

PEDER LUND

Doug Aitken: twilight

23 January – 12 March 2016

Peder Lund is pleased to announce an exhibition with the American artist Doug Aitken (1968-). For more than two decades, Aitken has produced work that transgresses boundaries, and exhibitions that break with traditional exhibition formats. The artist places his work in the context of modern civilisation and poses topical existential questions. Recurring themes such as how the individual perceives collectivity and displacement, and the modern relationship to nature and geography, are explored through a broad range of artistic approaches, often using advanced technology. His photographs, films, installations, sculptures, light boxes and performances have been widely exhibited across the world, and he also produces happenings and book publications. His innovative, site-specific art installations that combine architecture, sound and multichannel videos have been commissioned by prestigious institutions such as the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, DC.

Aitken explores modern technology's coexistence with nature, and how it both isolates and engages the individual. Light (its motion and the patterns it creates) is often used as a visual tool. The artist's first exhibition at Peder Lund features the sculpture *twilight* (2014), a cast public pay phone with a built-in motion-sensing LED system that reacts to the viewer's proximity to the sculpture. *Twilight* is an enthralling, interactive encounter with a relic of a bygone era, marked by the atmosphere the title suggests: crepuscule, and that something is coming to an end.

With each artwork, Aitken forms a complex space where the viewer becomes one with the experience, and time, space and memory become fluid concepts. He resists working with static images and experiences. The video installation *sleepwalkers* (2007) presented five city dwellers' nocturnal journeys through New York City on the way to their disparate destinations. The video was projected on six exterior walls of the Museum of Modern Art. The video installation *Song1* (2012) required precise synchronisation of 11 projectors to produce a flowing 360-degree video projection wrapped around the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden's circular building.

The ongoing project *Station to Station* explores Aitken's interest in motion and modern creativity. *Station to Station* first crossed North America by train from the Atlantic to the Pacific, over the course of 23 days in September 2013. The train covered in pulsating LED lights was reimagined as a living artwork. It became a dynamic cultural forum that brought together an international group of artists, musicians, writers and thinkers, including Ed Ruscha, William Eggleston, Sam Falls, and Patti Smith, to take part in ten live events in major cities and off-the-grid locations. In 2015, the project was extended to the Barbican Centre in London with *Station to Station: A 30 Day Happening*. Aitken took over the art centre with more than 100 free events, bringing together leading international and UK-based artists from the worlds of contemporary art, music, dance, graphic design and film.

Station to Station also includes the artist's first feature film, made up of 62 one-minute shorts that document the train ride. Among the people we meet is Ed Ruscha, reflecting on the modern landscape; Olafur Eliasson, creating art out of the train's movements with his Kinetic Drawing Machine; the musician Beck performing with a gospel choir in the Mojave Desert; and a hitchhiker encountered on a desert road. The film was recently part of Film Independent at LACMA and was premiered at Sundance Film Festival in 2015. The film will be screened at Cinemateket on the occasion of the exhibition at Peder Lund.

Doug Aitken was born in Rodondo Beach in California in 1968 and currently lives and works in Los Angeles. He has had numerous screenings, solo and group exhibitions, most recently a major survey exhibition at Schirn Kunsthalle Frankfurt (2015). Previous solo presentations include at Seattle Art Museum (2013); Tate Liverpool (2012); LUMA Foundation, Arles (2012); Museo d'Art Contemporanea di Roma (2009); Museum of Modern Art, New York (2007); Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (2005); and Serpentine Gallery, London (2001). He was awarded the prestigious Golden Lion at the Venice Biennale in 1999. His work is included in the permanent collections of numerous prestigious institutions worldwide, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg; Vienna Secession; Art Institute of Chicago; Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; and Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.

Station to Station will be screened at Cinemateket in Dronningens gate 16 on **23 January at 5 pm**. For tickets and more information, visit: www.cinemateket.no.