

WHITNEY

Whitney Museum
of American Art
Press Office

945 Madison Avenue
at 75th Street
New York City, NY 10021

pressoffice@whitney.org
(212) 570-3633

PRESS RELEASE



The Whitney to Present Immersive Panoramic Video Installation by T.J. Wilcox

New York, NY, June 28 2013, This fall, the Whitney Museum of American Art presents *In the Air*, a full floor exhibition centering on a major new work by the New York-based artist T. J. Wilcox. Organized by Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz Curator Chrissie Iles and opening September 19, 2013, the exhibition features a panoramic video installation inspired by views of New York City seen from the artist's studio, high above Union Square. Six video projections show a continuous image of the city from dawn to dusk, in the round. One by one, each projector cuts away from its role in producing the complete panorama and begins to present a short poetic narrative film inspired by a view from the studio's window, weaving together images that evoke memory, transience, the passing of time, and the changing city. The exhibition will occupy the Museum's second floor Mildred and Herbert Lee Galleries through February 9, 2014.

Wilcox's work is characterized by a fascination with the way in which history is always under construction. His historical narratives collage historical fact, with fiction, myth, and fantasy. In this exhibition, the artist revisits the 'cinema in-the-round' format of the popular panoramic projection presentations that appeared at the dawn of film history, updating the concept with state-of-the-art technology.

Museum visitors entering the gallery will encounter a huge glowing circular screen, eight feet tall and thirty-five feet in diameter. Approaching the panoramic projection, patrons will be able to bend down and enter into a three-hundred-and-sixty-degree view of New York City, seen from Wilcox's rooftop studio. Shown on six individual projectors, the images are woven together digitally to create a seamless view of the city in the round.

As each short film appears one by one, a narrative exploring a view from Wilcox's studio window unfolds. In one, Wilcox creates a stop motion animation using archival footage of the Empire State Building, imagining the architect's original plan to use the mast of the building as a mooring and entry point for transatlantic Zeppelin passengers. Though this modernist dream never came to pass, Wilcox's filmic collage reimagines the scenario, paying tribute to the New York City of forward-thinking dreamers. Interweaving our collective memory of one of the most iconic buildings in the world with its fantastic, unrealized past, Wilcox's own daily view of it and his fantasy of what might have been, the film explores the overlap between historical, utopian, and personal narratives.

As Wilcox has said, "I like my film and video work to appear as the visible record of my own journey through our saturated mediated age, highlighting those things that have held my attention and captured my imagination. Just as our perception of a present is a hybrid of personal memory, historical record, family lore, political, social, national, and artistic histories and mythologies, film and video provide the page upon which I make a collage of the ideas I hold most dear."

The remaining five narratives explore each view from Wilcox's studio, elaborating on uniquely New York stories. The films include a recreation of Andy Warhol's launch of enormous silver mylar balloons to mark the procession of the Pope past Warhol's Factory studio; an homage to Gloria Vanderbilt, whose life was, in Wilcox's words, 'mediated by the camera lens'; a tribute to the 1980s illustrator Antonio, whose work inspired Wilcox long before he moved to New York; and an interview with the superintendent of Wilcox's studio building, focusing on his firsthand account of the events of the morning of September 11, 2001. The final film depicts the 'Manhattanhenge' phenomenon, when, twice per summer, the sun sets precisely through the canyon-like walls of the city's East-West axis.

The exhibition also features a group of related pieces selected by Wilcox from the Museum's permanent collection, including works by Morgan Fisher, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Joseph Cornell and Yoko Ono, as well as a daily screening of a group of films from the collection devoted to ways in which filmmakers and artists have viewed the cityscape of New York, in the second floor Kaufman Astoria Studios Film & Video Gallery.

About the Artist

T.J. Wilcox, born 1965 in Seattle, Washington, graduated from New York's School of Visual Arts (BFA) and the Art Center College of Design (MFA) in Pasadena, California. Wilcox has had numerous one-person shows, including exhibitions at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, the Galleria Rafella Cortese in Milan and Hiromi Toshii in Tokyo, as well as having been included in group shows at the Haus der Kunst in Munich and The Museum Ludwig in Cologne, amongst others. *In the Air* marks Wilcox's third showing at the Whitney, after earlier inclusions in the 2004 and 1997 Biennials. The artist currently resides in New York City.

Exhibition Catalogue Support

A catalogue published by Hantje Cantz will accompany this exhibition, with a text by Chrissie Iles.

Exhibition Support

T.J. Wilcox: In the Air is sponsored by

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About the Whitney

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the world's leading museum of twentieth-century and contemporary art of the United States. Focusing particularly on works by living artists, the Whitney is celebrated for presenting important exhibitions and for its renowned collection, which comprises over 19,000 works by more than 2,900 artists. With a history of exhibiting the most promising and influential artists and provoking intense debate, the Whitney Biennial, the Museum's signature exhibition, has become the most important survey of the state of contemporary art in the United States. In addition to its landmark exhibitions, the Museum is known internationally for events and educational programs of exceptional significance and as a center for research, scholarship, and conservation.

Founded by sculptor and arts patron Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney in 1930, the Whitney was first housed on West 8th Street in Greenwich Village. The Museum relocated in 1954 to West 54th Street and, in 1966, inaugurated its present home, designed by Marcel Breuer, at 945 Madison Avenue on the Upper East Side. While its vibrant program of exhibitions and events continues uptown, the Whitney is moving forward with a new building project, designed by Renzo Piano, in downtown Manhattan. Located at the corner of Gansevoort and Washington Streets in the Meatpacking District, at the southern entrance to the High Line, the new building, which has generated immense momentum and support, will enable the Whitney to vastly increase the size and scope of its exhibition and programming space. Ground was broken on the new building in May 2011, and it is projected to open to the public in 2015.

Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art

I, YOU, WE	Through September 1, 2013
Stewart Uoo and Jana Euler	Through August 2013
David Hockney: The Jugglers	Through September 1, 2013
Hopper Drawing	Through October 6, 2013
Robert Irwin: Scrim Veil—Black Rectangle—Natural Light (1977)	June 27-Sept 1 2013
T.J. Wilcox: In the Air	Sept 19 2013-Feb 9 2014
Robert Indiana: Beyond Love	Sept 26 2013-Jan 2014
Rituals of Rented Island: Object Theater, Loft Performance, and the New Psychodrama—Manhattan, 1970–1982	Oct 31 2013-Jan 2014

The Whitney Museum is located at 945 Madison Avenue at 75th Street, New York City. Museum hours are: Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., closed Monday and Tuesday. General admission: \$20. Full-time students and visitors ages 19–25 and 62 & over: \$16. Visitors 18 & under and Whitney members: FREE. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 6–9 p.m. For general information, please call (212) 570-3600 or visit whitney.org.

Image credit:

T. J. Wilcox (b. 1965), still from *In the Air*, 2013. Six-channel panoramic video installation, black-and-white and color, silent. Collection of the artist; courtesy Metro Pictures. Image courtesy the artist