

Deborah Colton Gallery Fall 2013 Newsletter

ACCLAIMED ARTIST, FILMMAKER, AND DIRECTOR JONAS MEKAS OPENS SOLO EXHIBITION AT DEBORAH COLTON GALLERY

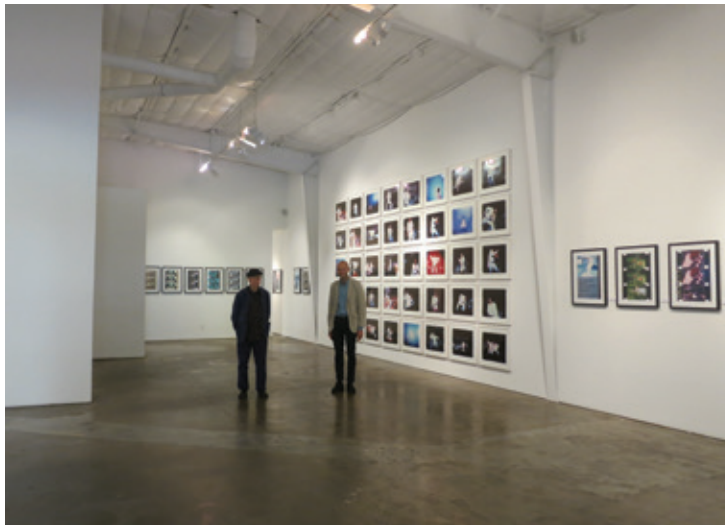


Jonas and Sebastian Mekas at Deborah Colton Gallery, preparing for the opening of *LIFE GOES ON... I KEEP SINGING*, a solo exhibition of his artworks

Deborah Colton Gallery is pleased to present selected works and video installations by Jonas Mekas in an exhibition entitled *LIFE GOES ON... I KEEP SINGING*, which includes still frame photographs from several bodies of works Mekas has created through his films. The exhibition opened November 9th and will continue through December 28th, 2013. The Gallery hosted a public Artist Reception on Sunday, November 10th at 2:00 pm, which included a Q+A with Jonas Mekas and Deborah M. Colton.

LIFE GOES ON... at Deborah Colton Gallery

Jonas Mekas is the Founder of Anthology Films in New York, the Film maker, poet, writer, and artist. Jonas Mekas captured moments that we all cherish in art history, in American history, in life... from filmmakers, Salvador Dali, Kennedy's, Warhol, Yoko Ono and John Lennon, Elvis Presley, the World Trade Center... to the more personal special moments of nature, his family, being human and celebrating life, cherishing each experience to the fullest.



Jonas and Sebastian Mekas at Deborah Colton Gallery for his solo exhibition *LIFE GOES ON... I KEEP SINGING*



Jonas Mekas and Deborah M. Colton and a video still from *WTC HAIKUS*, featuring a glimpse of Andy Warhol, at Deborah Colton Gallery

In addition to the video created for this exhibition, *FRAGMENTS OF PARADISE* that is cohesive with the main gallery room exhibition, Deborah Colton Gallery will be featuring the video *WTC HAIKUS*, 2010. As Mekas describes this:

"Looking through my finished and unfinished films, I was surprised how many glimpses of the World Trade Center I caught during my life in SoHo. I had a feeling I was Hokusai glimpsing Mount Fuji. Only that it was the World Trade Center. The World Trade Center was an inseparable part of my and my family's life during my SoHo period from 1975-1995. This installation is my love poem to it. My method in constructing this piece was simply to pull out images of the WTC from my original footage, while including some of the surrounding scenes. The result I felt came close, albeit indirectly, to what in poetry is known as the Haiku."

Jonas Mekas was born in 1922 in Semeniskiai, Lithuania. In 1949 he emigrated to the U.S. together with his brother, settling in New York. He has been one of the leading figures of American avant-garde filmmaking playing various roles: in 1954 he founded Film Culture magazine; in 1958 began writing his "Movie Journal" column for the Village Voice; in 1962 co-founded the Film-Makers' Cooperative (FMC) and in 1964 the Film-makers' Cinematheque, which eventually grew into Anthology Film Archives. His own output varies from narrative films (*Guns of the Frees*, 1961) to documentaries (*The Brig*, 1963) and to "diaries" such as *Walden* (1969), *Lost, Lost, Lost* (1975) and *As I was Moving Ahead*, and *Occasionally I Saw Brief Glimpses of Beauty* (2001). Known as an artist, filmmaker, art critic, curator and icon of contemporary American Culture, Mekas documented the era that promoted peace through his acclaimed independent film and still frame photography, which features Yoko and John in *Happy Birthday to John* and *Bed-In*. His films have been screened extensively at festivals and museums around the world. In 2005 he represented Lithuania at the Venice Biennale, the exhibition was noted with Special Mention price for extraordinary presentation of contemporary classic art.

