

MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LEWIS KLAHR'S RECENT COLLAGE FILMS TO BE SHOWN IN WEEKEND SHOWCASE AT MOVING IMAGE

**Klahr to attend all screenings, which include feature film *The Pettifogger*
and world premiere of the completed *False Aging Trilogy***

March 9–10, 2013

Astoria, NY, February 26, 2013—The dreamlike and iconoclastic work of Lewis Klahr, the prolific stop-motion filmmaker who has been making collage films for more than two decades, will be presented in a weekend showcase at Museum of the Moving Image on March 9 and 10, 2013. Organized by Chief Curator David Schwartz, this survey of Klahr's recent work includes the world premiere of the complete *False Aging Trilogy*, a series about male coming of age from the early 1960s to the 1990s; *The Pettifogger* (2011), Klahr's recently completed feature-length film; as well as additional new shorts. Klahr will be present for all screenings.

As part of the showcase, the Museum will present a screening of Otto Preminger's 1945 noir classic, *Fallen Angel*, a film which served as one of the inspirations for *The Pettifogger*. Both films screen on Saturday, March 9.

"At once occupying the disparate realms of melodrama, film noir, and experimental cinema, the films of Lewis Klahr never quite claim citizenship in any particular genre or style; instead, they act collectively as a passport into the subconscious landscape of the American post-war reality," said Schwartz. "Klahr's films are a swan song to the American promise unfulfilled."

Lewis Klahr's films are drawn from the ephemera and detritus of mid-twentieth-century popular culture, including comic books, advertisements, magazine illustrations, and newspapers. They are at once rooted in the shared collective consciousness of popular culture and the private subconscious terrain of personal desires and emotions. As boldly atmospheric and deeply colorful as a 1950s Hollywood melodrama, Klahr's recent work was made and presented digitally.

Klahr's films have screened extensively in the United States and Europe. His work is in the permanent collection of The Museum of Modern Art, has been included in the Biennial Exhibition of the Whitney Museum of American Art (1991, 1995, 2006), and

been featured in the New York Film Festival's Views from the Avant-Garde (2004). His epic cutout animation *The Pharaoh's Belt* received a special citation for experimental work from the National Society of Film Critics in 1994. A New York artist transplanted to Los Angeles, Klahr teaches film at Cal Arts.

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[For screeners and images, and interview requests for Lewis Klahr, please contact Tomoko.]

SCHEDULE FOR 'LEWIS KLAHR: RECENT WORKS,' MARCH 9–10, 2013

All screenings take place at Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35 Avenue in Astoria. Screenings are included with Museum admission and free for Museum members unless otherwise noted.

Lewis Klahr in person at all screenings

The Pettifogger and Rain Couplets

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 3:00 P.M.

Dir. Lewis Klahr. 2011. 65 mins. Preceded by ***Rain Couplets (Kiss the Rain, The Street of Everlasting Love)*** 15 mins. *The Pettifogger*, Lewis Klahr's first feature-length work, reinvents a familiar genre. Ostensibly a thriller about an American gambler and con-man, circa 1963, it is described by Klahr as "an abstract crime film and, like many other crime films involving larceny, a sensorial exploration of the virulence of unfettered capitalism." Characters lifted from comic books move through an impressionistic landscape of textures, photographs, and drawings; Klahr recycles symbols of popular culture to address themes of the loss of innocence and the irresistible allure of wealth. In the emotionally intense new series, *Rain Couplets*, Klahr deals with themes of love...and loss.

Fallen Angel

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 5:30 P.M.

Dir. Otto Preminger, 1945, 98 mins. **35mm archival studio print from 20th Century Fox.** With Alice Faye, Dana Andrews, Linda Darnell. In Otto Preminger's dreamy *film noir*, Dana Andrews is an advance man for a traveling spiritualist who falls for a sexy waitress in a small California town. He hatches a scheme to marry a spinster, take her money, and split with the waitress, but things don't work out as planned. Preminger's choreographed long-take camera movements capture the story's deep emotional undercurrents.

WORLD PREMIERE

The False Aging Trilogy and Prolix Satori series

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 3:00 p.m.

Dir. Lewis Klahr. Total running time: 125 minutes. *The False Aging Trilogy* includes *April Snow* (2010, 10 mins.), ***False Aging*** (2008, 15 mins.) and ***Album*** (2013, 33 mins.). *April Snow* is a couplet juxtaposing two pop songs. In *False Aging*, Klahr covers decades of longing and regret in a haunting collage, with a Jefferson Airplane sound asking "Is it true I'm no longer young?" Of

his brand new work, *Album*, Klahr writes: "Bar Mitzvahs. Military training. Rock'n'roll. First person, third person. Family photos kept, family photos discarded. A collage of male coming of age stories that sketches ways America changed from the early 60's to the 1990s."

Preceded by

Films from the *Prolix Satori* series (2009-2010): ***A Thousand Julys*** (7 mins) features Astrud Gilberto's "Gentle Rain" played forwards and backwards, while comic book images are seen from both sides of a lightbox. ***Nimbus Smile*** (9 mins.), ***Nimbus Seeds*** (9 mins.), and ***Cumulonimbus*** (9 mins.) comprise a trilogy of films about romantic triangles. ***Sugar Slim Says*** (7 mins.) is a collaboration with the musician Mark Anthony Thompson, aka Chocolate Genius. ***Wednesday Morning Two A.M.*** (7 mins.) is a tale of lost love set to songs by the Shangri-Las. ***Lethe*** (23 mins.), a scientist devised a way to win the love of a young woman, in one of Klahr's longest films.

MUSEUM INFO

Hours: Wednesday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Friday, 10:30 to 8:00 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Closed Monday and Tuesday except for select holiday openings and special programs.

Film Screenings: Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays, and as scheduled. Unless otherwise noted, screenings are included with Museum admission.

Museum Admission: \$12.00 for adults (18+); \$9.00 for senior citizens and for students (13+) with ID; \$6.00 for children ages 3-12. Children under 3 and Museum members are admitted free. Admission to the galleries is free on Fridays, 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tickets for special screenings and events may be purchased in advance by phone at 718 777 6800 or online.

Location: 36-01 35 Avenue (at 37 Street) in Astoria.

Subway: M (weekdays only) or R to Steinway Street. Q (weekdays only) or N to 36 Avenue.

Program Information: Telephone: 718 777 6888; Website: movingimage.us

Membership: 718 777 6877, members@movingimage.us

The Museum is housed in a building owned by the City of New York and its operations are made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the New York City Economic Development Corporation, the New York State Council on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and the Natural Heritage Trust (administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation). The Museum also receives generous support from numerous corporations, foundations, and individuals. For more information, please visit movingimage.us.

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