Assembly: A Survey of Recent Artists’ Film and Video in Britain 2008–2013
Questions of Progress I & II
Tate Britain, Clore Auditorium

UPCOMING ASSEMBLY SCREENINGS

COMPOSITE I
Sunday 9 March 2014 15.00–17.00

COMPOSITE II
Monday 10 March 2014 19.00–21.00

ASSEMBLY CLOSING EVENT
THE WAYWARD CANON PRESENTS YOGA HORROR
MARK AERIAL WALLER
Saturday 15 March 2014 19.00–22.00

These cinematic documents re-assert the fragility of humanity at the heart of technology’s broken promises.

ADAM CURTIS, GRAHAM ELLARD & STEPHEN JOHNSTONE, HILARY KOOB-SASSEN, KAREN MIRZA & BRAD BUTLER, THE OTOLOTH GROUP, EMILY RICHARDSON, THOMSON AND CRAIGHEAD, JANE AND LOUISE WILSON
ASSEMBLY: A SURVEY OF RECENT ARTISTS’ FILM AND VIDEO IN BRITAIN 2008 – 2013

Assembly is a major survey of internationally acclaimed single-screen artists’ film and video. Including more than eighty artists, the show is drawn from thirty-six leading international film specialists who were invited to nominate outstanding recent artist film works. Screenings take place at Tate Britain in the Clore Auditorium on Sundays, featuring length films shown, and on Mondays curated programmes of shorter films. The show is a follow-up to discussions with invited speakers and the artists. Each weekly theme suggests a contested area of practice and prompts a dialogue that continues from one screening to the next, encouraging discussion and debate about contemporary film and video.

The popularity of film and video has surged during the last decade, with screenings occurring in numerous venues from galleries to film festivals, from television to online. The development of digital technology has particularly impacted the distribution, aesthetics and accessibility of artists’ cinema. Reflecting this expanded field, Assembly is a unique opportunity to consider what is being produced here and now, throwing into relief and celebrating differences across various artists’ practices in the medium.

QUESTIONS OF PROGRESS I
Sunday 2 March, 12.00–18.00

ALL WATCHED OVER BY MACHINES OF LOVING GRACE
Adam Curtis, 2011
Video, 180 min

Although we don’t realise it, the way we see everything in the world today is through the eyes of the computers. – Adam Curtis.

The title of this BBC series comes from a 1967 poem by Richard Brautigan, in which he envisions a world of cybernetics so advanced that the difference of the projectionist than the audience. The sound becomes a cacophony of past images, the future threat of radiation that converges upon the present.

The Otolith Group (founded 2002) are Kodwo Eshun (born 1966, London) and Anjalika Sagar (born 1968, London)
Live and work in London

The Group’s artistic work explores moving image, sound, text and curatorial practice and functions as a platform for discussion on contemporary artistic production. Recent exhibitions include The Shadows Took Shape, Studio Museum in Harlem, New York (2013) and their first major retrospective in the Year of the Queen’s Jubilee, Bergen Kunsthall, Norway (2014). The Otolith Group were nominated for the Turner Prize (2010).

QUESTIONS OF PROGRESS II
Monday 3 March, 19.00 – 21.00

A SHORT FILM ABOUT WAR
Thomson and Craighead, 2009–10
HD video, 10 min

This work is made entirely from information found on the internet. Viewers are taken around the world to a variety of war zones as seen through the collective eyes of the online photo sharing website Flickr, and as witnessed by military and civilian bloggers.

Jon Thomson (born 1969, UK) and Alison Craighead (born 1971, UK)
Live and work in London
Thomson and Craighead have shown extensively at galleries, film festivals and for site-specific installations. Their work has been exhibited internationally, including: Athens Biennial (2009); and the Shanghai Triennial (2010). Their work has been shown at film festivals and galleries internationally, including: Athens Biennial (2009); and the Shanghai Triennial (2010).

