BAMPFA Commissions Large-Scale Site-Specific Video Project
From Acclaimed Contemporary Artist JJ PEET

On View September 13–October 29, 2017

PEET’s Work Marks Inaugural Commission in BAMPFA’s New Series of Outdoor Video Projects

(Berkeley, CA) August 10, 2017—This fall, the UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA) unveils a major site-specific video commission from the groundbreaking contemporary artist JJ PEET. Comprising two separate presentations—one of which will appear on BAMPFA’s outdoor screen—JJ PEET: THE VACANT AMERICAN exemplifies PEET’s interest in the subjective nature of surveillance and modern media representation. The project marks the inaugural installment in On the Hour, a series that engages contemporary artists to create new work for BAMPFA’s monumental outdoor screen that is one of the signature design features of BAMPFA’s Diller Scofidio + Renfro-designed facility, which opened to the public last year.

THE VACANT AMERICAN features the experimental video REGULATED VIEWING, which draws on footage from PEET’s travels to explore the porous boundary between documentary and subjective photography. Like all of PEET’s work, REGULATED VIEWING engages directly with contemporary social and political undercurrents, while also inviting broader considerations about the nature of representation and surveillance. As PEET describes it, his work presents “leaks in reality” that are captured through his own distinctive approach to observational journalism.

REGULATED VIEWING screens at regular on-the-hour intervals on BAMPFA’s outdoor screen from September 13 through October 29. A companion presentation—FILTER Animation, which interprets similar subject matter through PEET’s intricate hand-drawn animations—screens concurrently in...
BAMPFA’s 33-seat Theater Two during the same period. Both videos were conceived by PEET specifically for BAMPFA’s unique screening spaces, reflecting the institution’s role as one of the Bay Area’s premier venues for experimental film and video.

“By launching our On the Hour series with site-specific videos by an internationally acclaimed contemporary artist, BAMPFA is fulfilling the potential of our new facility to mount exciting multimedia artworks that expand our understanding of form and spectatorship,” said BAMPFA Director Lawrence Rinder. “Our partnership with JJ signals a renewal of BAMPFA’s longstanding commitment to supporting cutting-edge work through a robust contemporary commissioning program.”

“JJ PEET’s innovative approach to contemporary media makes him an ideal artist to inaugurate On the Hour, a series that leverages BAMPFA’s distinctive capacity to present large-scale experimental video projects” said Apsara DiQuinzio, curator of modern and contemporary art and Phyllis C. Wattis MATRIX curator at BAMPFA. “THE VACANT AMERICAN typifies JJ’s inquisitiveness about the aesthetic dimensions of contemporary social environments, inviting viewers to contemplate how artists amplify our understanding of the world around us.”

In conjunction with the opening of THE VACANT AMERICAN, BAMPFA hosts an artist’s talk with PEET on Monday, September 11 at 6:30 p.m. The program is free and includes an inaugural screening of REGULATED VIEWING. Future installments in the On the Hour series will be announced at a later date.

**Support**  
*On the Hour / JJ PEET: THE VACANT AMERICAN* is organized by Apsara DiQuinzio, curator of modern and contemporary art and Phyllis C. Wattis MATRIX Curator. The project is made possible with major support from VIA Art Fund.

**Above**  
JJ PEET: Stills from REGULATED VIEWING, 2017; HD video; color, silent; 28:30 min.; courtesy of the artist.

**Visitor Information**

**Address**  
2155 Center Street, Berkeley, CA 94720

**Hours**  
Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Information**

bampfa.org  
(510) 642-0808

**Gallery Admission**

$12 general admission  
$10 non-Berkeley students, disabled, 65+  
Free for BAMPFA members; UC Berkeley students, faculty, staff, and retirees; 18 & under + one adult
Free First Thursdays: Free gallery admission on the first Thursday of each month

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About JJ PEET
JJ PEET has had solo exhibitions at The Contemporary Austin, Austin, TX; Gallery Diet, Miami, FL; On Stellar Rays, New York, NY; and Redling Fine Arts, Los Angeles, CA. Recent group exhibitions include Richard Shaw and JJ PEET, Harvey / Meadows Gallery, Aspen, CO, 2016; Satan Ceramics, Ever Gold Gallery, San Francisco, CA, 2016; Live in the layers...not on the litter, Ashley Berlin, Berlin, Germany, 2015; FIELD EFFECTS, Le Cap, Arles, France, 2015; VESSELS, Blackston, New York, NY, 2015; Xenia, curated by Robert Rhee, Poker Night, Seattle, WA, 2015; In Proximity, JJ PEET and Daniel PEET, Gallery Diet, Miami, FL, 2013; In Praise of Chance and Failure, Family Business, New York, NY, 2013; and Regis 10th Anniversary Alumni Exhibition, Quarter Gallery, Minneapolis, MN, 2013. Selected public collections include The Arts Club of Chicago, Chicago, IL; Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis, MN; Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN; and The White House, Washington, D.C.

PEET received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN in 1999 and a Master of Fine Arts degree from Yale School of Art, New Haven, CT in 2006. He lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

About BAMPFA
An internationally recognized arts institution with deep roots in the Bay Area, the University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA) is a forum for cultural experiences that transform individuals and advance the local, national, and global discourse on art and film. BAMPFA is UC Berkeley’s premier visual arts venue, presenting more than 450 film screenings, scores of public programs, and up to twenty exhibitions annually. With its vibrant and eclectic programming, BAMPFA inspires the imagination and ignites critical dialogue through art, film, and other forms of creative expression.

The institution’s collection of more than 19,000 works of art dates from 3,000 BCE to the present day and includes important holdings of Neolithic Chinese ceramics, Ming and Qing Dynasty Chinese painting, Old Master works on paper, Italian Baroque painting, early American painting, Abstract Expressionist painting, contemporary photography, and Conceptual art. BAMPFA’s collection also includes more than 17,500 films and videos, including the largest collection of Japanese cinema outside of Japan, impressive holdings of Soviet cinema, West Coast avant-garde film, seminal video art, as well as hundreds of thousands of articles, reviews, posters, and other ephemera related to the history of film.