

## **DEE**

545 West 20th Street  
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## ***JEFF KEEN***

### ***Works from the 1960s + 1970s***

January 12 – February 11, 2012  
Opening Thursday, January 12, 6-8PM

Elizabeth Dee Gallery is pleased to announce the first solo exhibition at the gallery and United States debut of paintings and films by Jeff Keen [b. 1923, UK]. This important first exhibition in New York will explore in depth Keen's most influential and fundamental period of work, the 1960s and 1970s, during which he established a prolific visual practice extending to five decades of drawing, painting, experimental film, concrete poetry and performance.

Keen is primarily known as a legendary underground filmmaker whose work and activities coincided with the emergence of expanded cinema. He was one of the original participants in the 60s at the London Filmmakers Co-op. The BFI and later the British Arts Council supported and enabled Keen to make films and devise a multitude of drawings and paintings. During this period, Keen maintained jobs as a landscaper in the Parks and Recreation department of his hometown, Brighton, and sometimes as a postal worker delivering mail. The artist made movies primarily on weekends with his family and friends in an ensemble cast and his painting and drawing studio was for 40 years a repository of props and art that accumulated to extraordinary effect that has been fully documented.

Embracing the increasingly available technology of 8mm, 16mm and prevalence of American Pop imagery and Comics [and later Punk], Keen employed modes of popular media, technology and music in painting, drawing and collage using a stop frame animation process and in camera editing, resulting in active and evocative films. Utilizing a frequency of speed not found in work of the period, Keen, through the possibilities of the medium, brought new life to the significance of radical visual media.

Keen was able to merge Surrealist and Dadaist ideology with a social-political critique of American consumerism with the spontaneity of the Beat and 60s era. These works are avid responses to an overwhelming sense of increasingly proliferating media and commodification during the decade. He often explored his experiences surviving World War II in this material, focusing on monuments of power and the ever-present war within the artist as individual. This took the form of invented characters or corporations [i.e. Rayday Films] with brands, personas or protagonists in a fractured narrative style. Performative and reminiscent of Surrealism's influence on his formative period in the 1950s, Keen additionally drew from English Romanticism and his love of language to devise a novel method of working in a newly evolving medium.

Keen's work can be viewed today as prescient to modes of film and video that began to take cultural references into an exploration of our own larger social portraiture. His enthusiastic embrace of alternative modes of discourse in a pre-internet age is astoundingly fresh today, and the diversity of his practice calls to mind both painters, film and video artists who succeeded him, from such figures as Derek Jarman, Richard Hamilton and Linder, to American artists such as Jack Smith, Ryan Trecartin and Peter Saul.

Jeff Keen very rarely exhibited his drawings and paintings. He first showed *Rayday Film* [1968 - 1970] in the First International Underground Film Festival at the National Film Theatre in 1970. Upcoming 2012 exhibitions include a retrospective at the Brighton and Hove Museum, the National Portrait Gallery, London and Tate Modern, London.

In conjunction with the Jeff Keen exhibition, we are pleased to announce a special initiative for 2012, the first of an ongoing series of collaborations with galleries who share common philosophies and interests. Anke Kempkis of BROADWAY1602 will be our first collaborator to inaugurate the series with the related exhibition, *Façade is Cracking: Jeff Keen Drawings from the 1950s*. This exhibition will include film related assemblages and documentation along with rare works on paper at her gallery, located at 1181 Broadway [3rd Floor] in conjunction with the solo exhibition, Anna Molska *Glasshouses*. The exhibitions open on January 14 and extend to February 28, 2012 with an afternoon reception from 3 - 6 on Saturday, January 14. For more information, please contact BROADWAY1602 at [www.broadway1602.com](http://www.broadway1602.com) or +1.212.481.0362.

To refer to documentation of Jeff Keen and screening times of the film program, please visit our new website at [www.elizabethdee.com](http://www.elizabethdee.com).

