

MILLS

MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

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MCAM ANNOUNCES 2013 SUMMER EXHIBITION

West of Center: Art and the Counterculture Experiment in America, 1965-1977



OAKLAND, May 14, 2013 – The Mills College Art Museum (MCAM) is proud to present *West of Center: Art and the Counterculture Experiment in America, 1965-1977*, opening June 12, 2013.

In the heady and hallucinogenic days of the 1960s and '70s, a diverse range of artists and creative individuals based in the American West—from the Pacific coast to the Rocky Mountains and the Southwest—broke the barriers between art and lifestyle and embraced the new, hybrid sensibilities of the countercultural movement. *West of Center* illuminates the unique works of these individuals through videos, photographs, drawings, ephemera, and other original and re-created objects and environments.

The countercultural movement has typically been associated with psychedelic art, but *West of Center* presents psychedelia as only one dimension of the larger, artistically oriented, socially

based phenomenon. The wider integration of art practices, political action and collaborative life activities is foundational for so much contemporary art and culture.

West of Center, organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art in Denver, brings together a range of projects by groups and individuals including the Ant Farm Collective, San Francisco's extravagant theater groups the Cockettes and the Angels of Light, former Black Panther Emory Douglas, Drop City commune in southern Colorado, modern dancer Anna Halprin, light show producers Single Wing Turquoise Bird, and the Womyn's Lands of Southern Oregon.

The exhibition will also feature a re-creation of the legendary *Ultimate Painting* (1966), a spinning circular canvas made for Drop City's Theatre Dome. Lost after its exhibition in Experiments in Art and Technology at the Brooklyn Museum in 1969, this work has been recreated in 2011 by Clark Richert, one of its original makers.

West of Center is co-curated by Elissa Auther, Associate Professor of Contemporary Art at the University of Colorado, and Adam Lerner, Director and Chief Animator of the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver.

West of Center: Art and the Counterculture Experiment in America, 1965-1977 is organized by the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver.

This exhibition is supported, in part, with funds provided by the Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF) and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Image: Richard Kallerit, *Ultimate Painting* (detail), 1966.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

(Visit <http://mcam.mills.edu> for full details.)

Opening Reception

Wednesday, June 12, 2013

6:00-8:00 pm, Mills College Art Museum

Free shuttle service provided from MacArthur Bart station. Shuttles depart for MCAM on the half hour at 5:30pm, 6:30pm and 7:30pm.

Join MCAM and the exhibiting artists for the opening reception of *West of Center* and *Cockette Chaos! A Total Extravaganza*, a special performance and fashion show produced by Cockettes Fayette Hauser and Rumi Missabu. Refreshments provided.

West of Center Screening: The Cockettes

PALACE (1971) Directed by Syd Dutton and Scott Runyon, 23 min

ELEVATOR GIRLS IN BONDAGE (1972) Directed by Michal Kalmen, 57 min

Wednesday, June 26, 2013

7:00 pm, Danforth Lecture Hall, Mills College

Screening followed by a Q&A with original Cockettes, Fayette Hauser and Rumi Missabu.

West of Center Screening: Drop City

DROP CITY (2012) Directed by Joan Grossman, 82 min

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

7:00 pm, Danforth Lecture Hall, Mills College

West of Center Screening: Ant Farm

Space, Land and Time: Underground Adventures with ANT FARM (2011) Directed by Elizabeth Federici and Laura Harrison

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

7:00 pm, Danforth Lecture Hall, Mills College

Screening followed by a Q&A with original Ant Farm members, Chip Lord and Curtis Schreier.

West of Center Closing Reception

Wednesday, August 28, 2013

6:00-8:00 pm, Mills College Art Museum

West of Center Screening: Anna Halprin

BREATH MADE VISIBLE (2009) Director Ruedi Gerber, 82 min

Friday, August 30, 2013

7:00 pm, Danforth Lecture Hall, Mills College

Followed by a Q&A with Anna Halprin

Body Dances with Anna Halprin

Saturday, August 31, 2013

2:00-4:00 pm, Rothwell Center, Mills College

\$10 (Free for Mills College students, faculty and staff)

Anna Halprin's unique approach to dance highlights the feedback process between feelings, images, and sensations that naturally take place in a movement experience. Instead of teaching a particular dance technique, Halprin teaches and encourages students to find their unique style in movement and dance.

ABOUT THE MILLS COLLEGE ART MUSEUM

Founded in 1925, The Mills College Art Museum is a forum for exploring art and ideas and a laboratory for contemporary art practices. Through innovative exhibitions, programs, and collections, the museum engages and inspires the intellectual and creative life of the Mills community as well as the diverse audiences of the Bay Area and beyond. The Mills College Art Museum is located at 5000 MacArthur Boulevard, Oakland, CA 94613. Museum hours are Tuesday-Sunday, 11:00–4:00 pm and Wednesday, 11:00–7:30 pm. Admission is free for all exhibitions and programs unless noted. For more information, visit mcam.mills.edu

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