THINGS TO COME
Graham Ellard & Stephen Johnstone, 2010
16mm, 6 min

Based on a series of unpublished poems by Jack Mahaney’s ‘future city’ this work creates a dynamic play of light, shadow and reflection through the use of extreme close-ups across and around a large, highly abstract, metal and glass model.

Graham Ellard (born 1960, UK) & Stephen Johnstone (born 1955, UK)
Live and work in London
Graham Ellard and Stephen Johnstone have collaborated since 1993. Ellard is a Reader in the School of Art at Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, London. Johnstone is a Reader at Goldsmiths, University of London. Their work has been shown in galleries and museums internationally, including: Centre Pompidou (1994); Tate Liverpool (1995); the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney (1996); and Triennale Design Museum, Milan (2013).

THE FUTURIST
Emily Richardson, 2010
HD video, 4 min

The Futurist is part of a series of films made in independent cinemas. The film is composed of a single 360 degree animated shot in an empty 1920s cinema where the sound becomes a cacophony of past projections and the aural experience is closer to that of the projector than the audience.

Emily Richardson (born 1971, UK)
Lives and works in the UK
Richardson’s work has been shown in galleries and at festivals internationally including Tate Modern (2003–4, 2012), New York Film Festival (2006) and the Barbican, London (2013). Richardson was awarded the Gilles Dusen Prize, Paris (2009).

Tate Film acknowledges additional research for screening notes by Joseph Herring.

Front row: Adam Curtis, 60 Watchmen by Machine of Loving Grace (2011), video still Courtesy, Tate and © Adam Curtis
Jane and Louise Wilson, The New Cries (2009), HD video still Courtesy, the artists
Koob-Sassen’s film Chernobyl: A Chronicle of Difficult Years (1986), the Wilsons’ work explores interconnecting stories from survivors of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster as well as with Shevchenko’s film crew, twenty-five years after the accident.

Jane and Louise Wilson (born 1967, Newcastle upon Tyne)
Live and work in London

Select recent exhibitions include Tomorrow was already here, Tamaya Museum, Mexico City (2012–13), Tempo Siepesani, CAM Guiblenikan, Lisbon, Portugal (2010) and forthcoming group exhibition Ruin Lust, Tate Britain (2014). They were nominated for the Turner Prize (1999).

THE RADIANT
The Otolith Group, 2012
HD video, 64 min

A response to the partial meltdown of the Fukushima Daiichi power plant after the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami of 2011. The Radiant examines the history of nuclear energy in Japan. The film travels through time and space, invoking the historical promise of nuclear energy and functions as a platform for discussion on the future threat of radiation that converges upon the present.

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KAREN MIRZA & BRAD BUTLER, 2012–2014

Script by China Mivelle
Video, 45 min

Working in collaboration with author China Mivelle, Deep State highlights the shadowy world of powerful special interests and secretive top-level relationships. The film looks at the history of protest around the world and the efforts of governments and organisations to weaken or dismantle popular uprisings.

Commissioned by Film and Video Umbrella Funded by Arts Council England and London Councils.

Representation by waterside contemporary London

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KAREN MIRZA (born 1970, UK) and BRAD BUTLER (born 1973, UK)
Live and work in London

Recent exhibitions include The Museum of Non Participation. The New Deal, the Walker Art Center (2013), Performa 13, New York (2013) and Denim Devil (Deep State), Galeri NON (2014). They were shortlisted for the Film London Derek Jarman Award (2012).

FAITH IN INFRASTRUCTURE
Hilary Koob-Sassen, 2009
Video, 16 min

Working with text, song, sculpture, animation and performance, Faith in Infrastructure reflects upon the complexities of our current bi-economic situation.

Hilary Koob-Sassen (born 1975, New York)
Lives and works in London
Koob-Sassen’s work has been exhibited at film festivals and galleries internationally, including: Athens Biennial (2009); and the Serpentine Gallery, London (2008).

Koob-Sassen was nominated for the Film London Derek Jarman Award (2011)

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