

TATE FILM

**ASSEMBLY: A SURVEY OF RECENT
ARTISTS' FILM AND VIDEO IN BRITAIN 2008 – 2013**

FOR PEOPLE

Monday 25 November 2013, 19.00, Tate Britain, Clore Auditorium



Stephen Sutcliffe *Plum* 2012, video still. Courtesy the artist and Rob Tufnell, London © Stephen Sutcliffe

tate.org.uk/film

Thoughts, comments, reviews?

 Tate Britain

 @tatefilm

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

BRITAIN
TATE



Adam Chodzko, *The Pickers* 2009. HD video still. Courtesy the artist and Marlborough Contemporary © Adam Chodzko

Exploring what film can simultaneously reveal and withhold about ourselves, these films address themes of personal and historical significance, spanning tender portraits of close relations and observations from afar.

**JOHN AKOMFRAH, SONIA BOYCE & AIN BAILEY, ADAM CHODZKO,
STEPHEN DWOSKIN, MARGARET SALMON, GRACE SCHWINDT, STEPHEN SUTCLIFFE**

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.



Stephen Dwoskin, *Mom* 2008, video still. Courtesy Stephen Dwoskin Estate and LUX



Grace Schwindt *Meeting Florchen Gordon* 2008, HD video still. Courtesy Zeno X Gallery; and Argos © Grace Schwindt



Margaret Salmon *P.S.* 2010, video still. Courtesy the artist © Margaret Salmon



John Akomfrah *Peripeteia* 2012, HD video still. A Smoking Dogs Films Production, in association with Carroll / Fletcher and the European Cultural Foundation. Courtesy the artist and Carroll / Fletcher © John Akomfrah

PROGRAMME NOTES

**P.S.
Margaret Salmon 2010
HD video, b&w, 9 min**

A direct portrait of a middle aged man who remains unnamed. In tandem with hand-held observational footage, which shows him going about his chores, he soundtrack of a couple bitterly arguing presents an image of a strained domestic life.

Margaret Salmon (born 1975, Suffern, New York)
Selected solo exhibitions and screenings include *Artists: Film Surveys: Margaret Salmon*, ICA, London (2011) and *Witte de With*, Rotterdam (2007). Group exhibitions include the 52nd Venice Biennale (2007). Salmon won the first Max Mara Prize for Women (2006).

**MOM
Stephen Dwoskin 2008
video, b&w, 13 min**

‘A tribute to my mother made just after her death at the age of ninety-six. The film remembers her through pieces of early footage searching to hold on to and capture the mysteriously elusive feelings and warm gestures she left behind and still remain in my memory today.’
Stephen Dwoskin

Stephen Dwoskin (born 1939 Brooklyn, New York City, died 2012)
Dwoskin was one of the driving forces behind the influential London Film-Makers Cooperative. In addition to his explicitly personal and ‘underground’ films, Dwoskin’s career included feature films and television documentaries. His work has been screened in numerous retrospectives at film festivals and cinemas internationally.

**PLUM
Steven Sutcliffe 2012
video, colour, 4 min**

The soundtrack to this video is a recording of a phone-in to the radio programme *Woman’s Hour*. The voice of a female caller concocts a vivid picture, despite the disingenuousness of her tale, which is accompanied by distracted drawings.

Stephen Sutcliffe (born 1968, Harrogate)
Selected exhibitions include *Tramway*, Glasgow (2013), *Stillis*, Edinburgh (2011) and *Cubitt*, London (2009). In 2012 he won the Margaret Tait Prize.

**THE PICKERS
Adam Chodzko 2009
HD video, 18 min**

The pickers in this film are primarily a group of Romanian workers employed at a strawberry farm in Kent, who are also shown viewing footage of British hop-pickers from another era. This juxtaposition, which is sometimes blurred, reflects on the representation of migrant workers through the use of archival and contemporary footage.

Adam Chodzko (born1965)
Selected exhibitions include *Benaki Museum*, Athens (2013), *Schwitters in Britain*, Tate Britain (2013), *Proxigean Tide*, Tate St Ives (2008) and *Museo d’Arte Moderna*, Bologna (2007).

**MEETING FLORCHEN GORDON
Grace Schwindt 2008
HD video, colour, 5 min**

A video that records the artist’s grandfather remembering meeting a Jewish friend in 1936 in Berlin, drawing on paper to aid his recollection and conjure an image of this simple occurrence at a portentous time.

Grace Schwindt (born 1979, Germany)
Schwindt received a FLAMIN Production Award (2013) and Jerwood production grant (2013). Selected exhibitions include a solo screening at CCA, Glasgow (2013) and a solo exhibition at White Columns, New York.

**OH ADELAIDE
Sonia Boyce & Ain Bailey 2010
HD video, b&w, 7 min**

Oh Adelaide is a collaborative work by Sonia Boyce and sound artist and DJ Ain Bailey incorporating found film footage of the jazz singer and entertainer Adelaide Hall (1901–1993). It is part of *The Devotional Series*, a project which invites the public to build a collective memory of black British female musicians.

Sonia Boyce (born 1962, London)
Since the 1990s Boyce’s practice has encompassed a variety of media. In more recent years this has encompassed improvised collaborations with artists and vocalists, seen in her recent solo exhibition includes *Scat – Sonia Boyce: Sound and Collaboration*, INIVA, London (2013). She has work in public collections including Tate and the V&A.

**PERIPETEIA
John Akomfrah 2012
HD, colour, 18 min**

Peripeteia takes as its starting point two unidentified portraits by Albrecht Dürer: one of a bearded black male, the other of a black woman wearing a bonnet. Associated figures become the protagonists of the film, leaving the frame of their pictures to wander in an imaginary cinematic landscape. This screening coincides with Akomfrah’s multi-layered three screen installation *The Unfinished Conversation* 2012, a portrait of cultural theorist Stuart Hall, in a spotlight display at Tate Britain until 23 March.

John Akomfrah (born 1957, Accra, Ghana)
Akomfrah is well known for his work with the London-based media workshop Black Audio Film Collective which he co-founded in 1982. Selected exhibitions and screenings include Liverpool Biennial (2012) and MoMA, New York (2011) and international film festivals such as Sundance, Utah (2013) and Toronto (2012).

**UPCOMING ASSEMBLY SCREENINGS
CLORE AUDITORIUM
TATE BRITAIN**

**Assembly: The Resemblance of Things I
Sunday 1 December 2013 15.00**

**Assembly: The Resemblance of Things II
Monday 2 December 2013 19.00**

**Assembly: Ceremony I
Sunday 8 December 2013 15.00**

**Assembly: Ceremony II
Monday 9 December 2013 19.00**

In 2014 Assembly continues from 12 January with screenings on Sundays and Mondays until 15 March.

www.tate.org.uk/film