

PRESS RELEASE



UNIVERSITY OF
WESTMINSTER

A Nos Amours

CHANTAL AKERMAN **NOW**

30 October — 6 December 2015

Ambika P3, University of Westminster, London

Private View: 6.30–8.30 Thursday 29 October 2015

Ambika P3, A Nos Amours and Marian Goodman Gallery are delighted to present a major exhibition of work by the internationally celebrated filmmaker and artist, **Chantal Akerman**, in the extraordinary underground space of Ambika P3 London, from **30 October–6 December 2015**. Entitled **NOW**, this will be the first large scale exhibition in the English-speaking world of Akerman's installation work and will coincide with the UK premiere of her new film, **No Home Movie** (2015), on **Friday 30 October** at Regent Street Cinema, London. None of the works in the exhibition has been previously exhibited in the UK.

'Comparable in force and originality to Godard or Fassbinder, Chantal Akerman is arguably the most important European director of her generation' J. Hoberman

Chantal Akerman (b. 1950 Belgium, now Paris based) is one of the most unpredictable, farsighted, indefinable, rigorous and playful film artists of her generation. While showing the troublesome complexity of human existence, Akerman's works are filled with beautiful imagery, music, magic of chance, yearning and hope, yet she also investigates hot-button themes such as racism in the American South, illegal immigration, and terrorism in the Middle East.

There will be seven works at Ambika P3: the centrepiece will be *NOW* (2015), a powerful 8 channel video installation with surround sound originally commissioned for the Venice Biennale 2015. For this work, Akerman collected images from desert regions, specifically violently contested regions in the Middle East, her aim to present the current condition of violence and conflict as lived experience. The stillness of much of her work, often concerned with interiority, domestic spaces, and forgotten and erased histories, is here replaced by the clamour of war and amplified noise. Sebastian Smee of the *Boston Globe* commented - *NOW 'conjures from very little a state of life-threatening emergency...and as in many of Akerman's films, it's what we don't see and can't know that makes the experience so credible, so strong.'*

Other works in the exhibition span from 1995 and investigate a variety of emotive themes such as issues around the border of Mexico and America (*A Voice in the Desert*, 2002), the atom bomb and Hiroshima (*Maniac Summer* 2009), woman reclaiming images of herself (*In The Mirror*), the dichotomous relationship between presence and absence (*Maniac Shadows* 2013), the Eastern bloc countries before the fall of Communism (*D'Est* 1995) and the sublime (*Tombée de nuit sur Shanghai* 2007).

Chantal Akerman was one of the first to move from independent film-making to embrace the gallery space in the mid 1990's. Her work pursues her obsession with borders and tensions between documentary and fiction, between her mother and herself, between chaos and control, art and history. Akerman has exhibited widely throughout the world. Her 3.5 hour film *Jeanne Dielman, 23 Quai de Commerce, 1080 Bruxelles* (1975) has been frequently cited as one of the greatest films of all time.

Chantal Akerman: *NOW* is jointly curated by Ambika P3 (Michael Mazière) and A Nos Amours (Joanna Hogg and Adam Roberts) and presented in association with Marian Goodman Gallery. It is supported by a grant from Arts Council England.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Chantal Akerman

Chantal Akerman, born June 6, 1950, is a Brussels-born and now Paris-based filmmaker, writer, actor, producer and composer, and one of the most important European directors of her generation. Akerman has made more than 40 works – from 35mm features to video essays to experimental documentaries, including *Jeanne Dielman, 23 Quai du Commerce, 1080 Bruxelles*; *News from Home*; *Les Rendez-vous d'Anna*; *Je, tu, il, elle*. She is represented by Marian Goodman Gallery.

In 1995 Akerman began experimenting with video installations and exhibiting her work in museums and galleries as well as in art-house theaters. Important solo exhibitions of Akerman's work have been held at the Museum for Contemporary Art, Antwerp, Belgium (2012), MIT, Cambridge Massachusetts (2008), the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Israel (2006); Princeton University Art Museum, Princeton, NJ (2006); and the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris (2003). Akerman has participated in Documenta XI (2002) and the Venice Biennale (2001). In 2011 a film retrospective of Akerman's work was shown at the Vienna Film Festival.

