30 x 30: Newly Commissioned Films for Thirty Years of LIFT





Thursday January 19, 2012 AGO Jackman Hall

LIFT 30 x 30—Thursday January 19, 2012—8:00pm

Prashant Miranda "In Memory Of The Northern Red Oak", Video, 3:10, 2011 In 2010 I witnessed the chopping down of an old Northern red oak in Queens' Park Toronto. It moved me to tell the story of this tree. This film is a funeral dirge of this tree that was part of a sacred grove at some point in history. What is left of these trees is the hope of a single seed, that can with time can grow into a forest.

Prashant Miranda grew up in Bangalore, India, studied Animation Film design at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. He came to Canada where he initially designed animated shows for children's programming on TV. Prashant now balances his life between Canada in India, where he documents his life through his watercolor journals. *prashart.blogspot.com*

Mike Hoolboom "Forest Walk", Video, 8:00, 2011

This brief black and white sojourn finds a father and son wandering, midway upon the journey of their lives, as the saying goes. Vincent Grenier adds slow motion heat to the looking with his first emulsion work in decades. Stale dated film stock courtesy of Gary Popovich. Mike Cartmell takes a nod as the father. Intertitles courtesy of Adam Phillips, hand written by Kika Thorne. To know what one fears is to know what one wants.

Mike Hoolboom is a Canadian artist working in film and video. He has made over fifty films and videos, though most have been withdrawn from circulation, approximately a dozen remain on view. His work has appeared in over four hundred festivals, garnering thirty awards. He has been granted the Tom Berner Award for community service and two lifetime achievement awards, the first from the city of Toronto, and the second from the Mediawave Festival in Hungary. www.mikehoolboom.com

Alan Zweig "30 Found Clips and a story I've told before", Video, 8:00, 2012 The story of my role in the founding of LIFT illustrated by clips from a film buried in a time capsule forty years ago at Bathurst and Lawrence.

Alan is best known for the four feature length documentaries he released from 2000 to 2009. Before that he did everything from driving on *Videodrome* to writing for the Mr. T docudrama *T* and *T*. He lives in Toronto with his wife and daughter.

R. Bruce Elder "Return to Nature! The True Natural Method Of Healing and Living and the True Salvation Of the Soul: Paradise Regained -- The Core Of the Body -- Water, Human Curative Power, Light, Air, Earth, Food, Fruit Culture", Video, 7:20, 2011

R. Bruce Elder is a filmmaker, critic, and teacher of Film Studies at Ryerson University. He is considered as one of Canada's foremost avant-garde filmmakers. Elder received a 2007 Governor General's Award in Visual and Media Arts. Retrospectives of Elder's work have been mounted by The Art Gallery of Ontario (Toronto), the Cinematheque Quebecoise (Montreal), Senzatitolo (Trento, Italy) and Anthology Film Archives (New York) and he has exhibitions at New York's Museum of Modern Art, Los Angeles Film Forum, Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, Kino Arsenal in Berlin, and many other centres. www.ryerson.ca/~belder

Kika Thorne "Social Physics Test Rolls 1&2 + Asmaa Mahfouz (2011) and I'll Follow You (2011)", Video. 6:00. 2012

On January 18, 2011 Asmaa Mahfouz posted a video on You Tube begging her fellow citizens to join her in Tahrir Square on January 25. She used every rhetorical device she could muster to induce a crowd. The logic of her argument is the magnetic force of this video. Then, during Robin Hood Tax action, Occupy Toronto marches from Church and King Streets to Bay and King, centre of the Toronto financial district. A woman sings alone in her office. She sings to the image, I'll follow you... www.kikathorne.net

Heather Keung "Lifting for 30", Video, 2:40, 2011

Heather Keung graduated from the OCAD University. Her artistic practice includes video, installation and performance art and is inspired by physical labour, memory, technology and architecture. Her work has been seen around the world in cities such as Berlin, Helsinki, Budapest and Buenos Aries. She recently exhibited a photo series as part of Contact at LeLabo and her installation work with her partner Michael Connor at the Museum of Contemporary Canadian

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Art. In addition to her artistic practice, she has been an active contributor to the arts community and Artist-Run-Centres in Toronto through her work as the Artistic Director at the Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival.

