary genre in artist film and video, from Margaret Tait's ethereal, avant-garde films of the 1960s to Luke Fowler's recent multi-layered films which combine new and archival footage to create atmospheric, sampled histories, such as *Pilgrimage from Scattered Points* (2006).

Drama and Suspense brings together a group of films videos and animations that suggest the uncanny and subvert the cinematic conventions of narrative to create a state of tension in the viewer, including Henry Coombes' powerful 19th century drama, *The Bedfords* (2009) and a series of unusual films by Matt Hulse, who won a 'best of the fest' award in Edinburgh's International Film Festival 2009.

Sound and Vision and *Form in Motion* are both grouped to reveal important developments in the history of film and video in Scotland. *Sound and Vision* explores the influence of experimental music on artists' work, revealing a distinctive stylistic approach to film-making, as seen in the work of Katy Dove and Craig Mullholland. *Form in Motion* will present a selection of works which interrogate the formal conventions of the medium, with a number of seminal videos from the 1970s including work by David Hall and Stephen Partridge, first shown together in the exhibition *Video: Towards Defining an Aesthetic* (1976) at the Third Eye Centre in Glasgow, juxtaposed with a number of experimental, digitally edited films made since the 1990s.

This diverse programme will be shown on the upper floor of the Dean Gallery. The two large rooms will both screen a reel of projected films, whilst the smaller rooms will exhibit work on television monitors. In addition a new commission at the entrance to the gallery, by Glasgow-based artist Torsten Lauschmann, will form a dramatic prelude to the exhibition. This film installation by one of Scotland's most exciting emerging artists has been commissioned by the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, and funded by the Scottish Arts Council to complement this exhibition.

For further information and images please contact the National Galleries of Scotland's press office on 0131 624 6325/6247/6314/6332 or pressinfo@nationalgalleries.org.

-Ends-

Notes to Editors:

PUBLIC PROGRAMME

To complement the exhibition, a special education programme has been devised to cater for a wide variety of audiences. This will include screenings, artists in conversation and lectures as well as a Saturday Studio workshop for young people. For more information please visit our website www.nationalgalleries.org