Film Program Selections:

*Flick Flack* [1964 - 1965, 3 min]

*Cineblatz* [1967, 3 min]

*White Lite* [1968, 3 min]

*Marvo Movie* [1968, 5 min]

*Meatdaze* [1967, 5 min]

*Rayday Film* [1968 - 70 + 1976, 13 min]

*White Dust* [1972, 33 min]

*Mad Love* [1978, 42 min]

The gallery would like to extend special thanks to Stella Keen and James Mackay for making this exhibition possible and to Anke Kempkis for her dedicated collaboration on this project.

For more information: please contact the gallery at +1.212.924.7545

## Jeff Keen

Born 1923 in Trowbridge, England

### SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

- 1960 *Wail*, 5 minutes, Std. 8mm, B/W, silent  
1960 *Summer Summer Summer*, 8mm, B/W, silent  
1961 *Like the Time Is Now* aka *Time is Now*, 6 minutes, Std. 8mm, B/W, silent  
1961 *The Autumn Feast*, 14 minutes, Std. 8mm, color  
1962 *Breakout*, 11 minutes, B/W, silent, Std. 8mm  
1964 *Instant Cinema*, 2 minutes, Std. 8mm  
1964 *Flik Flak*, 3 minutes, colour, sound, Std. 8mm  
1964 *The Pink Auto*, 21 minutes, Std. 8mm, colour, sound, twin-screen 8mm  
1964-1965 *House of Secrets*, 15 minutes, Std. 8mm, color, silent  
1964-1965 *Missing Close-Ups*, 5 minutes, color, silent, Std. 8mm  
1965 *The Games & Diversions of Dr. Gaz*, 8 minutes, Std. 8mm, color, silent  
1966 *Mr. Soft Eliminator*, 8 minutes, Std. 8mm, color & B/W, silent  
1967 *Marvo Movie*, 5 minutes, 16mm, color  
1967 *White Lite*, 3 minutes, 16mm, B/W  
1967 *Cine Blatz*, 3 minutes, 16mm, color  
1968 *Meatdaze*, 8 minutes, 16mm, color  
1968 *Monstra*, 8 minutes, Std. 8mm, color, silent  
1968 *Mothman*, 30 minutes, Std. 8mm, color, silent  
1968-1969 *The Mutt 'n' Jeff Ice Cream Sundae*, 30 minutes, Std. 8mm, color, silent  
1969 *Day of the Arcane Light*, 14 minutes, Std. 8mm, color, sound  
1968-1970 + 1976, *Raydayfilm*, 13 minutes, 16mm, color, sound  
1970-1971 *Good Earth Film*, 33 minutes, Std. 8mm, color, silent  
1970-1972 *White Dust*, 35 minutes, 16mm, color  
1971-1972 *Stolen Moments*, 30 minutes, Std. 8mm, color, silent  
1972-1973 *The Lost World of Dr. Gaz*, 30 minutes, Std. 8mm, color, silent  
1974-1975 *Lone Star*, 30 minutes, Std. 8mm, color, silent  
1970s *Rosa Canina*, 26 minutes, Std 8mm, color & B/W, silent  
1975 *Picasso's Birthday*, (other details unknown), 16mm  
1975 *L'Amour Foo!*, (other details unknown)  
1975 *Sherbet Suckers*, (other details unknown)  
1975 *Teenage Zombie*, (other details unknown)  
1970-1975 *24 Films*, 18 minutes, 16mm, color & B/W, silent  
1975-1976 *Godzilla Last of the Creatures*, 30 minutes, Std. 8mm, color, silent  
1976-1978 *The Return of Dr. Gaz*, 30 minutes, Std. 8mm, color, silent  
1976 *Dr. Gaz Against the Art of the Cinema*, 3 minutes, 16mm, color  
1976 *Z-Film*, (other details unknown)  
1976 *From One Moment to the Next*, (other details unknown)  
1972-1978 *Mad Love*, 48 minutes, 16mm, color  
1976-1979 *The Cartoon Theatre of Dr. Gaz*, 12 ½ minutes, 16mm, color  
1982 *Dr. Gaz in Search of the Picturesque*, 5 minutes, Std. 8mm, color, silent  
Early 1980s *Return of Silver Head*, 21 minutes, super 8, color, sound  
1970-1984 *Gazwrx Std. 8*, 10 minutes, Std. 8mm, color & B/W, silent