John Porter "Light Sleeper", Super 8, 3:00, 2012

John performs in his own film as a light sleeper under a blanket of Christmas lights. He shot it continuously for 10 hours using long time-exposures on each frame. The first version was shot in 2010, then four new versions were shot simultaneously in 2011.

John Porter has been a filmmaker, performer, photographer and writer in Toronto since 1968. He has made 300 super 8 films and performed 100 solo shows internationally. He studied photography and 16mm film production at Ryerson University, and has received several arts grants. He has taught many super 8 workshops and shown and spoken about his work in many university film classes. He has been actively involved with several artist-run centres in Toronto, including serving many years on Boards of Directors. His community activism includes photographing and writing about local alternative film activity, advocating super 8 film and \$50 film budgets, and resisting the Ontario Film Review Board. www.super8porter.ca

Adam Rosen and John Creson "ProMeTheeUs". Super 8, 9:52, 2012

An abstract mythological documentary found and burned to film. A silent work about the voice of the fire. Out of the dark, the search for the spark. A quatrain of creation, comprehension, control. and chaos.

John Creson and Adam Rosen have worked together as actors, singers, performers, writers, choreographers, directors, teachers, sculptors, painters, animators, illustrators, filmmakers, AND puppeteers, among other things, for more years than they now care to admit. They have made several independent, experimental short films and videos which have screened at the likes of Cinematheque Ontario, the Images Festival, the Toronto Animated Image Society, the aluCine Festival. Nuit Blanche Toronto, and the Cine Design Festival in Brazil.

Marcos Arriaga "Assembly", 16mm, 5:00, 2012

Assembly is a short film that illustrates the struggle of the working class in Peru, in relation to the global workers movement. The grainy images, canted shots, still images and Russian montages offer a captivating five minutes of social reality in the fight against Neoliberalism.

Marcos Arriaga was born in Lima, Peru. He graduated from San Martin de Porres University in Lima with a Bachelor's Degree in Communications in 1985. Marcos worked as a Journalist and Photographer for the daily newspaper Marka, and the weekly magazine Amauta. He immigrated to Canada in 1987 and graduated from the Sheridan College Media Arts Film Program in 1995. He earned a Master of Fine Arts in Film Production at York University in 2003. Marcos has completed seven short films and a medium length documentary, which have been shown widely in Canada and internationally. www.marcosarriaga.com

Christina Battle "when the smog-filled wind began to howl", Video, 4:55, 2011 We know now that in the early years of the twenty-first century this world was being watched

We know now that in the early years of the twenty-first century this world was being watched closely by intelligences greater than man. [adapted from Orson Welles'adaptation of HG Wells' War of the Worlds (Orson Welles And Mercury Theatre On The Air, Columbia Broadcasting System, 8:00 To 9:00 P.M., Sunday, October 30, 1938)]

With a B.Sc. in Environmental Biology from the University of Alberta and an MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute, Christina Battle currently lives in Denver, Colorado. Working with film, video and installation, her works explore themes of history and counter-memory, political mythology and environmental catastrophe and have exhibited internationally in festivals and galleries including: The Images Festival (Toronto), The London Film Festival (London, England); The International Film Festival Rotterdam (The Netherlands); YYZ Artists' Outlet (Toronto); White Box (New York); The Foreman Art Gallery at Bishops University (Sherbrooke, QC); The city of Toronto's Nuit Blanche 2006 and in the 2006 Whitney Biennial: Day for Night (New York).



Rear cover still: Alan Zweig *30 Found Clips and a story I've told before* (2012) Cover still: Mike Hoolboom *Forest Walk* (2011)

LIFT's 30 x 30 commissioning project has been supported by the Initiatives Program of the Canada Council for the Arts (Media Arts Section).

LIFT is Canada's foremost artist-run production and education organization dedicated to celebrating excellence in the moving image. LIFT exists to provide support and encouragement for independent filmmakers and artists through affordable access to production, post-production and exhibition equipment; professional and creative development; workshops and courses; commissioning and exhibitions; artist-residencies; and a variety of other services. LIFT is supported by its membership, Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Ontario Arts Foundation, the Government of Ontario and the Toronto Arts Council.

For more information about LIFT see: lift.ca