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“it is dangerous to step out of line, and lethal not to”

Lis Rhodes

Since the 1970s, Lis Rhodes has been making radical and experimental films that challenge the viewer to reconsider film as a medium of communication and presentation of image, language and sound. The exhibition, which takes its title from Lis Rhodes' text “Dissonance and Disturbance”, presents films that encompass performance, photography, composition, writing and political commentary.

Rhodes films analyse complex social and political processes and challenge the ownership of the official historic narrative. Thematically, her films deal with the assemblage of female identity, social injustices, oppression, surveillance, protest culture and the language of dissent.

Films from throughout Rhodes' career will be presented at Tramway, from Dresden Dynamo (1972) and Light Reading (1978), to more recent works, such as the Hang on a Minute series (1983-1985) A Cold Draft (1988), In the Kettle (2010) and Whitehall (2012).

Rhodes makes no clear differentiation between form and content, and immersive and emotional involvement of the audience is integral to the work. She includes fragmentary passages of typeset, handwriting, strips of film negatives, geometric shapes and documentary footage. Soundtracks fade in and out, leaving long passages in silence and others overlaid with a multiplicity of voices.

In *Dresden Dynamo* (1972), a film made without a camera, the physical marks made by Rhodes onto the celluloid stretch where the projector reads the optical soundtrack, resulting in sound drawings in which what is heard is seen and what is seen is heard. *Light Reading* (1978), has been described as a new direction for film, a technical and aesthetic tour de force of rapid fire editing, myriad techniques and a text which both manipulates and questions the structure of language and representation. Rhodes is presenting her most recent works *In the Kettle* (2010) and *Whitehall* (2012), together with *A Cold Draft* (1988) within a two screen installation for which she is creating a shared soundtrack.

Lis Rhodes has exhibited widely at film festivals over the last three decades but rarely within a gallery setting. A notable exception was in 2009, when she exhibited *Light Music* (1975) in the oil tanks at Tate Modern. The exhibition at Tramway is realised in partnership with and organised by the ICA, London and marks her wider recognition as a seminal artist within both the visual arts and film.

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Listings information

Lis Rhodes: Dissonance and Disturbance

Free exhibition: 25th May – 24th June

Tramway 2 Gallery

Tramway, 25 Albert Drive, Glasgow G41 2PE

Book online at www.tramway.org

Or call 0845 330 3501

Notes to Editors:

Rhodes was cinema programmer at the London Filmmakers' Co-op in the mid-1970s; a founder member of Circles: Women in Distribution; a member of cultural

committees at the GLC and Arts Council England; and taught at the Royal College of Art and The Slade School of Fine Art, University College London.

Selected Screenings: European Media Festival, Osnabrück; 2nd Seoul Experimental Film Festival; 43rd London International Film Festival; 41st New York Film Festival; WACK!; Art and the Feminist Revolution” Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, Washington, New York.

The exhibition of works by this pioneering and influential artist filmmaker will be shown at Tramway from 25 May to 24 June with a private view 7-9 PM on 24 May.