

PRESS RELEASE
MARCH 2009

VIVID

SATURDAY SCREENINGS AT VIVID

Discover the work of George Barber & Jeff Keen

Do something different with your weekend. Come to VIVID for pioneering film and Easter treats.

GEORGE BARBER/ BEYOND LANGUAGE

+ introduction by George Barber

SAT 28 MAR 2009 | 2:00 PM | admission: £3/2

GAZWRX: THE FILMS OF JEFF KEEN

+ introduction by Will Fowler, Curator (BFI)

SAT 04 APR 2009 | 2:00 PM | admission: £3/2



George Barber, still from Schweppes ad, 1995. Image courtesy of LUX



Jeff Keen, *Marvo Movie*, 1967. Image courtesy of BFI

'the Henry Ford of independent video' Art Monthly

A pioneer of British video art, George Barber was a founding member of *ZG Magazine* and a leading figure in the Scratch Video phenomenon of the 1980s. Moving away from Scratch in the early '90s, Barber created many lo-tech video pieces and was influential in defining the then emergent 'slacker' aesthetic. Narrative is at the centre of much of his work, whether deconstructing it as in Scratch, or creating humorous and absurd situations to find existential meaning in the margins of modern life.

Beyond Language presents a broad selection of Barber's influential video work from the past 30 years from proto-Scratch works of the early '80s to his recent return to assemblage and appropriation.

"The most important man in cinema. Period." Sleaze Nation

Jeff Keen's unique and imaginative filmmaking has outlived the various scenes in which it thrived - the Sixties counter-culture, punk and beyond. Making work of immediate power and raw intensity on a range of film stocks, this World War II veteran, self-taught artist and pioneer of radical British independent filmmaking continues to defy categorisation.

The twelve short films in this programme, made between 1960 and 1993, reveal the astonishingly tireless talent of a filmmaker not afraid to grapple with sex and war, or to experiment with visceral soundtracks and brutal animation techniques. Truly inspired and inspiring, this programme is a testament to the irrepressible force that is Jeff Keen.

Warning: *These films contain flashing images and may affect people with photosensitive epilepsy.*

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COMING SOON

RAN HUANG AND NIKA OBLAK & PRIMOZ NOVAK

WED 29 APR – SAT 16 MAY 2009 | 12-5.30 PM | admission FREE

VIVID is delighted to present new work by Ran Huang and Nika Oblak & Primoz Novak. The artists will be in residence at VIVID throughout Spring 2009 as part of the two year European Media Artists in Residence Exchange programme. Their residencies will culminate in an exhibition at VIVID from **Wed 29 April - Sat 16 May 2009.**

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Notes to editor:

1. For further information and images please contact Laura Coult on +44 (0) 121 766 7876 or email laura@vivid.org.uk
2. VIVID is a non-profit organisation and is supported by Arts Council England. The VIVID project space in Birmingham's Eastside district has been active in presenting a dynamic programme of exhibitions and events since April 2005 and was developed with support from Advantage West Midlands.
3. VIVID is a leading media arts agency committed to the development of media arts practice through research, production and commissioning programmes. Established in 1992, VIVID produces a wide range of exhibitions, events, publications and touring initiatives through a dedicated project space which combines production, exhibition and technical resources. Alongside the public programme, VIVID provides innovative research and development opportunities for emerging artists in addition to commissioning new work from international artists. VIVID's curatorial policy is to increase audience access to both emergent talent and work of international significance.
4. PIONEERS is a three year programme which aims to juxtapose new and contemporary practice with key historical work through an expansive and diverse programme of predominantly moving image based work. PIONEERS launched in April 2008 with Endurance featuring moving image work by Marina Abramovic, Vito Acconci and Tehching Hsieh and live performance including Kira O'Reilly, Eitan Buchalter and William Hunt. This was followed by FLUX-FEST in June-July 2008, a three week season of performance, film, food and print featuring established artists such as Nam June Paik, Larry Miller, George Maciunas alongside lesser known practitioners including SharedTable, Melissa Bliss and Andy Abbott. Future programmes include Participation (summer 2009); untold stories from Birmingham's Underground.
5. George Barber/ Beyond Language is curated by Matthew Noel-Tod for LUX and is supported by the University for the Creative Arts Research Fund. LUX is supported by Arts Council England.
6. GAZWRX: The Films of Jeff Keen is curated by Will Fowler for BFI.
7. With support from the European Union Culture 2007 - 2013 programme, the newly established *European Media Art Network* has awarded 16 residencies to emerging international artists working in digital media, moving image and sound. This new network brings together leading media art research partners from the Netherlands (Impakt), Germany (Werkleitz), Bulgaria (Interspace) and the UK (VIVID) and ends in December 2009.



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