

TATE FILM

SURFACE TENSION ASSEMBLY: A RECENT SURVEY OF ARTISTS' FILM AND VIDEO IN BRITAIN 2008-2013

Monday 17 February 2014
19.00–21.00



Mikhail Karikis & Uriel Orlow, *Sounds From Beneath* 2010–12, video still Courtesy the artists. © Mikhail Karikis & Uriel Orlow



William Raban, *About Now MMX* 2010, video still Courtesy the artist and Bow Visions. © William Raban

Whether towering above London, actively engaged in the streets, or from the remote distance of a war-torn vista, this selection of films offers different perspectives on conflict and involvement.

GEORGE BARBER, MIKHAIL KARIKIS & URIEL ORLOW, WILLIAM RABAN, LIS RHODES

A discussion with the artists will be chaired by Omar Kholeif.

Omar Kholeif is a writer and Curator at the Whitechapel Gallery, London.

Assembly: A Survey of Artists' Film and Video in Britain 2008–2013 is curated by Stuart Comer, formerly Tate, now chief curator Media and Performance, MoMA; George Clark, Tate Modern; and Melissa Blanchflower, Tate Britain; with independent curators Simon Payne and Andrew Vallance.

Tate Film is supported by Maja Hoffmann / LUMA Foundation
With additional support for *Assembly* from Bilge Ogut-Cumbusyan & Haro Cumbusyan

tate.org.uk/film
Thoughts, comments, reviews?
f Tatefilm
@tatefilm

BRITAIN
TATE

BRITAIN
TATE

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 list is drawn from thirty-six leading international film specialists who were invited to nominate outstanding recent works. Screenings take place at Tate Britain in the Clore Auditorium: on Sundays, feature length films are shown, and on Mondays curated programmes of shorter films are followed by 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.

PROGRAMME NOTES

ABOUT NOW MMX William Raban, 2010 35mm transferred to video 26 min 28 sec

Shot from the 21st floor of the iconic Balfron Tower in Poplar, the film surveys the City of London and the capital's distant skyline. Shot predominantly in time-lapse, the film tirelessly maps the environment below, tracing late-capitalist London and revealing its otherwise unseen social and economic networks.

William Raban (b. 1948) Lives and works in London

Raban's practice spans Expanded Cinema, social documentary and landscape films. He managed the influential London Filmmakers Co-op workshop (1972–6). His films have been widely screened at festivals and in exhibitions including recent works *Film in Space* at Camden Arts Centre and *Filmaktion* at Tate Modern (both 2012).

THE FREESTONE DRONE George Barber, 2013 HD video, 13 min

Unmanned aerial vehicles have become an omnipresent part of global warfare. The film imagines a drone deviating from its mission: passing over Waziristan (Pakistan/Afghanistan border) toward New York among other identifiable regions. The drone's self-conscious narration overlays mostly found footage to consider the ethical and political implications of this applied technology.

George Barber (b. 1958, Guyana) Lives and works in London

Barber is a pioneering video artist who was a key figure of Britain's Scratch Video movement in the 1980s. His *Automotive Action Painting* shown at Tate Britain (2006) was awarded First Prize at the 24th Hamburg International Short Film Festival. Recent exhibitions include *The Long Commute* at Dundee Contemporary Arts (2010) and Art International Istanbul (2013).

IN THE KETTLE Lis Rhodes, 2012 Video, 15 min

"The economic system promotes 'freedom' and 'the individual', while it holds to neither."
– Lis Rhodes

By drawing on experimental and agitprop strategies, *In the Kettle* interrogates narratives and histories of repression and resistance. The film is concerned with "kettling" as a means of containing protesters, and the broader implications of recent police tactics.

Lis Rhodes (b. 1942, London)

Rhodes has been making films since the early 1970s. She was part of the filmmakers' group that formed the women's film and video distribution company, Circles (1979). Recent exhibitions include the installation *Light Music*, Tate Modern Tanks, and *Dissonance and Disturbance*, ICA, London (both 2012).

SOUNDS FROM BENEATH Project by Mikhail Karikis Video by Mikhail Karikis & Uriel Orlow 2010–12 Video and sound, 6 min 45 sec

The film features the Snowdown Colliery Male Voice Choir who vocalise the sounds of a working coal mine. In a formation suggestive of a picket line, the choir is shown in a disused colliery in East Kent. This once industrious site, now abandoned, is re-animated through communal song as a lament for lost purpose and unused prowess.

Mikhail Karikis (b. 1975, Greece)

Karikis has presented work at the 54th Venice Biennale (2011) and Manifesta 9 (2012). Select London screenings and performances have taken place at the Whitechapel Gallery; South London Gallery; the Barbican; and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Uriel Orlow (b. 1973, Switzerland)

Recipient of a Swiss Art Award from the Swiss ministry of culture at Art Basel 2012, Orlow was nominated for the 2013 Film London Jarman Award. International group exhibitions include 54th Venice Biennale (2011) and Manifesta 9 (2012), solo exhibitions include *Back to Back*, Spike Island, Bristol (2013) and *Unmade Film* at Al Ma'mal Foundation for Contemporary Art, Jerusalem (2013).

UPCOMING ASSEMBLY SCREENINGS CLORE AUDITORIUM (UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED) TATE BRITAIN

Near and Further Contact I
Sunday 23 February 2014 15.00–17.00

Near and Further Contact II
Monday 24 February 2014 19.00–21.00,
Grand Saloon

Questions of Progress I
Sunday 2 March 2014 12.00–18.00

Questions of Progress II
Monday 3 March 2014 19.00–21.00

Composite I
Sunday 9 March 2014 15.00–17.00

Composite II
Monday 10 March 2014 19.00–21.00

ASSEMBLY CLOSING PARTY
Saturday 15 March 2014 19.00–22.00



George Barber, *The Freestone Drone*, 2013, HD video still Courtesy waterside contemporary, London © George Barber



Lis Rhodes, *In The Kettle* 2012, video still Courtesy the artist. © Lis Rhodes