Solo shows include: Galerie Marian Goodman (Paris) Marian Goodman Gallery (New York), Blaffer Gallery (Houston, Texas), List Visual Arts Center at MIT (Cambridge, Mass.), Miami Arts Museum, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, Camden Arts Centre (London), Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Princeton Art Museum, Museo de Arte Latino Americano de Buenos Aires, École supérieure des Beaux-Arts de Toulouse, *Kunstverein Munich*, *Centre Georges Pompidou*, Frith Street Gallery (London), *Galerie Nationale du Jeu de Paume* (Paris), Walker Art Center (Minneapolis), San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, *Palais des Beaux-Arts de Bruxelles*, Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, IVAM Centre del Carme (Valencia), The Jewish Museum (New York), Kunstenfestivaldesarts, (Brussels), and The Kitchen, (New York).

Group shows include: Venice Biennale 2001 and 2015; Documenta XI, Kassel 2002; Paço das Artes (USP), São Paulo; Biennale Rotterdam, Rotterdam 2003; Castello di Rivoli Museo d'Art Contemporanea, Rivoli-Turin; Lisbon Photo 2005; The Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; The Museo de Arte Contemporaneo de Monterrey (MARCO), Mexico 2006; Jewish Museum, Berlin; MARCO, Museo de Art Contemporanea de Vigo, Spain; Goetz Collection, Centre for Contemporary Art, Ujazdowski Castle, Varsovie, Poland 2007; Hessel Museum of Art, Annandale-on Hudson, New York 2008.

EVENTS:

No Home Movie (2015), 115 minutes – UK première

Presented by Chantal Akerman

Friday 30 October 2015, 7.30pm

Regent Street Cinema

Tickets at www.regentstreetcinema.com, booking essential

"This film is above all about my mother, my mother who is no longer with us. About this woman who arrived in Belgium in 1938, fleeing Poland, the pogroms and the violence. This woman who is only ever seen inside her apartment. An apartment in Brussels. A film about a world in motion that my mother does not see." Chantal Akerman, 2015

Chantal Akerman – Masterclass

Friday 30 October 2015, 2:00pm – 5:00pm

Regent Street Cinema

Tickets via www.anosamours.co.uk, booking essential

Interviewed by Marion Schmid, Professor of French Literature and Film, University of Edinburgh whose books include *Chantal Akerman*, published by Manchester University Press, 2010.

Events organised by A Nos Amours and CREAM (The Centre for Research and Education in Arts and Media, University of Westminster).

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About Ambika P3:

Director: Professor Katharine Heron, Curator: Michael Mazière

Ambika P3 is the University of Westminster's space for contemporary art and architecture, presenting a public programme of solo and group exhibitions, education projects, talks and events. Dedicated to innovation, experimentation and learning, the programme has been conceived as a laboratory and meeting place for practitioners, industry and academia.

Recent exhibitions at Ambika P3 include Anthony McCall's *Vertical Works* (2011), David Hall's *End Piece...* (2012), Ilya and Emilia Kabakov's *The Happiest Man* (2013), Victor Burgin's *A Sense of Place* (2013), Elizabeth Ogilvie's *Out of Ice* (2014) and *Potential Architecture* with Apolonija Šušteršič, Alexander Brodsky, Joar Nango and Sean Griffiths (2015).

About A Nos Amours:

A Nos Amours founded by Joanna Hogg and Adam Roberts is a curatorial artist-led initiative, launched in 2011 to promote and explore film and the condition of film and spectatorship, at a critical time of change for audiences and the screening and experience of moving images. Hogg is a renowned film director and screenwriter who has won numerous awards for her feature films including *Archipelago* (2011) and *Exhibition* (2014). Roberts has made a distinctive body of film work, in particular with dancers and choreographers such as Sylvie Guillem and Jonathan Burrows and been supported by BFI, National Lottery and UK Film Council.

About Marian Goodman Gallery:

For thirty years, the Marian Goodman Gallery has played an important role in introducing European artists to American audiences and helping to establish a vital dialogue among artists and institutions working internationally, and expanded to include exhibition spaces in Paris and London. 'Goodman may be the most respected contemporary dealer in New York, for her taste, standards, and loyalty to her artists.' New Yorker, 'One of the most powerful and influential dealers of the 20th century' Michael Govan, director of Dia Art Foundation. Represents amongst others Gerhard Richter, Jeff Wall, Thomas Struth, John Baldessari, Steve McQueen and Gabriel Orozco.

Visitor Information

CHANTAL AKERMAN NOW
30 October — 6 December 2015

ADMISSION FREE

Ambika P3

Address: 35 Marylebone Road, NW1 5LS
Opening hours: Tues–Fri, 11am–7pm, Sat–Sun, 12pm–6pm
Nearest Tube: Baker Street
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7911 5876
Email: p3.exhibitions@wmin.ac.uk
Website: www.p3exhibitions.com



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