Through his accomplished career as a filmmaker, visual artist, writer and organizer, Jonas Mekas has received awards from New York State Council on the Arts, Rockefeller Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Golden Medal from Philadelphia College of Art, "For the devotion, passion and selfless dedication to the rediscovery of the newest art," Guggenheim Fellowship in 1966, Creative Arts Award in 1977, Brandeis University in 1989; Mel Novikoff Award at San Francisco Film Festival, 1992; Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres from Ministry of Culture, France in 1992 and 2000; Lithuanian National Award, 1995; Doctor of Fine Arts, Honoris Causa from Kansas City Art Institute in 1996; Special Tribute, New York Film Critics Circle Awards in 1996; Pier Paolo Pasolini Award, Paris in 1997; International Documentary Film Association Award, Los Angeles, 1997; Governors Award, Skohegan School of Painting and Sculpture, 1997; Artium Doctoris Honoris Causa, Universitatis Vytauti Magni, Lithuania in 1997. Most recently Mekas was honored with a lifetime-achievement Louve d'Honneur award by the Festival du Nouveau Cinema in Montreal, Quebec.

In 2011 Jonas Mekas was honored at the Los Angeles Film Critics Association's award ceremony for his significant contribution to American film culture and had a solo exhibition at Ludwig Museum in Cologne, Germany. Last December Mekas participated in an extensive presentation at Serpentine Gallery, London and the Centre Pompidou in Paris. Most recently exhibitions of his works opened at the Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg, Russia, at the Cinémathèque Royale, and the Bozar Center for Fine Arts, both in Brussels, Belgium. Some of the international press received recently is as follows:

Jonas Mekas in Berlin
The Filmmaker Jonas Mekas in Montreal
Debt and Jonas Mekas
Paradise in Hell: Jonas Mekas in Temple of Art
Jonas Mekas: A Life in Film
Jonas Mekas / The Fluxus Wall
Festival du Nouveau Cinema Kicks off with Style



Barbara Hammer, Richard Herszkowitz, Jonas Mekas, Deborah M. Colton, and Trish Rigdon at the Opening Party and First Screening of the Houston Cinema Arts Festival

Jonas Mekas is a featured artist and special guest of the 2013 Houston Cinema Arts Festival, which will present his film *SLEEPLESS NIGHTS STORIES* as part of the festival's "Cinema on the Verge" programming that highlights the most adventurous film and installation work by experimental media artists. *SLEEPLESS NIGHTS STORIES* debuted at the Berlin Film Festival in February 2011 and continues to enthrall audiences with Mekas's recording of the seemingly mundane happenings in his life. Some of the Cinema Arts Festival press is as follows:

Film Lovers Delight: Houston Cinema Arts Fest Cinema Arts Fest Opens with a "Roar"
Houston Cinema Arts Festival 2013
Opening on the Verge

Deborah Colton Gallery first debuted Jonas Mekas in Houston in the solo exhibition *Film Framed* at 2500 Summer Street in 2005. In 2007, Jonas Mekas was also included in the Group Exhibition at Deborah Colton Gallery, Chemical City. Since then Deborah Colton Gallery continues to represent Jonas Mekas, including a one-man solo exhibition at Paris Photo Los Angeles in April of 2013, and through projects via the Gallery's **OUTPOST NYC DCG**.

DAVID GRAEVE: RECENT AND FUTURE PUBLIC INSTALLATIONS AND EXHIBITED ARTWORKS IN HOUSTON, ASPEN AND DALLAS



Social Lens installed at Deborah Colton Gallery

To understand David Graeve's artwork it is imperative to understand his ideological approach as an artisan inventor attempting to comprehend the social complexities through a variety of research and mediums, including sculpture, installations, performance and direct action.