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- 1979–1984 *Dreams of the Archduke*, 15 minutes, 16mm, color  
1986 *Gazwrx Super 8*, 10 minutes, super 8, color, silent  
1980s *Victory Thru Film Power*, 3 minutes, 16mm, color, sound  
1980s *Spontaneous Combustion*, 34 minutes, widescreen 8mm, color, silent  
1983–1986 *Blatzom*, 12 ½ minutes, 16mm, color & B/W  
1990–1991 *Omozap 1 & 2*, 2 minutes, 16mm, color & B/W  
1992–1993 *Artwar Super 8*, 12 minutes, super 8, color, silent  
1992–1993 *Artwar Fallout*, 10 minutes, super 8, color, silent  
1993 *Kino Pulveriso*, 1 minute, super 8, color silent  
1990s *Pulverized Cinema*, 10 minutes, super 8, color, silent  
1990s *Artwar Loops*, 2 minutes, super 8, color, silent  
1995 *Irresistible Attack*, 10 minutes, super 8, color, silent  
1999 *Kino Staccato*, 2 minutes, super 8, color, silent  
2000 *Joy Thru Film*, 20 minutes, super 8, color, silent

## SELECTED VIDEOGRAPHY

- 1989 *Transfigured Blatz*, 30 minutes  
1989 *Ray\_Day\_O*, 30 minutes  
1990 *B\_B\_B\_Bom + Lifestorm*, 5 minutes  
1990 *Graficoblatz*, 2 ½ minutes  
1990 *Grafico Blatz 2*, 12 minutes, video, color, silent  
1990s *Blazon Blatzom: El Pistolera Blatzo*, 14 minutes, video, color, sound  
1990s *Blazon Blatzom: Slides, Actions, Animations*, 25 minutes, video, color, silent  
1990s *Skizzen Blatzom*, color, video, (other details unknown)  
1990s *Blatzomatika*: video loop, color, sound  
1990s *Blatzak*, 60 minutes, video, color, silent  
1990s *Blatzom in Artwar*, 21 minutes, video, color, sound  
1990s *Plasticator*, 2 minutes, color, silent, video  
1991 *Omozap 3 + Plazmatic Blatz*, 10 minutes  
1991 *Auto Blatzo*, 8 minutes  
1993 *Artwar*, 6 minutes, video, color, sound  
1993 *Artwar\_The Last Frontier*, 20 minutes, video, color, sound  
1990s *Artwar in Arcady*, 8 minutes, video, color, sound  
1994 *Hamma Blatz Onata*  
1995 *Omozap in Artwar*, 10 minutes, video, color, sound  
1990s *Albino Ray*, video, 2 minutes, color, sound  
1990s *Grafico Blatz 2*, 5 minutes, color, sound  
1990s *Destination Blatz*, 18 minutes, video, color, sound  
2000 *Prisoner of Art*, 28 minutes, video, color  
2000 *Omozap Terribelis*, 10 minutes, video, color, silent  
2002 *Afterblatz 2*, 10 minutes, color, silent  
2002 *Afterblatz 3*, 180 minutes, video, color, silent  
2006 *Eyeblaze*, video pen

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## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND BOX SET

Keen, Jeff, *Prisoner of Art*, hand-made oversize art book and DVD hand-coloured and signed, edition of 200, contact [kinoblatz@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:kinoblatz@yahoo.co.uk)

*GAZWRX: The Films of Jeff Keen*, 4 disc, 9 hour, DVD and Blu-ray box set, compiled by William Fowler through the British Film Institute, 2009

*Rayday (Jeff Keen's Amazing Rayday Compendium)*, five printed posterworks, foreword by AL Rees and Visual Timeline by Ian Helliwell, 2009

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