

LISSON GALLERY

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## Press Release

### Tony Oursler in collaboration with Tony Conrad *TC: the most interesting man alive*

June 29 – August 10, 2018  
138 10th Avenue, New York  
Opening: June 28, 6 – 8pm

Lisson Gallery is pleased to present *TC: the most interesting man alive*, a work by Tony Oursler, in collaboration with Tony Conrad (1940 – 2016). The short feature incorporates a range of cinematic, graphic, narrative and autobiographical approaches to produce a new form of biopic about the late artist Tony Conrad. Conrad was a pioneering and influential experimental filmmaker, musician, composer, artist and educator. Oursler met Conrad in 1979 and performed in a number of Conrad's films. The two went on to become close friends and collaborators.

The work is a performative mixture of written, oral history and improvisation sequences, shot over a period of approximately six months in Oursler's studio in New York City. The film is structured around various notable points in the multimedia artist's life from childhood through his formative creative years. It begins with an introduction by Conrad, told over a soundtrack of his one of his avant-garde musical scores, in which he states "You know if you're talking about your own life, then you've got a lot of things you can draw on, you can fall back on all kinds of things you make, you remember. You can't really go wrong because according to what they say, all stories are autobiographical." Characters in Conrad's memory are performed by friends and fellow artists such as Paige Sarlin, Constance Dejong, Joe Gibbons, Marie Losier, Peggy Awash and Jennifer Walsh.

The dramatized reenactments and sound experiments portray a complicated and comic tribute to the artist's life. The film examines how memories can be reimagined and recombined to form new meaning, asking how exactly we become who we are. It begs an answer to the question — are we more than a collection of stories and experiences arranged in sequence and doomed to be lost in the passage in time of time? A version of this work first premiered at the Chrysler Museum of Art in Norfolk, Virginia in 2016. New footage was added for this exhibition.

Tony Conrad's career was recently the subject of a major exhibition at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in the artist's hometown of Buffalo, New York. 'Introducing Tony Conrad: A Retrospective' travels to MIT's List Visual Arts Center and the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts at Harvard University in October 2018, followed by the ICA Philadelphia in February 2019. The exhibition is the first large-scale museum survey devoted to the artist. Collaborative works with Tony Oursler are included, and Oursler contributed an essay to the accompanying catalogue. Tony Conrad is represented by Greene Naftali, New York and Galerie Buchholz, Berlin and Cologne.

## **About Tony Oursler**

Always rooted in the medium of film, Tony Oursler conjures sculptural and immersive experiences using technologies that hark back to magic lanterns, Victorian light shows, camera obscura and auratic parlour tricks, but that also look forward to the fully networked, digitally assisted future of image and identity production. As a pioneer of video art in early 1980s New York, Oursler specialized in hallucinogenic dramaturgy and radical formal experimentation, employing animation, montage and live action: “My early idea of what could be art for my generation was an exploded TV.” From performative and low-fi beginnings, Oursler has developed an ever-evolving multimedia and audio-visual practice utilising projections, video screens, sculptures and optical devices, which might take form as figurative puppets, ethereal talking automatons or immersive, cacophonous environments. His enduring fascination for the conjunctions between the diametrically opposed worlds of science and spiritualism have allowed him to explore all kinds of occult and mystical phenomena.

Tony Oursler lives and works in New York, NY, USA. Born in 1957, he graduated from the California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA, USA and collaborated on early works with artists such as Mike Kelley. His museum exhibitions include Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA (2017); Magasin III Museum & Foundation for Contemporary Art, Stockholm, Sweden (2016); Hessel Museum of Art, Bard College, Annandale-On-Hudson, NY, USA (2016); Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA (2016); LUMA Westbau, Zurich, Switzerland (2015); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2014); Oude Kerk, Amsterdam, The Netherlands (2014); Pinchuk Art Centre, Kiev, Ukraine (2013); ARoS Aarhus Kunstmuseum, Denmark (2012); Helsinki City Art Museum, Finland; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA (2005); Kunsthau Bregenz, Austria (2001); Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, USA (2000) and Kunstverein Hannover, Germany (1998). In addition to participating in prestigious group exhibitions such as documenta VIII and IX, Kassel, Germany (1987 and 1992), Oursler’s work is included in many public collections worldwide, including the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC, USA; Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, France; Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA; National Museum of Osaka, Japan; Tate Collection, London, UK; Van Abbemuseum, Eindhoven, The Netherlands and ZMK/Center for Art & Media, Karlsruhe, Germany. The Public Art Fund will debut a new, site-specific project by Oursler on the Hudson River in October 2018.

## **About Lisson Gallery**

Lisson Gallery is one of the most influential and longest-running international contemporary art galleries in the world. Today the gallery supports and develops 59 international artists across two exhibition spaces in London and two in New York. Established in 1967 by Nicholas Logsdail, Lisson Gallery pioneered the early careers of important Minimal and Conceptual artists, such as Art & Language, Carl Andre, Daniel Buren, Donald Judd, Sol LeWitt, Richard Long and Robert Ryman among many others. In its second decade the gallery introduced significant British sculptors, including Tony Cragg, Richard Deacon, Anish Kapoor, Shirazeh Houshiary and Julian Opie, to the public for the first time. In addition to a number of renowned artist estates, including Roy Colmer, the Leon Polk Smith Foundation and the John Latham Foundation, the gallery represents leading international artists such as Marina Abramović, Ai Weiwei, John Akomfrah, Susan Hiller and Tatsuo Miyajima. It is also responsible for raising the international profile of a younger generation of artists led by Cory Arcangel, Nathalie Djurberg & Hans Berg, Ryan Gander, Haroon Mirza, Laure Prouvost, Pedro Reyes and Wael Shawky.

## **For press enquiries, please contact**

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