Graeve's breadth of expression was exhibited in full force in his solo exhibition, *Social Lens*, at Deborah Colton Gallery in May - June of this year and at the 2013 ArtAspen Art Fair this August, during which Graeve presented a public space installation of his dynamic balloon sculptures above the VIP lounge in conjunction with other works at the Deborah Colton Gallery booth



Deborah Colton Gallery booth at the 2013 ArtAspen Art Fair, featuring works by artist David Graeve



David Graeve, *Social memory #3, Conversation with Sophie, Target MAC drawing*, a public space installation at the McKinney Avenue Contemporary, Dallas, Texas

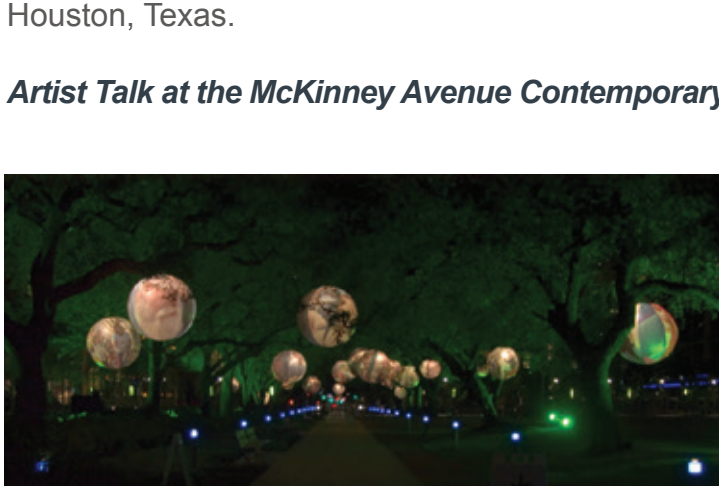
Opening in September, Graeve had another solo exhibition at the McKinney Avenue Contemporary (MAC) in Dallas, Texas titled *Social memory #3, Conversation with Sophie, Target MAC drawing*. The exhibition featured one large-scale, site-specific installation in the MAC's Square Gallery and several time-based, action art performances set within a 5 mile radius used to activate the community and gather source material to inform the narrative aspects of this piece.

On view from September 24 - October 26, 2013, *Social memory #3* included a two-part experience. In its first part, Graeve presented a time-based, action art performance set within a one mile radius of The MAC to gather source material for the *Social memory #3* installation. In its second part, documentation of the performance in the form of video and stills was projected through an installation of balloons ranging in scale from three to eight feet in diameter.

The balloons acted as a filter through which the projected images were mediated and further abstracted while physically enveloping the viewer. Other video source material included in the installation was derived from Graeve's collaboration with French artist Sophie Berard's movement and physical interaction interpretation of Duke Ellington's "Blues in Orbit." Interest in community activism throughout inspires Graeve's approach to artmaking. The performative aspect of the piece seeks to elucidate how individuals shape a collective community, in this case the Dallas community.

Often relating to environmental concerns, human rights initiatives and social activism, Graeve's large scale balloon installations have gained wide spread attention at venues across the country. Some notable sites include the Aspen Ideas Festival at the Aspen Institute, the grounds of the Dallas Art Fair in conjunction with the Deborah Colton Gallery Booth and Discovery Green Park in Houston, Texas.

Artist Talk at the McKinney Avenue Contemporary



David Graeve, public space balloon installation at Discovery Green Park, 2011

"Lens - Pluralism - Bubbles" at Discovery Green Park

On November 25th Graeve will open a solo exhibition at Discovery Green Park in Houston, Texas, titled *Lens - Pluralism - Bubbles*. This large-scale environmental installation consists of Graeve's latest painted photographic balloons which reveal several forms of light and timed movement. The installation will be in the live oak trees along the Brown Foundation Promenade and at the corner of La Branch and McKinney in downtown Houston. Graeve's photographic imagery is created with family photos taken in the actual location of the installation in the park, civil rights and other imagery derived from traveling and direct action and civil disobedience. The representation of humanity, human rights and social activism are at the root of Graeve's creative content while exploring more subtle meaning through invocation of material and concept.

David Graeve was born in St. Joseph, Minnesota. He grew up in a household of social activism - his father worked for the Democratic Party, and his mother was involved in first wave feminism. Graeve obtained his Bachelor of Fine Arts, in 1991 from the University of Minnesota. In 2011, Graeve obtained his Masters of Fine Arts, from the University of Houston. Graeve is the Co-Founder the Soap Factory in Minneapolis, where he worked in various functions including curatorial projects for ten years. Since then he has been involved in various art projects in Houston where he co-founded ISSE (International Society of Social Engineers) at the University of Houston and is an organizer and participating member of Culture Crawl Collective (CCC) a radical group of experimental artists exploring nonconventional forms of expression.

Graeve is a recipient of The City of Minneapolis Award of Merit Q Award, The Curators Award of Merit at Galveston Art Center, and the Davis-Ryan Award. David Graeve is represented by **Deborah Colton Gallery**.

www.deborahcoltongallery.com
phone: 713.869.5151 | fax: 713.869.9592
2445 North Boulevard Houston, Texas 77098