

SPRÜTH MAGERS

Anthony McCall

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Sprüth Magers London february 22 - march 31 2018

Public reception: February 21, 6-8pm

Sprüth Magers presents a solo exhibition by British born, New York based, Anthony McCall, to coincide with a major survey of his work at The Hepworth Wakefield. On view in the lower galleries is the solid-light work *Meeting You Halfway II* (2009), as well as a selection of large-scale silver gelatin photographs from *Smoke Screen* (2017)—an entirely new series that marks a departure in the artist's practice.

Anthony McCall began his career in the UK making landscape performances and performative film and photographic works, before moving to New York in 1973. The same year, he initiated the solid light series with his seminal *Line Describing a Cone*, in which a volumetric form composed of projected light slowly evolves in three-dimensional space. He became associated with the London Filmmakers Cooperative in the 1970s and showed work there including the five hour solid-light installation *Long Film for Four Projectors*.

After a long hiatus, McCall returned to his solid light works in the early 2000s, and began a new series. He moved to digital animation which enabled him to animate more complex interactions, and he used haze machines to ensure the visibility of his projected forms. He began making vertical as well as horizontally oriented installations. These immersive, sensory installations could be said to occupy the liminal spaces between sculpture, cinema and drawing.

In the basement gallery, *Meeting You Halfway II* (2009) projects two identical partial ellipses, that expand and contract at different speeds, angles and proportions from each other. Occasionally the forms and mobile planes of light align perfectly, but only ever for a fraction of a second. Visitors are encouraged to actively manipulate the changing light constellation by physically passing through it, thereby navigating the shifting environment within the exhibition space. The dialogic nature of *Meeting You Halfway II* is characteristic of the immersive and participatory conditions that are so celebrated in McCall's oeuvre.

On view in the lower-ground space are five photographs from McCall's newest series, *Smoke Screen* (2017). These photographic studies are meditations on the "smoke" that has been central to

McCall's practice during the near-fifty years since he developed *Landscape for Fire* (1972-1974) and started the solid light series of the 1970s. Until now, this crucial component of the artist's practice has not been explored formally in isolation. *Smoke Screen* had its roots in *Swell* (2015), an installation that McCall made for the Nevada Art Museum. The forms within the photographic series, though close to one another, reveal the striking evolution of the smoke's drift, capturing its mesmerizing meteorological effect in two-dimensional form. Unlike many of McCall's earlier graphic series, *Smoke Screen* is non-sequential and each image is autonomous. Two further works from the series, as well as a number of solid light works, are on view in *Anthony McCall: Solid Light Works* at The Hepworth Wakefield, West Yorkshire, from 16th February to 3rd June 2018.

Anthony McCall (b. 1946, London) lives and works in New York city. He was awarded the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellow in 2008. Solo shows include Nevada Museum of Art, Reno (2016), Lac Museo Cantonale d'Arte, Lugano (2015), Sean Kelly Gallery, New York (2015), Eye Filmmuseum, Amsterdam (2014), Deichtorhallen Hamburg, Hamburg (2013), Les Abattoirs, Toulouse (2013), Kunstmuseum St. Gallen, St. Gallen (2013), Contemporary Art Museum, St. Louise, Missouri (2013), Galerie Martine Aboucaya, Paris (2013), Project Room, New York (2012), Galerie Thomas Zander, Cologne (2012), Tate Modern, London (2012), MMK Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt (2011). Group shows include Queensland Art Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane (2016), Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2016), Neon Foundation, Athens (2016), Mori Art Museum, Tokyo (2015), Museum of Contemporary Art, Sidney (2015), Centre Pompidou-Metz, Metz (2014), Hayward Gallery, London (2013), The Geffen Contemporary at MOCA, Los Angeles (2012), Museum of Modern Art, New York (2011), Whitechapel Gallery, London (2009).

For further information and press enquiries, contact Bo Bottomley (bb@spruethmagers.com).

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Opening hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10am – 6pm