

## Pat O'Neill / **MATRIX 262**

UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive

September 28 through November 27, 2016



*Berkeley, CA) August 9, 2016* — The University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA) presents **Pat O'Neill / MATRIX 262**, on view from September 28 through November 27, 2016. The exhibition features film, sculpture, photography, and works on paper by the Los Angeles-based artist Pat O'Neill (b 1939). **MATRIX 262** takes unique advantage of BAMPFA's dual nature—museum and cinematheque—as well as its new building, with works by O'Neill on view in the galleries, in both film theaters, and on the giant outdoor screen.

A founding faculty member at the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts) in 1970, Pat O'Neill has been a key figure in West Coast experimental cinema for the past fifty years. A pioneer of avant-garde film and optical printing techniques, he creates densely layered films and moving-image environments

that explore the hybrid and expanded terrain of film, photography, and sculpture. His innovative use of the optical printer, which enables filmed images to be manipulated and altered directly on celluloid, marked a creative breakthrough in composite image-making in film.

Films, collages, and sculptures by O'Neill will be on view in the BAMPFA galleries. *Runs Good* (1970/2012), which the artist made after he encountered the canvases of Hans Hofmann at BAMPFA in 1970, will be shown continuously as a three-channel projection. The Abstract Expressionist painter's approach to color made a deep impression: O'Neill noted, "I was thinking about the idea of optical recession and advance, how colors occupy space depending on hue, saturation, and contrast with the field." **MATRIX 262** runs concurrent with the exhibition **Push and Pull: Hans Hofmann** (on view August 31 through December 11), enabling visitors to see O'Neill's work alongside the paintings that inform it. Also on view in the galleries are O'Neill's enigmatic, abstract sculpture *Safer than Springtime* (1964) and a selection of his two-dimensional collages, some of which relate to the films he was making at the same time, which will screen in BAMPFA's Theater Two throughout the run of exhibition.

The artist will join us in the Barbro Osher Theater to present two programs in conjunction with the BAMPFA film series **Alternative Visions**. On Friday, September 28, O'Neill presents a new print of *Trouble in the Image* (1995), a playful and beautiful film comprising dozens of performances dislodged from other contexts, with two shorts films. The following evening O'Neill joins us for his rarely screened masterpiece *Water and Power* from 1989, along with three early shorts. For *Water and Power*, a film about Los Angeles, O'Neill used time-lapse photography and optical printing to evoke the conflict between industry and nature. (The screenings in the Barbro Osher Theater are ticketed separately from gallery admission.)

On BAMPFA's outdoor screen, on the corner of Addison and Oxford Streets, BAMPFA audiences and passersby can view a new silent film commissioned by BAMPFA, *An Extra Wander: for Miss Chickie*. It will screen daily on the hour throughout the run of the exhibition.

#### Support

**Pat O'Neill / MATRIX 262** is co-organized by Apsara DiQuinzio, curator of modern and contemporary art and Phyllis C. Wattis MATRIX Curator, and Kathy Geritz, film curator. The MATRIX Program is made possible by a generous endowment gift from Phyllis C. Wattis and the continued support of the BAMPFA Trustees. Films courtesy of the artist, Academy Film Archive, and Cherry and Martin, Los Angeles

#### Above

Pat O'Neill: still from *Runs Good*, 1970/2012; three-channel continuous video projection, transferred from 16mm; color, sound; BAMPFA purchase: Phoebe Apperson Hearst, by exchange. Image courtesy of the artist and Cherry and Martin, Los Angeles.

## Film Screenings

Links to screeners available upon request

Theater Two (on BAMPFA's lower level)

September 28 through November 6, 2016

Wed & Thu 11-2 & 5-7 / Fri 11-2 & 5-9 / Sat & Sun 11-7

Program runs 55 mins and restarts at the top of each hour

Included with admission

*Saugus Series* (1974)

*Sidewinder's Delta* (1976)

*Foregrounds* (1979)

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Barbro Osher Theater

Tickets available online or at the BAMPFA admissions desk

Wednesday, September 28, 7 p.m.

*Trouble in the Image* (Pat O'Neill, US, 1995, 35mm)

With Pat O'Neill in person

In O'Neill's playful, beautiful film, "trouble in the image" may take the form of a disturbing moment in a narrative, how-to instructions for creating an image, or pictures that break apart and lose their literal meaning. With shorts *Down Wind* (1973, 16mm) and *Horizontal Boundaries* (2008, 35mm).

Total running time: 73 mins

Thursday, September 29, 7 p.m.

*Water and Power* (Pat O'Neill, US, 1989, 35mm)

With Pat O'Neill in person

Pat O'Neill's rarely screened masterpiece, the exceptionally dense and technically dazzling *Water and Power*, is a moving meditation on industrialization, focusing on Los Angeles, "a city that turned land into desert." Using time-lapse photography and optical printing, O'Neill intertwines technology and ideas, collaging different locales into montages that suggest the inevitable conflict of industry and nature. With shorts *By the Sea* (with Robert Abel, 1963, 16mm), *Bump City* (1964, 16mm), and *Screen* (1969, Digital). Total running time: 71 mins

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Outdoor Screen (at the corner of Oxford and Addison Streets)

September 28 through November 27 (except October 25-28)

Daily, on the hour

*An Extra Wander: for Miss Chickie* (Pat O'Neill, US, 2016, Digital)

## Visitor Information

### Address

2155 Center Street Berkeley, CA 94704

### Hours

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

### 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

### Barbro Osher Theater Admission

\$12 general admission

\$8 UC Berkeley faculty/staff/retirees, non-UC Berkeley students, seniors (65+), disabled persons, 18 & under

\$7 BAMPFA members and UC Berkeley students

## About BAMPFA

Internationally recognized for its art and film programming, the UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA) is a platform for cultural experiences that transform individuals, engage communities, and advance the local, national, and global discourse on art and film. Founded in 1963, BAMPFA is UC Berkeley's primary visual arts venue with its screenings of some 450 films and presentations of up to twenty exhibitions annually. BAMPFA's mission is to inspire the imagination and ignite critical dialogue through art and film.

The institution's collection of over 19,000 works of art dates from 3000 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 over 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—many of which are digitally scanned and accessible online.

## About MATRIX

The MATRIX Program for Contemporary Art introduces the Bay Area community to exceptional work being made internationally, nationally, and locally, creating a rich connection to the current dialogues on contemporary art and demonstrating that the art of this moment is vital, dynamic, and often challenging. Confronting traditional practices of display and encouraging new, open modes of analysis, MATRIX provides an experimental framework for an active interchange between the artist, the

museum, and the viewer. There have been hundreds of shows at BAMPFA since the program's inception in 1978, featuring artists such as John Baldessari, Jean-Michel Basquiat, Louise Bourgeois, Sophie Calle, Nan Goldin, Eva Hesse, Sol LeWitt, Shirin Neshat, Nancy Spero, and Andy Warhol. In recent decades MATRIX has embraced a greater international scope, with the roster including Eija-Liisa Ahtila, Geta Bratescu, Peter Doig, Omer Fast, Tobias Rehberger, Ernesto Neto, Rosalind Nashashibi, Tomás Saraceno, Mario García Torres, and Apichatpong Weerasethakul, representing countries as diverse as Finland, Germany, Iran, Mexico, Romania, Thailand, and Brazil.

#### Media Contact

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#### Social Media

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