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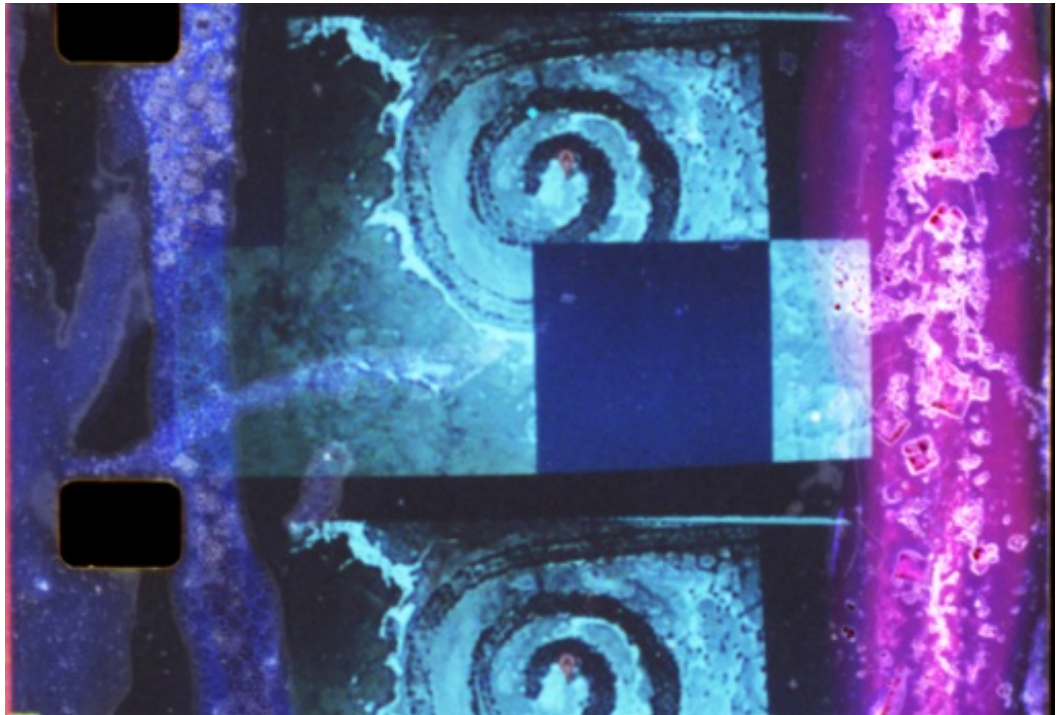
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JENNIFER WEST

Spirals, Salt and The Pill

6 September – 5 October 2013

Reception Friday 6 September 6:00 to 8:00 PM



"...eternal magnetic tape of a time that will have to reread itself constantly just to know it existed"

-Excerpt from the narration from Chris Marker's 1983, "Sans Soleil"

Marc Foxx Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of new works by Los Angeles based artist Jennifer West. *Spirals, Salt & The Pill*, West's fourth exhibition in the gallery includes four new films, photographs printed on photographic paper, clear film and fabric, and a wall mounted sculptural work.

In *Spirals, Salt & The Pill*, Jennifer West takes the themes of trace, time, location, image-memory, documentary, flashback and cast-off film from television and continues her experimentation into what happens when celluloid film surface is subjected directly to a wild array of processes, chemicals, materials, and events. West's 'direct' methods of manipulating film stock comes from a long legacy of experimental filmmaking (Man Ray, Len Lye, Tony Conrad, Stan Brakhage, among others) which she can reference within her practice.

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West departs from her influences by forefronting the performative and collaborative aspects of her practice, which connect her work to the legacies of Actionism. Her moving image works not only become evidence of, but also vividly evoke the happenings that took place.

Salt Crystals Spiral Jetty Dead Sea Five Year Film is a cameraless, 70mm abstract film which took the last five years to make - the film was first given a mud bath and floated in the Dead Sea with other artists in 2008, and was bathed again and completed in early 2013 with friends at Robert Smithson's "Spiral Jetty" in Great Salt Lake, Utah.

