

MEDIA RELEASE

For more information contact:
Deborah M. Colton 713-869-5151
info@deborahcoltongallery.com

Jonas Mekas *Film Framed*

April 1st to April 30th, 2005

Opening Reception: Saturday, April 1st. 6:00 to 9:00 PM

Special Screening in Conjunction with Aurora Picture Show: April 3rd, 7:30 PM

Deborah Cotton Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of highly regarded filmmaker, poet and innovator, **Jonas Mekas**. This exhibition is curated by L. Brandon Krall, who has organized and curated numerous film and video oriented exhibitions with her initiative, Media Triangle. The Deborah Colton Gallery is the first to bring such an exhibition to Texas.

Jonas Mekas may be best known as the founder of the Anthology Film Archives in New York. To many he is also the inventor of the film diary' fomi, and historically he remains a champion of the ideals of the independent artist working in film. Mekas' subjects range from Dali performance events to his young family, from influential musical figures like John Lennon and Yoko Ono, to the 60's Warhol scene and Fluxus Art, to the Kennedy and Radziwel families summering in Montauk.

The Deborah Colton Gallery will show photographic enlargements, the frozen film frames, taken from 16mm master prints. This exhibition features three major forces at work in his oeuvre, arranged thematically including Mekas' portraits from art events and his personal life, textual and poetic references, and a projection and stills of *This Side of Paradise*.

Aurora Picture Show will present a selection of five films by Jonas Mekas. Aurora Picture is a 501(c)(3) non-profit cinema dedicated to film, video and new media. For more information, see www.aurorapictureshow.org.

Mekas' contribution to the nasence and blossoming of truly independent visions in filmmaking promoting idealism at its highest level is inestimable, from the founding of The Filmmakers Cooperative in 1962 to the founding of The Anthology Film Archives in 1973. Mekas' weekly Village Voice column, Movie Journal was and is a passionate call to all artists to make honest creative work. Mekas and his allies established freedoms that today we take for granted.

In mining the invention and philosophy of what cinema is, Mekas' work captures in his uniquely expressive and impressionist single frame technique, a vision of 60's and 70's cultural life. Mekas continues to be a prominent champion of abstraction in the cinematic arts. Mekas' work today uses the medium of 16mm film and video installation to portray a deeply felt poetry. Vlfith his brother, Mekas survived the invasion and occupation of their homeland by the Nazis, eventually being relocated to America by an intemational Displaced Persons organization. Astonishing that Mekas by nature a philosopher-theologian should arrive in New York City in the early 50's to establish independent cinema here and to support it throughout the world. Mekas carries fonnard the torch of idealism so necessary to every age.

Mekas has been the recipient of numerous intemational awards and honors, including grants from The Rockefeller Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Guggenheim Fellowship and the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettries, France, 1992 and 2000. Mekas' exhibitions in 2005 include representing Lithuania at the Venice Biennale, the Modema Museet, Stockholm, Rotterdam Film Festival, featured in the Biennale de Lyon, and the Biennale of St. Etienne.

Deborah Colton Gallery is founded on being an innovative showcase for ongoing presentation and promotion of strong historical and visionary contemporary artists world-wide, whose diverse practices include painting, works on paper, sculpture, video, photography and conceptual future media installations. The gallery aspires to provide a forum through connecting Texas, national and intemational artists to make positive change.