Anthony McCall: You and I, Horizontal (II)

Curatorial Tour
Saturday, November 16, 11:00 am
Associate Curator Kelly Shindler provides an in-depth perspective on the current exhibitions.

Film Workshop with Olivia Block, Sandra Gibson and Luis Recoder
Saturday, November 16, 1:00 pm
More info at camstl.org/nmc workshop
New Music Circle will host a workshop and talk with artists Olivia Block, Sandra Gibson, and Luis Recoder. The artists will demonstrate their extended approaches to film and sound.

Performance: Anthony McCall
Thursday, November 7, 7:00 pm
Anthony McCall discusses his work on view and his practice.

Performance: Olivia Block, Sandra Gibson, and Luis Recoder
Friday, November 15, Doors: 7:00 pm
Concert: 8:00 pm. $20; $10 members, NMC members, and students (w/ valid ID).
Purchase tickets at camstl.org/nmc.
CAM and the New Music Circle welcome Sandra Gibson and Luis Recoder, who will present slowly shifting abstract light sculptures created with film projectors and simple mechanical means. They are accompanied by noted composer, electronic musician, and sound artist Olivia Block who will provide a live soundtrack.
You and I, Horizontal (II) is the first solo museum presentation in the Midwest by British-born, New York–based artist Anthony McCall. A key figure in avant-garde cinema and contemporary art since the 1970s, McCall creates work that operates at the intersection of drawing, sculpture, and the moving image. His installations harness the tools of cinema—projector, image, and light source—with the volume of the gallery itself serving as a screen. McCall’s work bridges numerous artistic discourses, among them the spatial, material, and temporal concerns of structuralist filmmaking and minimal sculpture, as well as the participatory nature of socially engaged art practice. In the process, he has influenced younger artists working across these disciplines, including Olafur Eliasson, Bruce McClure, and Sandra Gibson and Luis Recorder, who will enact one of their signature projector-performances at CAM on November 15.

Many of McCall’s earliest works in the 1970s resembled live “happenings” in which viewers would gather to watch his hand-drawn 16mm animations, much in keeping with the experimental film, performance, and early video art of contemporaries such as Shirley Clarke, Vito Acconci, Joan Jonas, and Dan Graham. Dust and cigarette smoke in the room provided a foggy atmosphere that helped outline the films’ imagery in slowly shifting volumes of “solid light.” Over the last decade, digital technology has transformed McCall’s practice, enabling him to produce more precise as well as more durational installation works. In You and I, Horizontal (III), the encounter between a haze machine and video projection transforms a line drawing into a three-dimensional animation. Over the course of thirty-three minutes, two convex white lines subtly interact against a black background, momentarily conjoining, enclosing, and even repelling each other. The piece’s horizontal orientation recalls that found in cinema, in which the filmic image travels across the length of the theater from the projection booth to the screen. In this instance, however, the viewer confronts the projection beam directly rather than orienting his or her back to it. This reversal underscores the primacy of light as both subject and object of the work, rather than as conduit or medium to some other image or narrative. Exploring light across space and time, this immersive presentation complements CAM’s concurrent exhibition Place is the Space through the encounter between projection and architecture. The “You and I” of the work’s title references several layers of interaction. It alludes to the dynamic intersecting lines of the animation. It also acknowledges our experience in the installation itself, as our bodies come into contact with the beam of light and thereby alter it. Finally it acknowledges our relationship to one another as we inhabit the space of the gallery and, in the process, actively create new meaning.


Anthony McCall: You and I, Horizontal (II) is organized for the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis by Kelly Shindler, Associate Curator.

Support for CAM’s exhibition program is provided by Jeanne and Rex Sinquefield and Emerson.

Audio Tour
Download the CAM app at camstl.org/app or ask for an iPod at the front desk to hear directly from the artist and curator on the audio tour.