In *Spiral of Time Documentary Film*, 2013, the viewer is able to see all the artist's interests in concert. This "avant-garde documentary" takes West's *Salt Crystals...* film as its subject. Made in a studio setup, the documentary film tells its story by combining the abstract film with clear film overlaid texts, written and found by the artist and Chris Marker, along with still images and Googlemap videos filmed off of a computer screen. Live action of hands, rocks and film rolls are interspersed. The film was exposed twice using strobe lights, each exposure pertaining to the Dead Sea or to the Spiral Jetty. The film celluloid was then treated with materials related to the locations and travel such as brine shrimp and salt. The film is then subjected to a selection of West's signature materials from the last five years: hair dyes, juices and vinegar. The resulting footage was digitized and edited together to create a kaleidoscope of text, images, maps and crystallized colors.

Spirals, an organizing concept for the exhibition, are used in different ways in *Arrid Extra Dry 1965 TV Commercial Film*, 2013 and *Terrazzo Floor Spiral Film*, 2013. These works also present two ongoing interests of the artist: gender and social experimentation. The first is a 1965 Arrid Extra Dry television commercial on film that West bought from a street vendor in New York. The ad features a mid-60's female club singer performing and ending with the text "Helps Stop Wetness". The artist has subjected this cast off piece of 16mm film to an important historical material that was popularized in the same year; the birth control pill, as well as to colored writing inks and sweat.

Terrazzo Floor Spiral Film features double-exposed filmed images of the abstracted spiraling of film depicted in the mosaic tile floor of the film lab in North Hollywood that the artist works with. The film was taken to Mallorca, Spain where it was taped to tables during a film screening and visitors were invited to work directly on the filmstrips while conversing and drinking beer. They wrote on the film in Spanish, scratched it, melted candle wax, smeared it with lipstick, rubbed it with sobrasada, crumbled galletas and more.

The unconventional 'ingredients' she lists may not always be legible in her drenched and stained videos, but with the help of the paratextual signposts that she provides they operate as rich, almost pungent metonymic devices. West's insistence on identifying all contributing factors to her films in her titles means that her works become less about the heroism of individual gestures, more about the actions of social groupings.

The artist has produced a new Zine, "Spirals of Time" that will be given away at the exhibition.

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Jennifer West was born in Topanga, California, and lives and works in Los Angeles. Major solo exhibitions include High Line Art, New York, NY (2012); S1 Artspace, Sheffield, England (2012); Vilma Gold, London (2011/2008); Marc Foxx Gallery, Los Angeles (2011/2009/2007); Contemporary Art Museum, Houston (2010); Western Bridge, Seattle (2010); Kunstverein Nuremberg, Nuremberg, Germany (2010); Transmission Gallery, Glasgow (2008); and White Columns, New York (2007). Current museum group exhibitions include "Aquatopia" at Nottingham Contemporary, UK (traveling to Tate St Ives, 2014) and "La Fin de la Nuit" at Palais de Toyko, Paris. West has exhibited widely in museums and art institutions in the past, including Henry Moore Foundation, Leeds, UK and MOCA, Cleveland, OH (2013); deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, Lincoln, MA and Saatchi Gallery, London (2012); White Flag Projects, St. Louis; Contemporary Arts Forum, Santa Barbara; White Columns, New York; and the Rubbell Family Collection, Miami (2011); Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt, Leubsdorf Gallery, Hunter College, New York, and Seattle Art Museum (2010), Tate Modern and Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia (2009), Drawing Center, New York, Aspen Art Museum and Tel Aviv Museum of Art (2008), CAPC Musee d'Art Contemporain, Bordeaux, France, Contemporary Art Museum, Detroit, Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, ZKM Museum for New Media, Karlsruhe and Tate St. Ives (2007). Significant commissions and special projects include High Line Art, New York (2012), The Aspen Art Museum (2010) and for the Turbine hall at TATE Modern (2009) and she was Artist in Residence at the MIT List Visual Arts Center in 2011. Her work was recently acquired by the Kadist Foundation (San Francisco/Paris) and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Cleveland. She received a Master of Fine Arts from Art Center, Pasadena, California and a BA from the Evergreen State College. West was shortlisted for the 2012 3rd Annual Nam June Paik Center Award in Korea. West is an Asst. Professor of Fine Arts Practice at USC's Roski School of Fine Arts, Los Angeles.